

The Boundaries of Liberty

by Shane Idleman

The sermon emphasizes the importance of living with love and maintaining boundaries in order to truly experience liberty in Christianity.

Duration: 44:17

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 8:1

Topics: "Love and Responsibility", "Liberty in Christ"

Description

Shane Idleman discusses 'The Boundaries of Liberty,' emphasizing that while Christians are liberated through Christ, they must operate within moral boundaries to avoid leading others astray. He highlights the importance of love over knowledge, warning against using liberty as a cover for vice, and stresses the need for self-examination in how one's actions may affect others. Idleman uses examples such as alcohol consumption and modesty to illustrate how personal freedoms can impact the faith of others, urging believers to prioritize love and responsibility in their actions. Ultimately, he calls for a return to a genuine relationship with God, marked by love and compassion.

Transcript

Open your Bibles to 1 Corinthians chapter 8. 1 Corinthians chapter 8 verse 1. It's an interesting topic. The title is, The Boundaries of Liberty. The Boundaries of Liberty.

And what do I mean by that? Well, quite frankly, anytime you've been liberated, because of what Jesus did on the cross, and we're liberated, we're set free, there is still boundaries to stay within. We can't just do whatever we want. Like Paul said, well, I know it's lawful, but is it profitable? Is it wise? Will it lead others astray? So, as I said, I think it was last Sunday or Wednesday night, as a Christian, you can do whatever you want.

As long as you stay within Genesis and Revelation. That boundary line there. And this is why so many people are opposed to religion, possibly Christianity, because they think God is going to keep them from having fun.

Oh, I'm not going to have fun. I've got to do this and do that. To me, it's not really about following all these rules, like you're at school.

To me, it's about a relationship where God puts guardrails up over the canyon and say, don't go over this. Just stay within these guardrails. So to me, there's a lot of freedom in staying within the guardrails.

And Paul is going to talk about our liberty. What's interesting about liberty, I should say this. There's so many topics.

I could probably do part two if we want to hit more topics. But a liberty means, you know, a Christian can do something. But should they? The issue comes up often of marijuana or medical use.

What alcohol would be another liberty that, you know, those who can't have one now and then, you know, there's that liberty. But many people use liberty as a cloak for vice. It means like a cloak is something they would put on.

So they continue in their addiction. And they say, but I have a liberty. No, liberty has boundaries.

There's a framework there. And Paul's going to talk about eating meat sacrificed to idols. We don't have to deal with that anymore.

But they had to do it then. It had to deal with that then. And it has practical application even for us today.

So here we go. Are you ready? I heard something this week I had to share with you. It said everyone is a Christian until it gets biblical.

That's a good t-shirt. Isn't that true? I wouldn't say everyone, but most people are Christian until it gets biblical. In other words, until the rubber meets the road.

It's easy to check off Christian on a survey. But when it comes down to applying the principles and living a godly life, that's where the rubber meets the road. And that's what you really see in America today.

You see political parties divided. And you say, how can Christians believe that? How can Christians do that? Well, everyone is a Christian until it gets biblical. What does the Bible say about certain moral issues? So here we go.

Chapter 8, verse 1. Now concerning things offered to idols. So there must have been questions about things offered to idols. And what, just to give you the backdrop, is they would offer this meat, this food to an idol, and what was not burned in the sacrifice was actually sold in the marketplace.

So it would be like you going into the store and, I thought about this, it would be kind of weird. You buy this chicken breast from the butcher, and they say, oh that one, that was just sacrificed to Allah this week. We did it in the back.

Did you have to tell me that? Or it was just sacrificed to devil worship? And you're like, oh, hmm. See, your conscious now is aware of something. And it's better not to know certain things sometimes.

But now there's a, oh, what do I do with this? I'm going to bring this meat home that was sacrificed? But Paul will go on to say, and we're going to read in just a minute, where he said there's nothing in the food. There's no idol. There's only one God.

