

Pastor Conversation

Pastor Drew: I want to welcome you to this section of what I'm calling a conversation with a couple of pastors. You guys have probably already met Henry Reyenga who is the president of CLI. But I've invited him in to have a conversation with me today because I think it's important for us to broaden the conversation just from one talking head but to really talk about boundaries from a pastoral experience, from an organization as Henry as the leader of CLI. Also he's been a church planner for years. He's the pastor here at Eagle Rock. So he has a wide variety of experiences. So I'm inviting him in to this conversation about boundaries because I think he's got a lot for us to glean together. Besides, two pastors love to get together.

Pastor Henry: Yeah.

Pastor Drew: And just talk a lot anyway. So the first question that I want to raise, Henry, was when you think about boundaries, what do you think are the most important boundaries in your ministry that you have set in the past, that you have learned about? Where would you start?

Pastor Henry: Well, thanks, Drew, for that question. In the end of the day, I really believe the boundaries with God still remain the trunk boundaries, the most important because I know that if I start losing that edge, if my walk with God starts going down, if I don't have an opportunity to be in God's Word, if I don't have an opportunity to be with my wife. I actually pray with her and talk with her. One of the boundaries we do is every night before we go to bed, we open the Word, just a few verses, have a little prayer, a few minutes but that's a boundary that we have found has really kept our marriage rejuvenated, man, woman with God. I think the boundary of eating with my family every day and opening the Word of God in a fun, winsome way not just like, "We're going to be here for one hour" and then because then, what happens is that we violate people's time boundaries of our own family. So, I would say just to starting, that's like a crucial boundary then, healthy church habits. Again, we probably have talked about that. Ministry, boundaries in ministry are sort of —if I were to just briefly go into that, what I'm really concerned about is simple abilities to delegate, to work when you should, to not take on more than you need to, to in a sense, have expectations, staff meeting, attend the staff meeting, don't change the staff meeting because something so urgent has come because it really is urgent.

Pastor Drew: Right.

Pastor Henry: But, if you're changing staff meetings or appointments, keep them. Be on time. Those boundaries are...

Pastor Drew: Little things but big things.

Pastor Henry: Yes, you found that two of those.

Pastor Drew: Exactly, yeah, yeah. I want to back up for a moment. When you talked about relational boundaries begin with first of all, that relationship with God. For us, I think that there's always that catch 22 that we can spend time with God and for me the struggle is making sure that I'm worshiping in fellowship of God and learning because too often, even when I open the Word of God, it's like sermon preparation.

Pastor Henry: Yes, yes. I tell you, if you're preparing for a pastorate, then it's like a trapdoor.

Pastor Drew: Yeah.

Pastor Henry: It happens right away.

Pastor Drew: Yeah.

Pastor Henry: Because you're like "Oh, do I get credit for my time with God?"

Pastor Drew: [Laughs] Exactly. Oh there's a preach. There's a preach!

Pastor Henry: I know, I know. In some ways it is true that you do a little both of them.

Pastor Drew: Yeah, exactly.

Pastor Henry: It's not like it's either or.

Pastor Drew: Exactly.

Pastor Henry: Like in my church we have a Bible reading plan. In our Bible reading plan, our family reads the Bible. I'll open it up and because that's our style here, I know that my walk translates into ministry.

Pastor Drew: Excellent.

Pastor Henry: But on the other hand, I don't do ministry to do the walk.

Pastor Drew: Exactly. Those are those fine lines with those boundaries and so it's just a reminder for us, as we do that, to intentionally make sure that we're, again those are going to bleed into each other, but to make sure that we do have that time of confession and dealing with before God and making sure that that connection's tight. Because we've emphasized that in this discussion on boundaries especially, time management, this whole realm of making sure that we put that as a priority in all that we do.

Pastor Henry: Yeah, in some ways, time management is, in some ways, so core-boundary-culture-like. Just to be able to actually look at our time and just not have our time in the turning of the urgent.

Pastor Drew: Exactly. Because in ministry, you experienced it that we put out the fires constantly. And if we don't prioritize some of those things, particularly strangely enough our time with God, that gets pushed down the line.

Pastor Henry: I know. It was interesting that I was walking and we have these iPhones, nowadays and it's amazing because they allow you to get communication with so many people all the time. So here, we're preparing for this presentation and I'm walking down the hall and I pull out my iPhone. It's like the old revolver.

