



Practicing Boundaries: Love vs. Enabling Part 1

We all want to care and help those in need. But how do you know when you are being loving with someone, or are actually enabling them? When you are faced with a request for your time, energy or money, how do you know if the right response is to say “yes” and provide it, or “no” and decline?

The Bible teaches, over and over again, that we are to help others:

And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. — Hebrews 13:16

We are designed to love others in word and deed. Also, for most of us, it’s much easier to say “yes” than “no”, for a number of reasons:

- We feel compassion for the person’s struggle
- We remember our own difficult situations

- We don’t want them to feel disappointed and discouraged
- We wonder if God has placed us in their life for this situation
- We think we may be the only solution for them

At the same time, however, our provision for someone can actually make the situation worse for them, because we may be preventing them from experiencing some consequence for their behaviors, and not learning to change how they operate in life. This is the process of God’s disciplining us, so that we grow up and mature:

No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. — Hebrews 12:7

The process of experiencing consequences is key:

- A child in a 5-minute time out begs to get out in 3 minutes
- A teen asks not to be grounded for bad grades
- A friend who has had several failing jobs asks for a loan
- A spouse with a drinking problem asks their spouse to give them one more chance before requiring counseling

In all of these examples, it’s unsure what the right thing to do might be. There is just not enough information here. So back to the question: how to tell if you’re being loving, or if you’re enabling? Here are 5 questions to ask yourself as a sort of filter, and you will find the answer to the issue when you engage with them. You will probably answer some as a “yes” and some as a “no”, and don’t worry that the answers for all agree. You’ll see the balance to help your decision.

Upcoming Events

LADIES BUNCO PARTY ...Drummond’s Home	APRIL 7th ~ 1 PM
BIBLE BUILDERS ...2nd & 4th Sunday	APRIL 8th & 22nd ~ 4 PM
L.I.F.T (Ladies Ministry...2nd Tuesday	APRIL 9th ~ 6:30 PM
MEN’S BREAKFAST...2nd Saturday	APRIL 14th ~ 7 AM
POTLUCK...Finger Foods	APRIL 15th ~ 11:45 AM
GAME NIGHT...3rd Wednesdays	APRIL 18th ~ 6:30 PM

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Special points of interest:

- “The Journey” begins April 8th
- Splinters From the Board
- April Birthday’s
- Next Board Meeting: April 16th @ 7 pm

April 2018

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
EASTER 9:45 am Breakfast 10:30 am Worship 11:45 am Coffee Hour 6 pm CCE*	11 am Open Table 7 pm Boy Scouts	6 pm CCE*	8:30 am Yoga 9 am Slimliners 6:30 pm Song Team	10 am Ladies Bible Study	6 pm CCE*	8 am Anchor Point* 1 pm Ladies Bunco Party at Marlene Drummonds home
8 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:45 am Coffee Hour 4 pm Bible Builders 6 pm CCE*	9 10 am Sewing Club 11 am Open Table 7 pm Elders Meeting 7 pm Boy Scouts	10 6 pm CCE* 6:30 pm LIFT 7 pm Rock Club*	11 8:30 am Yoga 9 am Slimliners 6:30 pm Song Team	12 10 am Ladies Bible Study	13 6 pm CCE*	14 7 am Men's Breakfast 8 am Anchor Point*
15 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:45 am Coffee Hour 6 pm CCE*	16 11 am Open Table 7 pm Board Meeting 7 pm Boy Scouts	17 6 pm CCE* 6 pm Anchor Point Board Mtg	18 8:30 am Yoga 9 am Slimliners 6:30 pm Song Team 6:30 Game Night	19 10 am Ladies Bible Study 10 am Travel Club	20 6 pm CCE*	21 8 am Anchor Point & Potluck*
22 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:45 am Coffee Hour 4 pm Bible Builders 6 pm CCE*	23 11 am Open Table 6:30 pm Worship Meeting 7 pm Boy Scouts	24 6 pm CCE*	25 8:30 am Yoga 9 am Slimliners 6:30 pm Song Team	26 10 am Ladies Bible Study	27 6 pm CCE*	28 8 am Anchor Point*
29 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:45 am Coffee Hour 6 pm CCE*	30 11 am Open Table 7 pm Boy Scouts					

Change Always Happens by Annie Downs

Everything you have, from your health to your friendships to a roof over your head to the food in your belly, is a gift from God. And we even have something else to be thankful for: that

God doesn't change! I love that about Him.

We can hold tight to our never-changing God and be okay because, in every other area of life, change is pretty much guaranteed. And you know what?

Brave people are willing to let go of everything as they hold tight to God, even when things start to change.

In the last three months, I have seen

the most change in my personal and professional life that I've ever had. For my counselor, I listed every North Star person (you know, a person who is important to you and gives you guidance) who has left my life in the last three months, and the number is seven. Seven.

And you know what? *It's okay.*

If I chose to live in a world where I hated change all the time, I would be really miserable. If I chose to put all my hope in people, I would be really miserable. (I've tried both. It's always miserable.)

I don't love change, but I know that God is always working for my good. So, I can say, "Man, this is the worst!" But I have a totally

trustworthy God who is looking out for me.

Does God need a reminder that He has all this under control? No, friend. He doesn't. You do. I definitely do. We all do.

Remembering that He's the boss and His plans are for our good and He loves us? That can make us brave, even when everything that felt secure seems to be changing.

Be Brave: *List a few changes you've seen in your life lately. How are you seeing God use these changes to shape you?*

Excerpted with permission from [Let's All Be Brave](#) by Annie Downs, copyright Annie F. Downs.

Secret of Forgiveness by Max Lucado

You will never forgive anyone more than God has already forgiven you. Is it still hard to consider the thought of forgiving the one who hurt you? If so, go one more time to the room. Watch Jesus as he goes from disciple to disciple. Can you see him? Can you hear the water splash? Can you hear him shuffle

on the floor to the next person? Keep that image.

John 13:12 says, "When he had finished washing their feet..." Please note; Jesus finished

God will never call you to do what he hasn't already done!

washing their feet. That means he left no one out. Why is that important? Because that means he washed the feet of Judas. Jesus washed the feet of his betrayer. That's not to say it was easy for Jesus. That's not to say it's easy for you.

Splinters From the Board

The Membership Committee has been busy planning potlucks and fun things for us each month. Thank you Raquel Gutierrez and Debbie Dale for volunteering to be on the Membership Committee!

Jodene reported that the computer and software for Media is up and running. She also, requested an upgrade on the office computer and a computer for the Pastor's office. The board gave her an approval to

move forward with the upgrade of the office computer and purchasing one for the Pastor's office. Thank you!

Property & Grounds are still working towards getting the TV's into the classrooms in the education wing. They are waiting on the electricians to get the wiring.

Two posts with reflectors have been installed on each side of the High-

land Avenue driveway!

The estimated cost for the new plank flooring for the nursery is \$1,600 for the materials and \$2,500 for installation totaling \$4,100; this cost is for both rooms.

Next Board Meeting: April 16th @ 7pm

First Christian Church

CONTACT INFORMATION

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We're on the web
hermistonfirstchristian.org

April Birthday's

PEGGY HENDERSON	04/01
DAVE HUGHES	04/01
MARGARET DEWEY	04/04
BROOKE RESER	04/18
FRAN COPPINGER	04/24
BETTY IMAN	04/24
JANELL ROBERTS	04/24
TOM HARRISON	04/25
JOE KISER	04/28