So eat the food. But if it's going to make someone stumble, and they're not going to understand, then Paul said it's better to refrain and not eat at all. So see, it's not self-focus.

The Christian walk is others focused. How is this going to relate to others? How is it going to, what kind of message is it going to send? For example, we brought up that just a minute ago, alcohol. Some people have the liberty with it.

But why do so many, why are people posting it all over Facebook? Look at me in this Long Island iced tea. Look at me on this jet ski with the six pack of Corona. See, that's, that's, that's flaunting your liberty.

That's flaunting it. Well, that's their problem. No, it's your problem too.

Because people say, well, it's not my fault if they stumble. Actually, it's not your fault that they stumble. But if you cause it, then you are, according to God's Word, part in that.

This comes up a lot. I don't know how I came up with the thought of this. But with modesty in attire, women primarily, dressing, how they dress.

And we used to hear this working with young adults, saying, well, that's not my fault if the guy has a problem. Well, you don't need to show this, that, and this. You don't need to be the enticement either.

So see how it works both ways. There's social responsibility. So as believers, we look at how we dress, right? You don't want me wearing a midriff.

You might get down your way home. That would not look good. But we're concerned about how we dress, how we influence others, what people see in us.

And that's really what Paul is getting at here. So it's really not about idols. It's about the heart.

And then he goes on to say, we know that we all have knowledge, meaning we know that there's, as believers, we know that these are, there's no such thing as an idol. There's no such thing as other gods. We have that knowledge.

But then he says something interesting. Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies. So to me, unless I'm reading too much into this, Paul is letting them know, you have the knowledge, you have the wisdom here, you know, but you're not loving church or the particular believers he was writing to.

It's love that's going to edify and build up. So if anyone thinks that he knows anything, he knows nothing. Yet as he ought to know, but if anyone loves God, this one is known by him.

So again, if it wasn't burned, it was sold in the marketplace and the Gentile believers were concerned. So imagine this, you're a Gentile, meaning you're not Jewish. You've been sacrificing to idols all of your life and eating the meat and possibly not eating the meat, depending on what your belief system is.

But now they're Christians and now they don't want to eat the meat still because it was sacrificed to an idol. So Paul is saying, listen, there's nothing to worry about. There's no, there's no idol.

There's nothing there. But if your conscience, see this is where we have to be careful. Your conscience should not be the conscience of someone else on gray areas.

Well, I can. Why can't you? Well, because my conscience doesn't let me do that or go down that path. And like the Gentiles here, we too are sensitive to things in our past, aren't we? So if you dealt with something, you dealt with something.

Now you're a believer. You don't want to kind of go back to that lifestyle where it might be perfectly fine for someone else on gray areas. But there's, and we're kind of sensitive to certain things that happened in our past.

That's what he said here. Be careful. Knowledge without love makes you arrogant.

Knowledge makes us feel important. So he's warning the church, be careful. Knowledge puffs up.

Knowledge, knowledge without love makes you arrogant. Do you ever meet those people? They're all knowledge and no love. How quick can you get away from them? So you have to have the combination of both.

And I believe personally that this is the second biggest hindrance in the church today is why the church isn't powerful and loving and helping people. This is the second biggest reason or hindrance to the church. It's truth with no love.

Well, what's the first biggest? Well, in my opinion, love with no truth or what you call carnality or compromising, compromising the gospel, not standing up for what is truth. And when you can marry truth and love, that's powerful. That is the spirit filled life.

So if you're on the love side and not the truth side, you want to hop in the middle. And if you're on the truth side and no love, you want to repent to that and make sure you're filled with the love of God. Think about this.

Those who think they know it all know very little. That's what he's saying. Because they miss the heart of God, they miss the love of God, and they don't know, they don't have the knowledge of who God truly is.

Think about that. When love is removed from your heart or you're kind of a cold, callous person, you lack love, you'll miss the heart of God. So you'll go, you'll go after someone with Scripture, but not Scripture and love.

