

Healthy Hedges

God-given Responsibility and Power

Christians need healthy hedges

- Book of Job refers to "hedge"
- "Hedge of Protection"
- Hedge of limitations
- Hedge of expectations
- 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

The "Law 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

Sow to the flesh . . .

- Consequences for cultivating/caring for flesh
- God intends for the pain of these consequences to reveal sin, lead us to repentance, and set us on path to restoration
- Consequences create a "healthy hedge"

Facing consequences

- We face consequences of our own sin
 - Confess
 - Repent
 - Restoration
 - Restitution
- We encourage others to face the consequences of their sins

Breaking down this "hedge"...

- Creates deception that there are no consequences for sinful behavior
 - Foothold/Stronghold
- Inhibits spiritual growth
 - In self
 - In others
- Leads to rebellion and idolatry

Cultivating this "hedge"...

- Sowing to the Spirit means reaping everlasting life
 - For you
 - For your children
 - For your spouse
 - For your family
 - For your friends

Cultivating this "hedge"...

- Sowing to the Spirit means that as we stop enabling and interrupting the consequences, we yield to the plan of God in the lives of our loved ones.
- This positions us to teach the truth of God's word - and to be a life which is a canvas truth is painted on.

"We will reap what we sow"

- Encourages us to go to God
 - For forgiveness
 - To claim His promises
- Great motivator to sow good stuff
- Great reality check
- Reveals lies, footholds, strongholds
- Stops the blame game in its tracks
 - Submit to God
 - Resist the enemy
 - Then he must flee

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

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Spiritual Responsibility

Hedge of Personal Responsibility

"Love one another as I have loved you..."
John 15:12

Hedge of Personal Responsibility

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Emotional Responsibility

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Emotional Responsibility
-Love self

Hedge of Personal Responsibility

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Emotional Responsibility
-Love self
-Love others

Hedge of Personal Responsibility

"Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need."
Ephesians 4:28

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Physical Responsibility

Hedge of Personal Responsibility

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Physical Responsibility
-To work

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Physical Responsibility
-To work
~~-To help others~~

Hedge of Personal Responsibility

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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

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Free Will

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- Free Will
- Source of our power

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- **Source of our power**
 - To accept or reject God's love through Jesus

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 - To live a holy life as God equips me to do so

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Hedge of Power

Free Will for all

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

Hedge of Power

Serenity Prayer

"God grant me
the serenity to accept
the things I cannot change,
the courage to change the things I can,
and the wisdom to know the difference."

Hedge of Power

"Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we don't know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*. And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His purpose*."
Romans 8:26-28

Hedge of Power

Yielding to God's Power unleashes the Power of the Spirit to bring ALL things in our lives to a place where good comes from them.

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Cultivating God's hedges Sowing and Reaping Responsibility and Power

