



# **Boundaries with Kids: When to Say Yes, When to Say No to Help Your Children Gain Control of Their Lives**

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## **Boundaries with Kids: When to Say Yes, When to Say No to Help Your Children Gain Control of Their Lives** Henry Cloud , John Townsend

You want your kids to grow up into healthy adults. You want to see them take responsibility for their behavior, their values, their lives. But maybe you've discovered that simply telling them to "do the right thing" isn't enough. From toddler tantrums to teenage temptations, you've got to help them take ownership of their behavior, feelings, and attitudes. But how?

Establish healthy boundaries. Boundaries are the bedrock of good relationships, maturity, safety, and growth for your children and for you.

*Boundaries With Kids* will help you prepare your kids to assume the responsibility for their own lives.

Drawing on principles from the Bible, the authors of the award winning best-seller *Boundaries* help you

recognize the boundary issues underlying child behavior problems set boundaries and establish consequences with kids get out of the "nagging" trap stop controlling your child - and instead help your child to develop self-control apply ten laws of boundaries to parenting take six practical steps for implementing boundaries with your kids.

Drs. Henry Cloud and John Townsend show you how to bring control to an out-of-control family life. How to set limits and still be a loving parent. How to define legitimate boundaries for your family. And above all, how to instill in your children the kind of godly character that is the foundation for healthy, productive adult living.

## **Boundaries with Kids: When to Say Yes, When to Say No to Help Your Children Gain Control of Their Lives Details**

Date : Published October 28th 2001 by Zondervan (first published April 1st 1998)

ISBN : 9780310243151

Author : Henry Cloud , John Townsend

Format : Paperback 223 pages

Genre : Parenting, Nonfiction, Christian, Self Help, Psychology, Relationships, Family

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# **From Reader Review Boundaries with Kids: When to Say Yes, When to Say No to Help Your Children Gain Control of Their Lives for online ebook**

## **Veronica says**

Having read many books on parenting, I found Boundaries with Kids refreshing. Dr. Cloud and Dr. Townsend teach practical techniques for allowing a child to experience the consequences of his actions and decide for himself if those actions were worth the consequences, which is really how real life works.

Even though I have found the things I learned in this book to work well, I haven't found it to be easy, nor is that promised in the book. In fact, it is very hard work, as the authors point out, to hold the limit and not give in, but very worth it.

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## **Laurie Talbot says**

I found this book to be more helpful for me than the regular Boundaries book. I realized in my parenting that I was protecting my children from natural consequences for their behavior...and how doing this really is doing my children a disservice (but while I was doing it I thought I was being loving)! It was an EXTREMELY HELPFUL PARENTING book and in a world with an "entitlement" mentality, it is a MUST READ!

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## **Dianne says**

Great book for parents to read and learn from to make better choices with the goal of raising their kids successfully. I read this while raising my girls, and I give this book a lot of credit toward how well my girls grew up to be independent, young ladies. Easy reading and it makes so much sense. You'll wonder why you didn't read it sooner.

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## **Clare Cannon says**

A wonderful book for parents of young kids, helping you focus on the adults you want them to become (without making them grow up too soon). It helps you identify the character qualities they could learn now - while it's easier - to help them be fulfilled and happy later on, good habits they can already establish in areas like responsibility, respect, motivation, proactivity etc. And as well as helping you help your kids, it makes you a better person and a better parent too. I think you really can't start this too soon!

[www.GoodReadingGuide.com](http://www.GoodReadingGuide.com)

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### **Suzanne says**

It's always hard to say "no" to your sweet little one. After all, you want them to be happy and content. But, allow your child to feel the consequences of their own behavior and to understand that boundaries do exist is really the only way to prepare him to become an independent, happy child and then adult. This is a great book to use for guidelines in discipline.

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### **Camille K. says**

This book is better than the original. There is less straining to prove the metaphor of boundaries as Scriptural and more practical ideas and scripts. I like the scripts a lot.

I think the metaphor of "boundaries" is a good one. It's much less combative than the weird twist that some give of "shepherding" and "control." This is assertive, not aggressive or passive aggressive.

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### **Sara says**

An avid fan of the original text "Boundaries," I was perhaps, overly optimistic about this book. It is excellent but not a huge leap from the original. While the context of boundaries in raising kids is very helpful it is fairly generic. Much of the book seemed to be aimed at children who are at least school aged which is helpful only if you have not established solid boundaries before that time - in which case the original book would probably suffice. I was hopeful for something more "preventative" to be used with toddlers and pre-schoolers and found this to be only mildly useful in that regard. The points are excellent, the rationale sound and overall a good book - just not necessary to round out my shelf.

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### **Christina says**

This is an excellent parenting book. It was highly recommended by a mentor and it did not disappoint. The summary of this book could be: How to begin with the end in mind, the end result being a child who becomes an adult who can deal with the world's realities in a healthy and mature way.

I most was challenged by the chapter on character growth, and many of the other chapters reminded me of the "tough love" concept in a lot of Jim Dobson's books. Loving with boundaries means consistency in parenting, allowing consequences, modeling personal responsibility, and moving a child from self-centeredness to gratitude, motivation, initiation (instead of passiveness) and much more.