And that's why so many people often don't see results, don't see fruit is because they lack love. And that's what Paul is stating clearly here. If a pastor has knowledge but little love, he will be a failure.

Let me tell you this right up front. And this is probably one of the biggest areas I think God worked in my life from when I first started the church. I had the truth, you know, and the boldness was still there, but that, that, that final icing on the cake of love and brokenness.

And God just kept, okay, you got the truth now, come on, come on, get the love. But there will also be different callings in a church, different callings. And we have to be sensitive to that because we might say, well, for example, Shane's too hard.

My other pastor, he's nice and sweet and gentle over in Lancaster. Well, he's different callings. God, God fashioned him that way to be that, that, that, that, that silent, loving voice and just listen.

He gave me a calling like John the Baptist to call the nation back. And so with that comes a fiery passion. And then you take someone like Pastor Abram, wonderful call with evangelism, and I love evangelism, but that's more his calling.

So God brings all these people together. They're actually the, I believe what the Bible talks about the fivefold ministry in that you have those who are prophetic voices. You have the evangelist voice, you have the pastor teacher, you have the apostolic gifting, meaning church planting to be sent out.

And a healthy church identifies all of those. And here's where we have to be careful because we'll start to critique others. And I, and I had to learn, I have had to repent many times over.

I'll start to put pastors down because they're not bold. Why don't you grow a backbone, speak the truth. But they're called more towards that gentle shepherding, counseling kind of a pastor.

And, and we become wrongly judgmental. And that's also what you're seeing in America. Why you're seeing so many Christian leaders, a lot of them want, are getting political.

And some people say, well, why are they getting political? They shouldn't be doing that. They're a pastor. Well, but if God has called them to make a difference, that's God's calling upon their life.

The Bible doesn't say pastors can't be political. It actually says we need to be biblical. We need to speak the truth.

But then he calls someone else, not in that arena, but then we're so busy critiquing each other and judging each other that we missed. Could it be that God has called people differently for different tasks? What about somebody who's mission oriented? They wake up with missions. They go to bed with missions.

We got to reach the unreachable. We got to, we're going to reach, and they're mission oriented. Well, they're probably going to get frustrated with someone maybe who isn't.

And vice versa, someone with the calling of evangelism is going to be, why aren't we out in Lancaster evangelizing? Well, why aren't we out in Ethiopia? See, different callings, different gifting. So shoot your arrow wherever God has called you and don't be wrongly judgmental with others. God has uniquely designed us.

If a, if a dad or a mom has knowledge, but little love, they will have rules, but they will damage the relationships. They will teach their kids, but never reach their kids without love, because that's where you have to show the affection, the love, the compassion. There's a relationship built, those things that are the most important.

And that's hard to have in the home because you want to have that, that truth. You want to have that firmness. But if you don't have the love, you're going to, you're going to hurt, you're going to damage people because it's the love that builds that relationship.

Anybody convicted yet? When they blow it, they don't need scripture, need scripture pounding them. They need arms holding them. And I have a feeling most of our kids know the scriptures pretty well because we've been quoting it and quoting and telling them.

And there comes a time where you say, here's what the Bible says. Here's what my counsel is. But you have to have the aspect of love as well.

And if a person here, if you're single, if you have knowledge, but little love, you will have a hard time making and keeping friends or building relationships. It just doesn't happen. What did Paul say? Or he actually is going to say later on, if you have not love, it profits you nothing.

It's amazing passage. I think it's first Corinthians 13, where Paul talks about, or one of the things, he, he talks about, you can preach, you can give to the poor, you can do ministry. But if you don't have love, that broken heart, what are you doing? You're like, I wish I had some clanging symbols right now.

That's what he said. You're like a king, king, king, king, king clanging symbols and like, what is that? Because there's no love. It's so important.