Pastor Drew: [Laughs]

Pastor Henry: And I look and there's a Facebook text from somebody who needs pastoral care.

Pastor Drew: And marriage counseling.

Pastor Henry: Yeah. So, now, right away, I didn't ask for it but it's coming to me.

Pastor Drew: Yup.

Pastor Henry: And the way the message I was reading it sounded really urgent.

Pastor Drew: Exactly.

Pastor Henry: So now, I could drop everything and just go do this. But yet it would teach the person I dropped everything to, not necessarily the right thing.

Pastor Drew: Exactly.

Pastor Henry: And it would actually hurt our ministry.

Pastor Drew: Exactly, and that's one of those areas that we've talked about and we've got to reiterate in ministry here is because it's a double-edged sword. For us, it feeds our ego. Somebody needs you Henry.

Pastor Henry: Yeah, I know.

Pastor Drew: and you're the only person that can help in that. It feeds that ego.

Pastor Henry: It does.

Pastor Drew: And, yet at the same time, that unless it's a life or death situation it can be scheduled and put into the proper bounds of all that. That's a good reminder. The other part that you mentioned was about family boundaries. And, I think, particularly, in that relationship with our wives as well.

Pastor Henry: Yeah.

Pastor Drew: Speak to that a little bit because oftentimes, if we don't make that and pull that in that the church can easily become our secret lover.

Pastor Henry: Yeah!

Pastor Drew: Or our second wife.

Pastor Henry: Well for me, Friday is my day off. And it's hard to keep Friday preserved. And I know for all of you, you're going to be challenging me. I have also the presidency of the Christian Leaders Institute and the pastoring of Eagle Rock Community Church and I don't have a lot of time for television and video games and things that can distract because if I were to do that, my family would be the most to suffer. So in a sense—and there's always 24 hours in the day but it really comes down to, when you have a young family, I know for me, it was like, we eat together and for that hour, even after the dinner, I'd be on the floor playing with the kids. And it didn't matter. That's what it is. And then now, I ended up

with a son and 4 daughters. So now it's like after 10 o'clock there's late-night conversations and all those other [laughs].

Pastor Drew: You thought you were done staying up late right now. It kicks in after ten o'clock.

Pastor Henry: But every part of the life cycle, it seems like family boundaries, if you don't place them there, they will not be there.

Pastor Drew: Right. Exactly, and that's important no matter what stage of life you're at.

Pastor Henry: You find that too.

Pastor Drew: Exactly, and I think it's important for us, for me as well, because my wife works and also is part of ministry. So then, it's the balance of all those things, and plus, I want her to be a part of that conversation of ministry, not like she's on the outside of that. So there is that dance, that balance.

Pastor Henry: Oh, wow. Wooh.

Pastor Drew: Who else peeks into your boundaries?

Pastor Henry: Well, of course my wife. She's just like "peek into it dear." Also our elders. I have a couple of really close mentoring elders where we do mutual mentorship.

Pastor Drew: Okay.

Pastor Henry: And, I just open my life and I keep it transparent.

Pastor Drew: Good.

Pastor Henry: And then I have other mentors outside the church. I have other close-friend-pastors.

Pastor Drew: Yup.

Pastor Henry: Like, Steve Elzinga is a good friend of mine. And when we're together, many times we're talking about is priorities and all of those things. But, to me, the key issue about others peeking into your life is are you willing to be transparent enough to listen. And I know you need to find trusted people. I know that you have to find the people that basically are not going to gossip about your

transparency. You have to find all those people. But I know in ministry the way of closed, tight-lipped, no one else talks to you, in the way of ministry, you will get side-lined, killed, I believe.

Pastor Drew: Yeah.

Pastor Henry: Do you find the same?

Pastor Drew: Are there layers of that, do you think? In terms of what you said about elders and all that there's a layer of transparency and yet there are some things that we struggle with that we don't want to— well, well, how would I say, scare them to death or whatever, about some of those things. We have to have that second layer and those other relationships that help keep things in perspective for us.

Pastor Henry: In your church, there's a layer of transparency because in a sense, the elders or leaders or so forth, like you say, you scare them in a good way.

Pastor Drew: Yeah, yeah.