I was overwhelmed by the amount of growth that needs to happen in a child during their journey to adulthood, but there is a lot of encouragement from the authors and a heavy emphasis on love and the end result being worth it. I would recommend this for parents of elementary age children through the pre-teen years.

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### **Allison says**

I cringe at religious jargon, but I thought this book was worth a read. When I was able to overlook some of the language, I found myself using some of the information in daily conversation with my daughter. Some of what the authors proposed I had a hard time with (intrinsic motivation develops out of extrinsic motivation, for example), but it was a helpful book and worth reading. The line I have used most is, "You are responsible FOR yourself, and you are responsible TO others." My child feels responsibility for others often, and helping her realize that she helps them most by helping them take responsibility for themselves and being a good friend to them as they do so is going to be one of my most important jobs in the next few years.

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### **Debbie says**

This is a book that is great to keep referring back to. With teenagers, every day can present a new challenge. It is helpful to know that the kid in your home really isn't from another planet. Instead they are very normal. The best part is the emphasis on natural consequences, and also how to set up consequences that fit the crime.

It is from a christian perspective, but, would certainly benefit anyone who reads it, in their parenting skills.

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### **Jessica Snell says**

This was one of those books that encouraged me to keep going on as we've started, and that gave me some good ideas about how to do that. I like their concept that in order to give your kids self-control, you've got to exercise it yourself. You have to be clear and firm about what they may and may not do, and with those boundaries absolutely inviolable, you then have the space to be very compassionate towards your frustrated kids. If the rules aren't up for debate, then you can sympathize with kids who are experiencing the consequences of breaking the rules, rather than spilling your anger out on them because you don't know how to handle their misbehavior.

As the authors point out, your kids always have choices, and your job is to make their choices clear. You can't make a child obey, but you can make the consequences for disobedience exist. And you can help make the good choice more appealing and the bad choice less appealing.

What I really like about this book is that it takes into account the fact that when you deal with kids, you're dealing with little sinners (not so unlike their parents, eh?), and that what you really want to do is harness their self-interest. And it works, because ultimately it is in their self-interest to obey, to become good, loving people. In other words, it works because it's based in reality, the reality that children are sinners and the reality that true happiness is found in virtue, not vice.

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### **Tammy says**

I've been struggling with my 8-year-old. He's very independent which often translates to bossy. If he doesn't

get what he wants he will have a tantrum. He likes to argue.

Things I liked in this book . . . .

You and your child each have a different job. Your child's job is to test your resolve, so he can learn about reality. A parent's job is to withstand the test, including anger, pouting, tantrums and much more.

Consequences transfer the need to be responsible from the parent to the child.

The focus of learning consequences needs to be that the child understands that the problem is himself, not an enraged parent.

Teach your child that when they have a problem they should first examine themselves to see what they might have done to contribute to the problem.

The child who is never frustrated never develops frustration toleration. You are teaching him that he is entitled to always be happy and that all he has to go do get others to do what he wants is to cry about it.

A child needs to understand that the solution and the answer to his problems always begins not with someone else, but with him.

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## **John says**

This is an excellent book on parenting. The idea in the book is to allow and encourage children to freely make their own choices, while at the same time having clear boundaries and consequences for when the children make the wrong choice. The goal is to produce young adults that make good choices for themselves. If children are "forced" to comply at an early age, then they will likely not make wise choices once their parents can no longer force compliance on them.

I was able to use a lot of the advice of this book right away. I also enjoyed that much of the advice only required small changes to my parenting. A problem I've witnessed with a lot of parenting books is that they don't have much to offer unless you implement the very strange and different parenting style that the book is encouraging.

While this book did have some advice along those lines (which I may or may not implement), I was able to glean a lot of good advice from the book without completely changing my parenting style.

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## **Becca Garber says**

Full of wisdom, but dense. Best slowly digested over time. The book left me grateful that I was raised with clear boundaries (I knew when to say yes and no, what was right and wrong, and felt in control of my life), and I am inspired to continue to pass on structure, expectations, and the peace that comes from them to my children. That's the goal, anyway! ;)

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## **Kristy says**

I received this book from a friend who has two daughters (ages 3 yrs and 6 mos), and she highly recommend I read it some point during my daughter's toddlerhood. I enjoyed the ideas, especially these quotes:

Children are not born with boundaries. Too little freedom to gain experience, the child forever remains a child. Too much freedom, the child is in danger of hurting him/herself.

If parents give without boundaries, children learn to feel entitled and become self-centered and demanding. If parents hold resources too tightly, children give up and do not develop the hope of reaching goals.

To the extent that a person is able and willing to be honest, he/she can grow. Honesty begins with parents who model it, require it from their children, and provide safe environment in which to be honest.

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." (Matthew 22:37)

Being grounded in God gives direction and meaning to their existence, allowing them to transcend life.

To develop a child of good character, we have to be parents of good character. To develop boundaries in our children, we have to have boundaries.

Use the word "boundary" with your child. And tell him/her "you are responsible for your behavior."

If you relate to your children in a way that mirror's God's laws, they will make a successful transition to the outside world.

The ultimate boundary is love. Our connection with each other and with God is the fabric that holds life together. Relationship heals, comforts, and structures our experience.

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