So I'm going to give you some boundary signs that you're off track. Are you ready for this? Here's a person who's lacking love. They're not teachable, humble, or gracious.

Not teachable, humble, or gracious. What do you mean by teachable? Well, are you open for constructive criticism? When somebody, when somebody, how dare somebody tell you, you need to improve on something. You're not open for constructive criticism.

You got it all, you got it all dialed in. It's everybody else that needs work. And it's just, it's just unteachable spirit.

There's, there's no humility or, or, or grace, graciousness. What about number two, always looking for opportunities to demonstrate their knowledge. So a person who has knowledge, but not love is looking for ways to demonstrate that knowledge.

So they, they might want to be a teacher of the word for the wrong reason. They might go to a study for the wrong reason that they want. They might want to look, look, look, look at how much I know, look at how much I know, but they, they, they miss the love.

The person who is lacking love, they often lack a vibrant, a vibrant, dare I say it, emotional relationship with God. Now, let me clarify. I'm not into emotionalism, being emotional for the sake of emotions, but there is something in the heart of a person filled with love that rejoices during worship.

That's, that's excited during worship. I mean, why, why, why do some churches look like a cemetery during worship? Have you been there? That's not coming from a joy-filled heart. Now, I know there's preferences, there's difference in styles and who the old hymnites or the contemporary, but there should be, there should be a, a, an expression in our worship because worship flows from a loving heart.

A person who lacks love does not worship very well. They're, they're bound with handcuffs. You don't have to raise your hands.

I'm not saying that, but there, there should be just a joy-filled heart. Speak that name. Speak the name that even the demons tremble.

You speak that name of Jesus Christ. That's why there's a big battle. That's why you can pray every other name under the sun.

You can go to city council meetings and say you're an atheist and you want to pray to the rock. No problem. You want to pray to witches? No problem.

But when you step up in there and, and, and you say in the name of Jesus Christ, they get upset. They, they want to remove that name, get rid of that name. Why? Because that name shakes the spiritual realm.

That name is above all other names. At the name of Jesus Christ, every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that he is Lord. There is no greater name.

There is no equal name. There is no co-redeemer. It is Christ and Christ alone.

You exalt that name. You preach that name. That name is when you call down heaven and say, Oh Jesus, save my children.

Oh Jesus, save my soul. Jesus, break this bondage. Oh Christ, if you don't move, we are lost.

Jesus, Washington needs you. Hollywood needs you. Sacramento needs you.

Jesus, would you come and bring revival and restoration and renew us again? There's power in that. You should get excited because there's power in that name. So always remember this.

Love is a mark of someone truly filled with God's spirit. I don't want to know how much you know. I want to know how much you care because knowledge will follow.

Knowledge is very important, but without love, you'll damage your family. You'll damage your marriage. You'll damage others.

And then verse four, therefore concerning the eating of things offered to idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world and there is no other God but one. Now this is important because this is what separates Christianity from most religions. Monotheism, meaning mono, one, theism, God.

There's one God. So we worship one God. God said, tell Israel, I am one.

Elohim, it's a plurality though. It shows his plural nature. He reveals himself as father, son, and Holy Spirit, the triune, the trinity.

That's why we teach the trinity because the Bible teaches the trinity. We don't teach three separate gods and we worship three separate gods. We worship the one true and living God who chose to reveal himself as father, son, and Holy Spirit.

The reason this is so important is because there are many groups out there who think that there are, yeah, JWs, Mormons, different, that all of us can be like God. For example, Jesus quotes Psalms and he said, you will be gods, but that it's a lower G and Jesus is talking about being magistrates, being rulers. You will rule over certain people where the Mormon doctrine takes that and says that God was once like us and that we will be God someday ruling our own planet.

Folks, that's heresy. That's heretical. Well, I can't believe that's mean-spirited.

No, it's true-spirited. I love people enough to tell, think about what you're saying. God was once like Shane Heideleman.