Pastor Henry: But an outside pastor, an outside mentor... I'll give you an example, you're in a church. You're in a church for three years. Okay, so, you're in a church and you're contemplating, "Is my ministry effective here or not?" Okay? "I'm struggling right now, with who I am in this church. "

Pastor Drew: Uh-hum,

Pastor Henry: "The chemistry of this church is a certain way and I'm wondering about my connection to that chemistry. Should I stay in this church, should I not go to this church?" Okay, if you go to the elders' meetings, you're transparent about your struggle. "Here's my struggle. I'm transparent about it." No good because usually, well maybe there's one that would be able to handle it.

Pastor Drew: But you're going to scare them to death because all of a sudden they're thinking you're gone.

Pastor Henry: He's disengaging. Many things like that and others that you want to have levels and layers.

Pastor Drew: And I think that's the hard part because we do want to be authentic and genuine—real. You don't want to be up on this pedestal. We want to be real with people. And yet there's a fine line of

that because I'm like you. I remember going to an elders' meeting one time, having had a really difficult week.

Pastor Henry: Right.

Pastor Drew: And kind of just dumping, laying that out there. And I remember one of the elders, and I'll never forget it, sitting across the table said, "Wow! I didn't realize you were so fragile." And I'm going "WOHOHO!" Oh no, man. What does that does say? Not that I don't want them to realize I'm real. But the fragile piece then, all of a sudden thought "Uh-oh. You know this guy's ready to crack up at any moment."

Pastor Henry: Could hurt your ministry.

Pastor Drew: Exactly, that issue of credibility is there sometimes.

Pastor Henry: I think there's layers. I think that's a good way to say it and you have to have wisdom to kind of find through that.

Pastor Drew: Exactly. How often do you go back and look at boundaries, scheduling, priorities, those kind of things and re-evaluate some of those things?

Pastor Henry: I actually do it more now than ever. I used to be kind of set in my pattern and that's what it was. But now, it seems like I am asking that question on a weekly basis because now I have so many choices of things I could do that I have to say no to. So, I do do that way more now than earlier in my ministry. Early in the ministry, we had a certain pattern. You work your sermon this day. You schedule counseling at that time. Now, it's sort of like, for me I start to study my sermon Sunday night for about forty-five minutes to a half hour.

Pastor Drew: Sunday night, already? Wow!

Pastor Henry: It might be like 9:30, 10 o'clock sort of like, and I think about the day and I think about... But then I will schedule like on Wednesday is the day when I really want to get my sermon done. But for me, I need to start it, so it's percolating.

Pastor Drew: Yeah, that's good. Me too.

Pastor Henry: Occasionally during the next two days, I might get on the commentaries or get off the iPrograms and all that stuff. But on Wednesday, I sort of want to...

Pastor Drew: Right.

Pastor Henry: Yeah.

Pastor Drew: And the interesting thing about that is if you have a plan and you set those boundaries and at least you have something, you can always change it. A funeral that comes in the middle of the week.

Pastor Henry: Yeah.

Pastor Drew: Or those interruptions that come up. If you don't have a plan, if you don't have a schedule of attack, then when those things come in you have a tendency just to, "Uh-oh we're in trouble" and you go into the panic mode.

Pastor Henry: Yeah. You go by the seat of your pants which might work once or twice. But then, your phrases, your thoughts all starts sounding the same.

Pastor Drew: Exactly.

Pastor Henry: But, what about you in this? I'm curious. How many times to do you read about your boundaries?

Pastor Drew: Well, I especially do it once a year. When it comes to the end of the year, I have the tendency to look back.

Pastor Henry: That's a good point because there's actually different kinds.

Pastor Drew: Exactly.

Pastor Henry: Yeah, that's a good point.

Pastor Drew: So, I look at those and say, "Hey, this worked out well this way."

Pastor Henry: Yeah.

Pastor Drew: But, here's an area that I need to look and reevaluate, some of those big areas, particularly. But, I'm like you, as well, that I think the more that we put on our plates, then you have a tendency to re-evaluate, "Is this the best use of my time?" And one of the conversations that we'll have in the boundaries lectures is this whole thing of "Are there ways to set boundaries that I can work to my strength more that I'm doing more in those areas or less really but I'm accomplishing much more?" And I think that's important as we set some of those priorities.

Pastor Henry: When I think about it is traps ministers can get in to is that you're good at something and then, you want to do it all the way and getting no one else to do it.

Pastor Drew: Exactly.

Pastor Henry: And then, what happens is pretty soon you're doing everything.

Pastor Drew: Exactly, and that leads me into the question I want to raise and stuff and that is for many of the folks who are watching this lecture, they will be entering into a new church situation. There'll be transitioning, maybe planting a church.

