

Ridin' High Cowboy Church

Union Valley, TX

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Introduction: Fences ... many times fences are painful (electric, barbed wire) but the slight pain of the fence is less painful than what is on the other side.

Human Fence: a personal limit on behavior that becomes a matter of conscience.

Ephesus was the worst city for morality (the temple even had prostitutes). This follows a list of things we should not do...

Ephesians 5:15-18 15 Be very careful, then, how you live not as unwise but as wise 16 making the most of every opportunity because the days are evil 17 Therefore do not be foolish. But understand what the Lord's will is

Embrace what you know God's plan is for your life – be honest with yourself.

God's plan: Follow Him and lead others to do the same.

Galatians 6:7

7 Do not be deceived, God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows the old saying, "their just sowing their wild oats" ...the problem is the bible tells us they (those wild oats) grow.

Conclusion: If there is an area of your life that you are unsatisfied with, chances are you have sown yourself into this, you are reaping some things you have sown, so don't be deceived...take ownership of it.

What do you do? Ask yourself how can I begin planting seeds today that will produce things I want to grow in my life later.

Back to Ephesians 5

This is Paul's first example of how to build fences in your life that will keep you from getting out of bounds.

Romans 14:19-21

19 Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. 20 Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of

food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a person to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble. 21 It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother or sister to fail.

Back to Ephesians 5

Which leads to debauchery

Debauchery: extreme indulgence that leads to a loss of control. Paul is teaching that getting drunk is a fence far from the creek – it's not past the creek. He says getting drunk is foolish and unwise and it will lead to a loss of control, so in this example setting up the fence before the point of getting drunk.

Any area of your life where you have an opportunity to lose control you need a fence in that area ... lust, alcohol, greed.

Instead, be filled with the Spirit. God wants to be the primary influence in your life through the Holy Spirit (this only works if you have a relationship with Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit is guiding your life.)

Conclusion: I have a theory that nobody plans ahead of time TO totally ruin their lives. I have heard people say, "I just trust God to protect me, (this is His plan to protect you)"

Nobody ever regrets setting up fences so that they know where the line is but plenty of people wish they had.