God was once like you and somehow he just evolved into who he is today, ruling the universe, spoke things into existence, commands the sun to stay, commands the moon to sit, commands the earth and they have everything necessary here for life and God did all that, but he used to be a man and we're going to be like God. It's a good sales pitch, but they take the scripture out of context. It has nothing to do with being a god like God and ruling planets.

It also teaches you'll be married. You'll be married ruling planets with spirit children, but Bible says there's no marriage in heaven and so there's so many things that contradict. Many earthly rulers, he's saying here, but they all sit underneath God's sovereignty.

Many, many earthly rulers, but they all sit under God's authority. Would someone send this message please to North Korea and China and Russia and Iran? There's one God and they all sit under his sovereignty, under his control. And then verse seven, however, there is not everyone, there is not in everyone that knowledge.

So he's saying you know that an idol is really not real, but others are still shackled to their past. They can't eat the meat that was sacrificed to an idol. So there is not in everyone that knowledge.

For some with consciousness of the idol until now eat it as a thing offered to an idol and their conscience being weak is defiled. In other words, they just can't shake this. Have you ever done that where like a Christian can do something but you just can't, you just can't do it anymore.

My conscience doesn't, I just can't do that and for me a big thing out there, you know, for many years has been entertainment. How can some people watch certain movies, I have no clue, but my conscience, especially when you put on things, you're just like, oh, I just, I just feel this. But it's interesting, he said their conscience is being weak.

They're weak. What they mean there is it means not mature, obviously, they're not understanding. So they don't get it.

Their conscience isn't where yours is yet. They're not mature in the faith. So don't push it on them and don't do something that's going to cause them to stumble.

Look at how your brother is being perceiving you or sister and you and you make decisions based on that the right decisions. And then verse 19, I'm sorry, verse 9 through 13. But be aware unless somehow this liberty of yours, see now Paul is going to tell the church again, listen, if somehow this liberty of yours becomes a stumbling block to those who are weak.

So if you're eating meat sacrifice to an idol and a Christian says, why are they doing that? I don't understand. It doesn't look good. Then he's going to say you have to withdraw from that.

So anything you can fill in the blank. If we're doing anything in our life that were if another Christian would see it, that doesn't make sense. It's going to cause someone to stumble.

I'll give you an example. I'm glad I didn't do this, but I was thinking about doing it. I could put a big beer right here.

Can I do that? I guess it's a good sermon illustration. I mean, liberty. Boy, that would make a good point, but probably not a good idea, right? So I had a second thoughts on that.

Probably not a good idea. Somebody will see it in my refrigerator in my office. Oh no.

But we have to be careful on the message we send to other people. And when they see us do something. So what you post, let's go back to that.

What you post on Facebook. And I heard Facebook is for old people. Now it's Instagram.

So whatever you post on Instagram, don't post anything on Snapchat. Stay off of that. Whatever you post on Instagram or look at what are people going to perceive you? Boy, with this impeachment stuff and all the, I would love to post stuff.

Oh my goodness. I would love to tell people my heart, but I know that's not going to look good. I've done, I've done before.

And I'm like, delete it, delete, because, because it's just, you're not going to send the right message sometimes. So it's better just to be quiet. So that's what Paul is saying here.

So this is how it applies to us. Is there anything in our homes or in our lives that is a stumbling block to other people? For example, on this topic, we talked about earlier on this issue, let's say of alcohol. Can a person, maybe I'd like to do a whole teaching on this, but can a Christian have a glass of wine or a beer now and then? I mean, yeah, the Bible's not real.

I mean, it allows for that. Now, in my opinion, most people don't have just one. They have about three and they have it consistently and they have a problem.

But for those who don't, there's a lot that don't either. They can have a glass of wine every now and then. Should that person, especially if they're a church or in leadership, should that person go sit at a restaurant and order that and somebody else could see them? See, the person could say, well, that's their problem.