Pastor Henry: Yeah.

Pastor Drew: And both you and I have been in those situations. How do we set those boundaries because early on in ministry or a Christian organization you want to prove yourself?

Pastor Henry: Yeah.

Pastor Drew: that you can do this and how do we do that? How do you find those balances?

Pastor Henry: For me, I have to have a guiding vision mission principle and that is my work in this world is to create stages for others, to release them for a ministry in their calling and giftedness. If I forget that, I own things way too much.

Pastor Drew: Yeah.

Pastor Henry: So I'm like hunting always for who can do this. And, as a church planter, I love planting churches.

Pastor Drew: Yeah.

Pastor Henry: And I've done a lot of them. And I love helping church planters plant churches and I've helped a lot of them. But, always, I just love it. At first, you're doing everything because that is all you can do. It's just you.

Pastor Drew: Exactly.

Pastor Henry: That's it.

Pastor Drew: Exactly.

Pastor Henry: That's you, your wife.

Pastor Drew: [Laughs]

Pastor Henry: Church of one family. It's me, you're alone. So then, you hunt so to speak, for who God has to help you but if you find that person, that next person and then, you babysit them, control them, don't develop them, then so you find another and another and then pretty soon, you have the church. The maximum I've seen that can function with that is about fifty people maximum and a bunch of interdependent, controlling, resentful people .

Pastor Drew: And you've created that, unintentionally.

Pastor Henry: Yes.

Pastor Drew: Yeah, you've created that. That's right. And so if we're going to make sure when we plant that it becomes a healthy reproducing church that we have to intentionally start like you said with that idea that we're constantly looking to reproduce and handle work ourselves out of that job. It may mean a lot of work upfront for us.

Pastor Henry: Yes

Pastor Drew: And we've got to remember that it's not just the fact that we've got to preach well and establish the foundation and leadership. But, all along maybe the most important thing we're doing is mentoring that next layer of leadership, that next generation of leaders.

Pastor Henry: Well, if you've planted the church and the DNA of the church is that you release ministries and reproduce.

Pastor Drew: Yes.

Pastor Henry: And that's the culture of the church. If you plant a church and get everybody connected to you as the spiritual babysitter of the church, you're going to violate your own, personal boundaries, violate their boundaries, never maximize who they're called to be, and the church is going to be stuck to you.

Pastor Drew: Right. And it happens all the time. And we don't mean to do it, but unless we're intentional and moving in that direction from the very beginning, whether it's a transition into a new ministry or planning a church or heading into an organization, to lead that Christian organization, we've got to have that upfront. No doubt. No doubt.

Pastor Henry: Wow, wow.

Pastor Drew: So, what happens when you violate one of your boundaries? How do you sort of deal with that?

Pastor Henry: Well, I'll tell you. Sadly enough, I've violated too many of my own boundaries. I'm not talking moral boundaries.

Pastor Drew: Right.

Pastor Henry: I'm just talking like, some of my priority-expectation boundaries. That's the honest truth about it. And, when it happens you know, sometimes I pray about it. Sometimes, I'll talk to my wife and I'll be transparent with the appropriate transparent people about it

Pastor Drew: Yeah, right.

Pastor Henry: Today was a rotten day and I just really didn't get anything done. And then, the people I share with, it's not like you want the fix-it people. When you violate one of your own boundaries, you sort of get a cynicism like, "Sure, you know I violated my own boundaries. Why do I even have boundaries? I'm just going to do without boundaries and expectations because I failed too many times."

Pastor Drew: Right.

Pastor Henry: So.

Pastor Drew: And the danger in that you know particularly violate those family boundaries or violate those God-relationship boundaries, is that we can grow angry—

Pastor Henry: Yup, yup.

Pastor Drew: resentful at the people where it was really us who did not say “No, no.”

Pastor Henry: I know, I know. It’s us but we blame others.

Pastor Drew: Exactly .

Pastor Henry: We get cynical with ourselves. We blame others instead of taking responsibility and the transparency in that, creating a culture. What I think I did over the years is that I’ll create boundaries which I can’t help to succeed in.

Pastor Drew: Yup.

Pastor Henry: Okay so, in other words, dinnertime is always at this time whether I feel like it or not.

Pastor Drew: Right.

Pastor Henry: And then we have this policy in our house. It’s the devotional whistle blowing policy.

