

sermon



SNAPSHOTS



God's

Guardrails:

PURITY

Several years ago in Florida, a group of teenagers thought it would be funny to remove some street signs. They chose a stop sign at a busy intersection. It was a prank that had major consequences...there was a serious car accident. A driver was killed. The teenagers were arrested. Lives were radically affected and altered from that moment on. A little night fun ended in horror, death, shame and guilt. We live in times when people are wanting to remove stop signs...boundary markers...guardrails that are meant to protect us and keep us safe. They remove them not from highways, but from lifestyles, morality, finances, and relationships. The results are painful crashes as people ruin their lives.

Guardrails are placed along curves, bridges and cliffs to keep us out of the danger, they are meant to keep us safe. Hitting the guardrail hurts, but not nearly as much as going over the edge. God's word serves as a guardrail. God is trying to keep us from ruining our lives—with relationships, in finances, and morally. Hitting God's guardrails causes us to make course corrections. The damage from the guardrails is not near as bad as going over the edge. We need God's guardrails, without them we get to close to the edge, without them we crash, without them we probably can't stay on the road.

You can mess up financially, and years later recover and even look back and laugh at the dumb mistakes you made.

You can mess up in school, even flunk out, but later get your act together, get your degree and even tell your kids about this. You can mess up at your job, even get fired, and later on get another job become a success and years later laugh about your mistakes. However, no one laughs about moral failures. Years later, the pain is as sharp, the hurt is still there, and the shame and the guilt never seem to go away.

- We don't sit around the table at the holidays making fun of our moral failures
- The crash that happens after a moral failure is one of the hardest to recover from, reason is the consequences that come with that crash.

A child born out of wedlock, a divorce because of an affair, addiction to pornography, being registered as a sex offender...Ultimately it's a distortion of what the sexual union is about...it becomes selfish not a gift. (2 Peter 2:14)

A. Hebrews 7:26-27 - The writer tells us six things about Jesus

- Three of them are important to us in this study

1. Holy...means separate, special
2. Innocent...without blame
3. undefiled...not polluted, pure

- Peter tells us to be holy as He is holy (1 Peter 1:16)

B. God has multiple guardrails around purity...this is something so serious to God

The Bible is filled with examples, both good and bad that we need to take to heart.

(Amnon whose lust for his sister was so great that he raped her; Joseph who was seduced by his boss's wife, but he resisted; David's affair with Bathsheba; The homosexuals pounding on Lot's door, trying to get the visitors inside; Samson and how his relationships with Philistine women cost him)

Guardrail # 1—Watch where you park your brain (Mark 7:20-21)

- Moral failures do not begin in the bedroom, they begin in the brain.

- What I fill my head with is what will come out, that's what Jesus is saying (Colossians 3:16; Philippians 4:8)

- Dwell is like dwelling...it stays. It's permanent. The difference between a motel room and your house, one is your dwelling...that's where you live, the other is not. **Continued...**

We underestimate the power of lust and we overestimate our ability to resist
There was a man who dropped his camera at Yosemite...it was just a few feet from the edge...he ignored the warning signs, climbed over the railing, reached over and fell to his death...that same thing happens every week at the work place...in the neighborhood...and in chat rooms...

- If you don't want to spend money on a new car and you can't afford a new car, then don't go car shopping...you'll look, you'll like, you'll want and before long you are taking it for a test drive and before you know it you are sitting down talking with a salesman...and the next thing you know is that you've just bought a car you can't afford.

- Is it any different with purity?

- If I don't want to mess up my purity, then don't get in situations that are going to put that in your brain.

- Spending a lot of time alone with someone of the opposite sex is sitting in a new car

- We're just friends, we're just catching up, and we've known each other a long time.

It's just a little innocent teasing, we're just flirting around, nothing will happen and "I'm just sitting in a new car...just looking..." right?

Our lesson about relationships ties into this lesson. If you're hanging with people who have no problems removing God's stop signs, you are bound to go off the edge, it will happen

- 2 Timothy 2:22 with those...well there are no Christians I would date? I understand. Been there. Are you settling for a consolation prize?

What are you putting in your brain?

Movies you watch, TV shows you watch, music you listen to what your chatting and texting about...Are we removing stop signs?

"Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life" (Proverbs 4:23)

"Create in me a pure heart" (Psalms 51:10)

When you say, "I do," that implies I do things...it also implies, "I don't" do things

You don't spend time alone with someone you're not married to—unless it's your mother

You don't pour your soul out to the opposite sex—even your mother

You don't ever go to the home of the opposite sex alone—NEVER

You don't hide things from your mate...emails...where you are after work...phone calls...the affair begins in the mind, then the emotion and finally in the body

Proverbs 7:22 takes three illustrations from nature...

The Common thread in these illustrations...the animal was caught off guard. The animal was innocent. It was naïve. The other thread is that each animal was trapped...killed.

Guardrail # 2—God has a fence around intimacy. Don't you dare climb over.

You'll get caught—guaranteed.

- God says to Flee youthful lusts (2 Timothy 2:22) & flee fornication (1 Corinthians 6:18)

- Some things we stick around and fight the good fight of faith, some things we stand firm on, but when it comes to keeping your purity, put on your running shoes and get out of there
It is reserved for the married only—those married to each other. They have a key.

All others are trespassing and they need to get out.

There is no way it can be right. TV shows, movies make light of this, God doesn't.

Continued...

Guardrail # 3- You can be pure, even in this impure world

- God says so (1 Peter 1:16, Philippians 2:15)
You can have a blast and be godly. You can have fun and remain righteous.
- God expects you to be light and salt (1 Timothy 2:10; Ephesians 4:1)
- The battle with porn doesn't end just because you get married
- Help your mate, be transparent in your feelings, be the veto vote, protect your marriage at all costs. Even if you have to switch jobs, even if you have to switch congregations, even if you have to move, even if you need counseling, do whatever is necessary.
- This is a hard battle...once you've crossed the line once, it's easier the next time. Lust comes pounding on the door of your heart. It shows up on billboards, catalogs in the mail, TV commercials and the way some dress.

Guardrail # 4- The Impure can be pure in Christ

- The world the gospel was introduced in was very immoral
- The expression, "Corinthian" meant an immoral, loose, base person—living without any guardrails
- 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 states they were washed...they were justified...they were cleansed
- Psalms 51

Guardrails...guardrails around purity. God has placed them there to help you

Roger Shouse

The Guardrail lessons are a series of sermons preached and edited into Snapshot form. Sermon Snapshots are designed to improve your personal study life and presentation of spiritual topics to friends & neighbors in a simple and exciting manner! Complete the 4 part series from Roger Shouse with these other snapshots & sermons available for download on our website or lobby!

**Guardrails Around:
Relationships – Attitudes -
Finances**

fishers Church of Christ

Times of Service

Sunday Worship: 10 am
Sunday Bible Study: 5 pm
Wednesday Bible Study 7 pm

Elders

Randy Shouse 570-4908
Jan Boser
(H) 773-3178 (C) 509-1828
Al Easter
(H) 585-9846 (C) 698-1846
Lanny Smith 770-8077

Contact Info

10082 East 126th Street
Fishers, IN 46038
(317) 577-3788



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