I have the liberty to do this. And technically they have the liberty. See why this is interesting? Technically it's lawful.

Sure. Okay. You could, but it's not beneficial.

Should you do that? Or somebody is seeing you do that. So it's about perception. Also, what's in your home? How many alcoholics began in the home? Because parents had, that's where I started.

12 years old. I know right at the house in Quartz Hill. And then in 17, 18, my friend's dad's cabinet, wild turkey.

I don't know if that's still around. And then we just put some water in it. So he didn't know.

Come on, don't act like you've never done any of this stuff. But see, I guess he has the liberty to do that. And there's, I mean, it would take a while on strong drink, on wine, the alcohol content of wine in Jesus's day, probably about 2%, not what we're seeing here, 12%.

Most, even Jews, Orthodox Jews in Israel today add water with it. So it's about 2%. That's the wine.

And that strong drink was something else completely different. But I don't want to go in that direction here. The whole point is what are others going to perceive you as? Is it going to be awkward or weird or something, you know, and perception? So I wish I could go jogging out in the desert more often and just take my shirt off when it's hot.

But I'd be careful. Nobody's around, right? Oh, he's a pastor. But see, I can do that.

It's just weird. It's just weird for me. It's like, oh, so this, this, this interesting, get the images out.

But I did a, I was in Palm Springs, you know, this week for our anniversary and birthday. And I had Madison with me. And I'm a tank top and Madison, it's 100 degrees out.

And I did this short little video. And I'm like, oh, this turned out great. And I show Morgan, she's like, oh, it looks like you don't even have a shirt on.

I'm like, that's right. Dang it. But perception, you know, of course, we could still release it.

But it's a tank top. And I had the baby, you know, the baby backpack on. And it was just, but just be more perceptive, more, more aware, conscious.

There you go. That's what Paul's saying here. So if there's something, what about that issue of modesty? Isn't that true? As a Christian woman, you should be concerned with how you address dress, because your image, you're representing Christ in you.

And so when, because men are visual, and when a woman begins to flaunt that and becomes immodest, she does have a responsibility to other people on how she dresses as a Christian, the Bible is clear. Actually, I'll talk about modesty as we keep going forward. And Romans 14 says, don't do anything that causes your brother to stumble.

So is there anything, what is the is, it's like somebody's walking, and you put a rock in front of their path, you're causing them to stumble. So let's do this test here. What's in your home? Is there anything that maybe might be a stumbling block for others? And this is why it's even hard for us.

So don't feel bad. But we have to be so careful with what we allow in our homes on the television with kids, because that can be a form of a stumbling block. If they can just click something and see something ungodly, and pornography or dangerous, we have a responsibility to monitor that not put a stumbling block.

Jesus said it's actually better if a person was never born than to lead a little child astray, or to have a millstone hung around your neck and cast into the ocean. Jesus takes this very seriously about leading our little ones astray. Why? Because they are moldable.

They believe anything, don't they? I mean, I tell my kids some things like, how do they believe that? I'm just joking. Really, Daddy? Really? Yeah, I can fly. Just happened this morning.

No way, let me see you. Moldable, fashionable. And I should clarify this word here.

I don't think I kept reading. For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols as well? So what can happen is this person begins to compromise. And then they begin to compromise in other areas.

And it's, so example, somebody sees a leader or somebody they look up to having a drink somewhere. Like, well, yeah, I guess I could too. But they used to have a problem with it.

So now that compromise has opened the door again, and they're back in bondage. So it's an area that we need to be sensitive about. So I'm sensitive about what I post a lot of times, or even what I say from the pulpit.

I remember actually I taught on alcohol. Oh, it must have been six years now. And just I did, it was a whole sermon on it.

And I mentioned how, you know, one now and then to some people, you know, they can those who know you can't can't. And a guy got mad at me, because he said that sermon caused him to go back and drinking. And I said, No, there's no, no, no, I did not.