Pastor Drew: [Laughs]

Pastor Henry: it’s hilarious.

Pastor Drew: There’s a new boundary! We’ll make sure we put that down.

Pastor Henry: Yeah, I know so okay, here we are and, I’m not necessarily feeling like it and I’m thinking that I got to go work on something. But we have this policy. The first person who says it’s time for devotions, we all have to get up and do it.

Pastor Drew: Wow!

Pastor Henry: And you know what reality is, is somebody will and then somebody doesn't, other than my wife because my wife's a keep-tracker. She will

Pastor Drew: Yeah, she will.

Pastor Henry: But she's not the controller. She is sort of like, "Then, Ann will then... Gabby." But no. That's a boundary where we sort of create a hard boundary. It doesn't matter how you feel like that .

Pastor Drew: That's right, that's right. That's right.

Pastor Henry: It's going to happen.

Pastor Drew: That's good. And that it helps keep perspective and it brings everything back to center. And that is the beauty of boundaries.

Pastor Henry: Yeah.

Pastor Drew: Is sometimes they feel hard.

Pastor Henry: Yeah.

Pastor Drew: But they're there for a purpose because it keeps us in bounds. And we can always adjust this if we need to.

Pastor Henry: Oh, yeah.

Pastor Drew: But some of those are needing to stay. It's the seatbelt policy thing.

Pastor Henry: Yeah.

Pastor Drew: It feels tough at times and I forget to click it.

Pastor Henry: Right.

Pastor Drew: But, it's a reminder. This is for your safety. This is to bring us back to balance.

Pastor Henry: That's a really good analogy.

Pastor Drew: Yeah. Let's talk about maybe one of the toughest ones, and that's moral boundaries.

Pastor Henry: Okay.

Pastor Drew: What are some pieces of wisdom that you would say, in terms of, for us to protect our hearts and to protect our minds and our purity and particularly in relationships as pastors and leaders of Christian organizations?

Pastor Henry: I think that's an excellent question because many pastors and leaders have been morally failing in the last twenty years.

Pastor Drew: Yeah, yeah.

Pastor Henry: What boundaries do you keep in mind? Now, first of all, to me, this is an interesting subject because on the one side, there's the heart.

Pastor Drew: Right.

Pastor Henry: Okay, and you don't want to have it where your boundaries cover even an impure heart, that at the end of the day you're going to be doing right because you're boundaries have made things so rigid that you're doing things right.

Pastor Drew: Exactly.

Pastor Henry: On the other hand, the heart is deceitful and you easily convince yourself that, "Oh, this isn't that bad."

Pastor Drew: Right.

Pastor Henry: And so forth.

Pastor Drew: Right.

Pastor Henry: So, and they're somewhat of a balancer. Here's why I found it's a balance because if your whole life is just one boundary after another, there's no joy.

Pastor Drew: Right.

Pastor Henry: There's really no grace, no forgiveness.

Pastor Drew: Right, right. Okay.

Pastor Henry: On the other hand, if all you are is to sort of "I'm just playing as I go," that's very dangerous.

Pastor Drew: Exactly.

Pastor Henry: And issues of morality and stuff like that, this important distinction is very important.

Pastor Drew: You're right. You're right.

Pastor Henry: But for me, I remember early in my ministry. I was in my twenties and somebody called up and said, "Oh, Pastor, I really need to be with you." A woman

Pastor Drew: Yup.

Pastor Henry: And so she gets there and she's my age.

Pastor Drew: Uh-hum.

Pastor Henry: So, and it's six o'clock at night.

Pastor Drew: Uh-hum.

Pastor Henry: Okay. So we get a meeting and you know what? She's not wearing a bra.

Pastor Drew: Yeah.

Pastor Henry: Okay?

Pastor Drew: Yup.

Pastor Henry: You know what I find out? I have a very quick meeting. I knew it was uncomfortable.

Pastor Drew: Right.

Pastor Henry: I should have never taken the meeting.

Pastor Drew: Exactly.

Pastor Henry: Ended up a short meeting and I had a woman counselor. It came out that she was doing extensive counseling, this was twenty-something years ago, and she was not wearing a panty.

Pastor Drew: Uh-hum.

Pastor Henry: And she wanted to have sex with a holy man.

Pastor Drew: Oh my goodness!

Pastor Henry: And here I was. I put myself in this position.

Pastor Drew: Right.

Pastor Henry: [Pauses]

Pastor Drew: Right.

