

Healthy Hedges

Following the Recipe

Christians need healthy hedges

- Book of Job refers to "hedge"
- "Hedge of Protection"
- Living within parameters of spiritual laws mean we live within the "hedges" God has established for us
- Boundaries
– Dr. Henry Cloud and Dr. John Townsend

Hedge of Sowing and Reaping

"Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life."

Galatians 6: 7-8

Hedge of Personal Responsibility

"...work out **your own** salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure."

Philippians 2:12-13

Hedge of Personal Responsibility

- I'm responsible for my own spiritual condition and growth.
- I'm responsible for loving myself and others
- I'm responsible to work and to help others
- I am held accountable for how my actions impact the spiritual, emotional and physical growth of others, but ultimately, others are responsible for their own spiritual condition and growth.

Hedge of Power

Free Will

- **Source of our power**
 - To accept or reject God's love through Jesus
 - To choose to give God control
 - To confess and repent
 - To accept forgiveness and begin restoration
 - To make restitution
 - To live a holy life as God equips me to do so

Hedge of Respect

"Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is FREEDOM"

2 Corinthians 3:17

Hedge of Respect



Don't stomp on other's hedges

Don't be quiet when others are stomping on your hedges

Hedge of Motive

"For *the LORD* does not *see* as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

1 Samuel 16:7

Hedge of Motive

"Search me, God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.
See if there is any offensive way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting."

Psalm 139:23-24

Hedge of Value

Help or Harm

The question we must ask is not if what we do will
"hurt" someone, but if it will bring "harm" to them.

Our willingness to obey God - even if it is "hurtful" to
someone - will lead to the potential for healing and
wholeness in our relationships.

That potential becomes reality as we trust Him and
believe His word and promises.

Hedge of Action

Hedge of Action

"For you have been called to live in freedom,
my brothers and sisters.
But don't use your freedom
to satisfy your sinful nature.
Instead, use your freedom
to serve one another in love."

Galatians 5:13

Hedge of Action

Freedom from . . .

Hedge of Action

Freedom from . . .

- Anger

Hedge of Action

Freedom from . . .

- Anger
-Choosing to move into peace

Hedge of Action

Freedom from . . .

- Anger
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Hedge of Action

Freedom from . . .

- Anger
-Choosing to move into peace
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- Self-centeredness

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 - Choosing to place God first, others second
- Self-gratification

Hedge of Action

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- Anger
 - Choosing to move into peace
- Bitterness
 - Choosing to forgive
- Self-centeredness
 - Choosing to place God first, others second
- Self-gratification
 - Choosing to be filled by God

Hedge of Contentment

Hedge of Contentment

"Each one should test their own actions.
Then they can take pride in themselves alone,
without comparing themselves
to someone else..."

Galatians 6:4

Hedge of Contentment

Envy defines 'good' as
what 'I do not possess,'
and hates the good that it has.

Boundaries, pg. 99

Hedge of Contentment

Envy was Satan's problem.

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When we focus on the "good"
that someone else possesses
and ignore what God has given us,
we cannot be content.

Hedge of Contentment

Longing for what we do not have means
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Our lack of contentment pushes us to build
unhealthy hedges and tear down hedges of others.

Hedge of Contentment

"I know what it is to be in need,
and I know what it is to have plenty.
I have learned the secret of being content
in any and every situation,
whether well fed or hungry,
whether living in plenty or in want.
I can do everything through Christ
who gives me strength"

Philippians 4:12-13

Hedge of Perseverance

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We are not called to be spiritual wimps.

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**We are to be strong, courageous,
people of tremendous faith
who fight through the battle
and do not give up.**

Hedge of Perseverance

"And my righteous ones will live by faith.
But I will take no pleasure
in anyone who turns away.'
But we are not like those who turn away
from God to their own destruction.
We are the faithful ones,
whose souls will be saved."

Hebrews 10:38-39

Hedge of Truth

Hedge of Truth

Embracing Truth

"Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts,
And in the hidden *part*
You will make me to know wisdom."

Psalm 51:6

Hedge of Truth

Expressing Truth

"Instead, we will speak the truth in love,
growing in every way
more and more like Christ,
who is the head of his body, the church."

Ephesians 4:15

Recipe

1/2 cup granulated sugar
1/2 cup soft butter
1/2 cup brown sugar
2 eggs
1/2 cup flour
6 oz. chocolate chips
unbaked pie shell

Bake at 375 degrees for 1 hour.

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God intends for these Hedges to be cultivated in our lives.

Leaving them out or ignoring part of them means our lives aren't what He intends, and our impact in the world is diminished.

Cultivating God's hedges

Sowing and Reaping

Responsibility and Power

Respect, Motive and Value

Action, Contentment, Perseverance and Truth