You know, you can't have one. So don't, I'm just clarifying what the Bible said. And he actually said that I caused him to stumble by preaching the Bible says, in moderation for those who can't have it in moderation and it caused him to stumble.

I think he was looking for an excuse personally and so but we do need to be careful with what we say and how we conduct ourself. But he said something here, and because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish for whom Christ died. Now this word perish in the Greek is not dealing with you think of die or go to hell anything like that the word actually means to be ruined by sin.

So should your brother be ruined by sin from who Christ died because of the choices you made and because of your influence you're causing someone to be ruined by sin. What about all these pastors out there now they're saying supporting LGBTQ and supporting gay marriage. Yeah God's word doesn't say anything.

They're going to be held accountable for the words they say. That's why you'll find many times I don't take a very strong stance on things that are not essential. You take you take a stance on what is essential.

I'm not going to argue over how old is the universe, how old is the earth, or this type of thing, or that type of thing, or you know we get we get caught up in all these things. So here he goes on to say do not be ruined by sin or you're going to cause someone to be ruined by sin but when you but but when you thus sin against the brethren see this is a sin. Is that amazing? A person could be not in sin doing things for God but if they're causing someone else to stumble then they are actually in sin.

And maybe I saw it a lot more you know than some of you but I went to a fairly I guess I call it conservative but what kind of liberal church. There was beer at Bible studies, there's beers at get togethers, there's beers at a three-year-old's birthday party. It's just everywhere.

It's it's it's like well we have liberty. No. Be careful.

Be careful because you're causing others to fall in an area. That is a sin and you wound their weak conscience. You sin against Christ.

Therefore if food makes my brother stumble I will never eat meat again lest I make my brother stumble. So you plant-based advocates there's your scripture text. I'm joking of course that's that's highly debatable too isn't it? Meat, dairy, plant-based, what's the right diet? What's the right food? Both camps go at each other's throats but he says if if if me doing something is going what what maturity? What maturity? Isn't that hard? Like saying you know if this is going to make a person stumble I'm not going to do it.

That's mature. That's wisdom but most of us say well that's their problem. You got that little look.

That's why love is so important. This keeps coming up so I hope this is helpful. I just don't want to say it because I've already said enough but also in the area of modesty look about what you post on Facebook

and pictures you post.

Men or women I guess but what are the message that we're sending to others? It should be it should represent Christ in in our dress and our attire in our I mean the stuff we say the stuff we say. I mean you can you can you know belong to different political party but some of the stuff that's out there is just this is coming from Christians cussing and cursing and and name-calling and this this this is terrible and you have to be careful in this area. You think 2016 was difficult? You didn't see nothing until 2020.

This election is going to bring out the worst in everybody. Trust me. I've got friends in Washington you know and different and it's it's going to get bad.

It's going to get ugly. A lot of illegal things. A lot of backdoor deals and agreements and just they just hate this person office so much that they have to get him out and I don't care who's in office we need to respect the office.

You respect that office and America should be coming together and uniting. There's differences I know but we need to get the truth from the right sources not from the fake news who wants to spin everything. So be careful when you post something.

Is it going to be beneficial? Is it edifying? You know it's good to good to you know put the facts out there. People need to know but we have to be cautious in that area. So motivating one to sin is serious and again I could go to hold it marijuana, alcohol, modesty, lifestyle, the way a person how you live.

You want to flaunt maybe certain things in the face of those who don't have much money. You know always on vacation look at my fur coat, look at my Ferrari dealership or look at my Ferrari and look at you know I'm being exaggerating here a little bit but but you don't want to flaunt things in the face of others as well. So keep it private but also examine yourself.

If you are to do something that is biblical I mean the Bible allows it but you don't want to stumble others keep it private. Number two is your liberty really a cloak for vice because a lot of people use what have liberty but they're really using it as a cloak to hide their vice to hide their sin and the most famous one is the one on alcohol where people who struggle they say well look Paul told Timothy you drink a little. Yeah a little.

