

The Sticky Stuff: Sticking Together through Annoyance

By Brett Hilliard, July 13, 2025

The Path to Proper Boundaries

1. Choose to rise above the offense ✓

A person's wisdom yields patience; it is to one's glory to overlook an offense.

Proverbs 19:11 NIV

Fools show their annoyance at once, but the prudent overlook an insult.

Proverbs 12:16 NIV

2. Don't stop forgiving ✓

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

Luke 23:34 NIV

3. Refuse to play games ✓

When He was accused by the chief priests and the elders, He gave no answer. Then Pilate asked Him, "Don't You hear the testimony they are bringing against You?" But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge – to the great amazement of the governor.

Matthew 27:12-14 NIV

Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God.

2 Corinthians 4:2 NIV

4. Disengage

Just as charcoal and wood keep a fire going, a quarrelsome person keeps an argument going.

Proverbs 26:21 NCV

Drive out the mocker, and out goes strife; quarrels and insults are ended.

Proverbs 22:10 NIV

In fact, you even put up with anyone who enslaves you or exploits you or takes advantage of you or puts on airs or slaps you in the face.

2 Corinthians 11:20 NIV

5. Establish a new boundary ✓

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good... Have nothing to do with such people.

2 Timothy 3:1-3, 5 NIV

Warn a divisive person once, and then warn them a second time. After that, have nothing to do with them.

Titus 3:10 NIV

6. Stay on the high ground ✓

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

Romans 12:14 NIV

Do not be overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good.

Romans 12:21 NIV

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.

Psalms 139:23-24 NIV

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Do you tend to be too rigid or too passive in your relational boundaries?
2. How does the scripture in today's message inspire you in your relationships?
Which one of your relationships needs to have more firm boundaries or more clear expectations?