Pastor Henry: So thank you, Lord. I learned on that day. I would always be exceptionally careful.

Pastor Drew: Exactly.

Pastor Henry: If I'm meeting with a woman, I'm meeting in our office, we have the big window.

Pastor Drew: Exactly.

Pastor Henry: If I'm meeting with someone... This week, a woman wanted to meet with me and I actually had my assistant Jim Martin, our dean. It was about a ministry training thing, the woman was near our age. So I just said, "Jim, will you sit in the meeting?"

Pastor Drew: Exactly.

Pastor Henry: And then you'll learn some things about some stuff.

Pastor Drew: Yeah.

Pastor Henry: But, the point being is even— it's just not in counseling.

Pastor Drew: Right.

Pastor Henry: But even in shared ministry,

Pastor Drew: Right. That's exactly right.

Pastor Henry: And so that's one.

Pastor Drew: It's always better to err on the side of caution.

Pastor Henry: Yeah.

Pastor Drew: Because one of the things that we'll say in one of these lectures that we'll talk about with boundaries is nobody plans on sinning.

Pastor Henry: Right.

Pastor Drew: The problem is we don't plan on not sinning.

Pastor Henry: Yeah [Laughs].

Pastor Drew: In other words, if we don't create those boundaries beforehand.

Pastor Henry: Yeah.

Pastor Drew: That there's nothing that when you went to those meetings if it was either the right mode or the right desire, BOOM! Then, you're caught. And sometimes, in that situation, we're all vulnerable in those issues but if we created a plan.

Pastor Henry: Right.

Pastor Drew: If we got an escape pass, if we've got those boundaries inviting Jim into that meeting, not saying that anything would have happened.

Pastor Henry: No.

Pastor Drew: Not that you have planned to.

Pastor Henry: No.

Pastor Drew: But you're communicating something to her.

Pastor Henry: Right.

Pastor Drew: And I think you're saying something to yourself continually when you do that. And I know, both you and I know that when we were younger, we thought we had it all figured out. We we're okay.

Pastor Henry: Yeah

Pastor Drew: If we would have said those kind of things, we probably would have said "Oh, yeah, yeah." And now we learn.

Pastor Henry: And I was saying about that story I talked about that woman coming my age at six o'clock. I kind of made it sound like the temptress is out there or out there to pick us off.

Pastor Drew: Right.

Pastor Henry: As much as I would say that, there's a tempter in our own lives.

Pastor Drew: Oh, exactly. Exactly.

Pastor Henry: It's not this woman's fault.

Pastor Drew: Exactly.

Pastor Henry: Because after they did extensive counseling they found out abuse issues. They found out all kinds of stuff.

Pastor Drew: Sure, sure.

Pastor Henry: And she herself was a victim.

Pastor Drew: Sure. Exactly.

Pastor Henry: So, a victim comes into my world and you could, without boundaries of the heart and boundaries that are clear, you could hurt her.

Pastor Drew: Exactly, exactly.

Pastor Henry: See, so it's not just the temptresses.

Pastor Drew: Exactly. And I think that's the balance in finding that it's the potential in all of us.

Pastor Henry: It's the same as internet porn and all other stuff, whether it's net nannies or whether it's the accountability with your wife or whether it's not allowing yourself to be alone. Those are boundary issues.

Pastor Drew: Exactly.

Pastor Henry: That you have to figure that out. And I know some of you are obviously in the ministry, but you know sometimes, I looked at porn "What do I now? Should I...?" Okay. Learn from it. Set better boundaries in your life. Talk to your wife. Get to that place where those types of rendezvous are rare.

Pastor Drew: Right.

Pastor Henry: They're not something that is you and into the point when this doesn't happen at all.

Pastor Drew: And I think one of those things...

Pastor Henry: Getting outside help

Pastor Drew: Yeah. And one of those things we've talked about in terms of boundaries in this series is the idea of that boundaries are to make sure that we keep certain things out but also that we keep certain things in.

Pastor Henry: Got it.

Pastor Drew: And that's really, really important that we do that because if we haven't prepared that—and it doesn't mean that we're going to fail because we don't want to create boundaries as legalism.

Pastor Henry: Yeah.

Pastor Drew: Because we know if there are boundaries, we can take them out. We can adjust them and move them and say, "Well, that's no big deal."

Pastor Henry: Yeah.