One time for a stomach. Not every night because you had a hard day. See but we use scripture sometimes so self-examination.

If you're not sure about something here's what I do just don't post it or abstain or don't do it if you're not sure because that could be your conscience kind of clicking in kicking in there to get you to change course. Here's something we don't like to know but it's important that we know the Christian life is a life of physical mental and spiritual disciplines okay. Why is that important because many think it's a view Christianity as as relaxing and lazy I can do what I want there's no boundaries but actually the Bible it's physical it's mental and spiritual disciplines it's a life of discipline.

Yes you fall off course you get back on you fall you repent you give it back to God it but you're but you're at least disciplining your body in these areas but I want to go back to love as a closing point here back to love have you ever experienced God's love I don't know who's watching I don't know who's listening later I don't know who might be here now but I want to ask that question have you experienced God's love because of unbeliever will never be a loving person truly loving out of out of a right heart and that they've

never maybe had a love of a father they've never experienced love before but I want to encourage you to repent and believe in God and experience that love that the Bible says times of refreshing will come from the presence of the Lord Peter I think it was Acts 3.19

he said repent repent and believe the times of refreshing will come from the presence of the Lord that's what happens when you embrace God's love what I mean by that is you feel that the grace and mercy that went on the cross on your behalf you embrace that love and you and you feel the weight being lifted the sin being lifted from your life no matter what you've done doesn't matter what you've done Jesus died for every single sin and you embrace that love in the forgiveness of God begins to to well up inside of you and I believe that's what Jesus was talking about when he said out of your belly will flow rivers of angry water no change out for the second service out of your belly will flow rivers of living life giving water but he said if you believe on me as the scriptures say out of

your belly will flow rivers of living water see there has to be a belief there has to be a trust and saying God I need you I turn my life completely over to you I repented my sin I'm removing all the butts all the confusion all the doubt God I believe but help my unbelief I laid at the foot of the cross I want to experience your love and your grace and God will meet you right there but I also want to talk to those who are let me just shoot you straight you've drifted from your first love you've drifted from that first love Jesus talks about that in Revelation he said you're not Luke you're lukewarm you've drifted you've left your first love and it's kind of this image you have of a piece of wood out on the lake and what happens it just drifts and before you know it it's across the lake

and there's there's people who they actually drift away from that they had that first love do you do you remember that first love well let me let me let me go back to maybe a your point of marriage remember that remember how much you love that person call him every day or email if they had email back then all with that love that oh I just can't wait I can't wait and then what happens see love doesn't leave we leave love and same thing can happen with God we develop that hard heart and angry heart besetting sin and we're trapped and we're like oh but I just I've God feels distant I've I've drifted from my first love are you known more for your temper or your love how what would people how would they identify you well here's the encouraging thing about this God says just return fall in love

with me again is that amazing God says return to me come back to me if you're critical angry defensive if you've lost your joy this is what the majority of the church needs you know it's true as a church in America joy filled or filled with a lot of gossip and slander and backbiting and hate and discord so just think about that this morning I'm gonna have the worship team come up and during closing worship it's okay it's just gonna be a time of of reflection so if you need to return to your first love or if you've never embraced that before pastor maybe you can get them in the in the prayer room I've ended a little bit early if you've never embraced that we want to pray for you we want to pray with you next door about maybe your faith if you have questions if you have doubts if you have

uncertainty about what's going on let us pray with you and also those who maybe have drifted from their first love because what's the key what's the key to repent if I've drifted from the my first love I have to repent to get that back again it's not just enough to say well I'll try harder no the heart has to break there has to be a brokenness in our hearts

Audio: <https://sermonindex1.b-cdn.net/31/SID31861.mp3>

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/shane-idleman/the-boundaries-of-liberty/>

Grow in Your Walk with Christ

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

www.sermonindex.net