

THE BOUNDARIES OF OUR HABITATION

This entire series of papers hopefully have contained in them the emphasis on venerating my Father in Heaven. In doing so, maybe there is an element of sorting out some of the misconceptions that have divided us for so long. The issue at hand is that of the degree of our freedom versus the confinement of our paths.

As our parents properly rear us as children, there is more or less a boundary as to what we may or may not do, and that fence is commensurate with our age, level of maturity, etc. It starts with being told “No”, gently at first, then more forceful as age and obedience progress. The invisible fence expands with age, evolving to the curve at the end of the driveway, then the gate, then home by midnight, etc. By the end of high school the fences are largely gone and typically teenagers go wild.

Schroeder¹ uses the simile of a river’s meanderings within a flood plain to illustrate the limited freedom for all of God’s creation, including us, to have a certain degree of latitude and leeway to do this or that. But unlike the river, getting outside our boundaries have commensurate consequences.

Abraham was told by God to “leave his country and his kinfolk and head to the west.” Well, Abraham left his country, but not his kin—he took Lot along. That excursion outside God’s boundaries resulted in a host of calamities stemming from Lot coming along. Paul was told to leave the Jews and go to the Gentiles. The next thing you know, Paul heads to the temple. Then the Jews try to kill him. What part of “leave the Jews did Paul not understand? Actions have consequences.

In Acts 17:26, we are told “we have definite pre-determined allotted periods of time and fixed boundaries of our habitations”; inherent to this passage is added, “whether it be convenient or not.” Whether we like it or not, we all have boundaries to our lives. The rub is when we ignorantly, recklessly or arrogantly decide to go beyond those boundaries. But, the positive side is that we are free to do as we please within our property lines.

When one looks at the definition of ‘sin’, incorporated within are the words, ‘missing the mark.’ What does ‘missing the mark’ mean? When one has a property boundary, he puts a ‘mark’ delineating that boundary. Logically, ‘missing the mark’ means to go outside that boundary, whether visible or invisible, physical or mental.

¹ Schroeder, Gerald, *The Science of God*, 1997, Free Press, N.Y., pg. 14, last pp.

As an example, the Word limits sexual activity to within the bounds of marriage. The Word further restricts mental activity (any thoughts emanating from the heart) to certain limits, specifically those thoughts violating His laws. Jesus spoke of this when He said we commit adultery when we lust after a woman within our heart.

We see this principle again and again in science as well as religious affairs, whether it be Calvinism versus Armenianism. Both are right, and both are wrong. Calvinism says basically that **ALL** of man's activities are pre-ordained. Armenianism says the opposite, that we have free will. The truth of the matter is that we have free will, but within a given boundary, as it were, that has been fixed by God.

Evolution (gradual development) versus Creationism are the same; both are right, both are wrong. There is gradual development of cells ***within species boundaries***, called micro-evolution, but not macro-evolution as the evolutionists would claim. Moths change; horses change, humans change (from 800-900 year life span to 120 or so), daisies change, but these are all within species, not within family, order or phyla. What is so asinine is that both sides make absurd statements to defend their case, none of which will stand the slightest of scrutiny.

It is obvious the more critical the consequence, the closer the boundary. The boundary to eternal salvation is restricted to only one way, that of Christ. That much is plain. But in issues less eternal, we are free to eat what we wish; our degree of health depends on how much and what quality of food, drink or sleep we consume. The same is true regarding our finances, whether we are broke before the end of the month depends on how we spend what we have. I can fly to Rio, but should I?

There is a famous one-liner in Jurassic Park I where the old Doc is bragging to the new PhD that he could use the DNA from eras gone by to create monsters. The new PhD replies, "Just because you *could* does not mean you *should*." As the movie progressed, we see the PhD was right-disaster resulted from the creation of the monster dinosaurs.

Our greatest fault as humans is to try to make things more religiously stringent than they are designed to be. It seems this perverted form feeds our desire to elevate ourselves, to make us be more distinguished, to impress others. As some of the new converts in Jerusalem said, "We are of Apollos." Others said, "We are of Paul", signifying an early form of separation and distinguishing. Today we have, "I'm Calvinist", "I'm Baptist", "I'm Lutheran", "I'm Catholic", I'm, I'm, I'm. Where in the Word are these divisions and names?

We quickly lose sight of the fact that we are as cells in our human body-we are also 'cells' within Christ's Body. Like the body cells, we have a specific function to perform within our particular domain, within our fixed boundary.

It is written. "I will instruct you and ***point you*** in the right direction, and counsel you with my eye."

It is also written, "You do keep him in perfect peace whose creative imagination is fixed on you."

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