Pastor Drew: So, workable, attainable boundaries in some of those areas, re-evaluating those things. Where we violate those boundaries, deal with it, confess. Whatever we need to do in terms of authenticity with somebody and the vulnerability. And then make sure that we reset some of those boundaries in a way that's really right and proper for us.

Pastor Henry: Excellent. Wow. Yeah, but quickly it goes through these important ministry boundaries. They're all important.

Pastor Drew: Yeah, every one of them. And, so I think, as we wrap this up and stuff, to think through if you were to start over in ministry today, and you were to think about boundaries okay, what are the areas—and I remember you said family was really big and all those kind of things.

Pastor Henry: Yeah.

Pastor Drew: If you can give a few nuggets of wisdom of anything else that we haven't covered here, maybe it's staffing, maybe it's evaluating some of those things, maybe it's gaining some skills, anything else there, what would you toss up?

Pastor Henry: Well, I think there's the—habits are an area that are... A boundary, in some ways, is a habit. These are things that you do over and over again.

Pastor Drew: Right, exactly.

Pastor Henry: And probably, what I would do is early on, I would not feel threatened about experienced, successful in ministry and life believers where I would go to them and see what they're doing and notice that they have solved and they even are aware of boundaries I am not aware of.

Pastor Drew: Good wisdom.

Pastor Henry: Yeah. I did it to a large extent that I really kicked into that in my thirties.

Pastor Drew: Yeah.

Pastor Henry: But in my twenties or my first ministry, I sort of—the experience of hard-knocks taught me the boundaries that ought to happen. But to do it over, I would be much more— Like at CLI, we talk about mentors.

Pastor Drew: Yeah.

Pastor Henry: Hang out with your mentors.

Pastor Drew: Good point.

Pastor Henry: Talk about some of the boundary issues personally with your mentor or your pastor or someone who's into it. That's probably what I would do.

Pastor Drew: That's good because we've talked about before in marriage and stuff that we were looking at people, whether our marriages are struggling or we just want them to get rich or we find those people who've been married fifty, sixty years and take them out to dinner.

Pastor Henry: Yes, yes.

Pastor Drew: And have a conversation.

Pastor Henry: That's an example there.

Pastor Drew: So, here's exactly the same kind of way to say, "Hey, I'm watching this guy. He is successful in business."

Pastor Henry: Yeah.

Pastor Drew: "He's a man of morality, integrity, character."

Pastor Henry: Yeah.

Pastor Drew: That's what he's known as.

Pastor Henry: Yeah.

Pastor Drew: I don't care if he is a businessman, or whatever. I want to know how do you life. What does that look like?

Pastor Henry: And, it's funny. We'll talk about a touchy thing. We talk about porn, Internet porn.

Pastor Drew: Right.

Pastor Henry: You meet someone who's got their life together and you're thinking that they're going to have, and then, they tell you "Oh, they've struggled with it too."

Pastor Drew: Exactly.

Pastor Henry: Then, you'll find out "This is what they... Oh, that's helpful." And you'll find out that even heinous things of your life, you are not unique .

Pastor Drew: Exactly.

Pastor Henry: You've struggled with them alone.

Pastor Drew: Right.

Pastor Henry: But everybody is human .

Pastor Drew: That's right. Yup.

Pastor Henry: And everybody has secret and answers to how God has worked in their lives. And so then, finding those teachers, those mentors—

Pastor Drew: that's right.

Pastor Henry: What happens is you start creating a culture of support and that culture of support becomes an incredible bond.

Pastor Drew: Exactly, exactly. And that's why we, as leaders, we need to share that with the next generation leaders, and to say to them the very things that you said because nobody wants to talk to a leader who says, "Oh, that problem? Never had it."

Pastor Henry: Yeah. [Laughs]

Pastor Drew: Because I cannot learn anything from that individual and no one believes you.

Pastor Henry: Exactly, exactly that's right.

Pastor Drew: So, I want that individual who does, in some sense, have clay feet but he has a heart that's strong after God in pursuing that and recognizes some of those boundaries. And I think not only to seek those out, but to make sure that we become those kind of leaders and mentoring and discipling.

Pastor Henry: Yeah.

Pastor Drew: And being that kind of leader in those people that we have a connection.

Pastor Henry: Wow.

Pastor Drew: Hey, Henry thanks a lot, man, for the conversation.

Pastor Henry: Yeah, that's for sure.

Pastor Drew: It was really fun. I appreciate it.

Pastor Henry: Excellent.