

# Psalm 101: How To Cultivate A Perfect Heart

## Psalm 101:7-8

“Setting Biblical Boundaries 101”

Do you know your Biblical boundaries, and have you set them in place?

NEWSFLASH! Jesus didn't give all access to just anyone.

### **John 2:23-25**

*Now when he was in Jerusalem at the passover, in the feast day, many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did. But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men, and needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man.*

He knew what was in man. That is, Jesus could see the true heart of every man, woman, and child He encountered—religious or not. He would not subject His human or divine self to any and all. You may be thinking—“yeah, Darren, but that's Jesus. Certainly I can't see and discern a person's true heart!”

Well, dear brethren, God's Word tells us we can and should judge others righteously—for our own protection.

### **1Corinthians 2:15**

*But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.*

### **John 7:24**

*Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.*

The spiritual gavel of our judging is the Word of God, and our ultimate judge is God Himself:

### **Hebrews 4:12-13**

*For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do [give account to].*

\*QUESTION FOR MEDITATION: Compare and consider what the Bible describes as hypocritical judging with righteous judgment. One is carnal and human, the other divine. You may want to compare, as a matter of example, the Pharisees and Jesus.

\*STUDY POINT: Conduct a personal Bible study with notes and Scriptures from Old

and New Testaments, and call it “Nothing’s Relative: The Biblical Differences Between Righteous and Hypocritical Judging.”

In this lesson I am going to give you an overview of all eight verses in Psalm 101 to help you set your personal and public boundaries so that You can be wholly His.

Let me preface this overview by saying that these personal and relational boundaries that King David shares are in and of themselves perfect—because Holy Scripture is perfect. However, you and I are not perfect, and we will mess up. That’s why we need God’s grace along the way! Therefore we set boundaries by faith and work on all them at once over time—not in a legalistic way, but with prayer and guidance by the Holy Ghost.

We are going to stay faithful to the text and honour God’s Word according to what it clearly teaches.

### **Psalm 101:1**

*Of David. A psalm. I will sing of your love and justice; to you, LORD, I will sing praise.*

Okay, so God comes way above people in King David’s world. In our faith walk, Jesus comes way above self, way above people too:

### **Luke 14:25-27**

*Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: "If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.*

God is King David’s theme song, His all-in-all. Jesus is our Lord, Leader, and First Love (Revelation 2:4), high above any human agency. Jesus is our destiny:

### **Luke 21:28**

*And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.*

### **Psalm 101:2**

*I will be careful to lead a blameless life— when will you come to me? I will conduct the affairs of my house with a blameless heart.*

Personal holiness. Behind closed doors. You know you, God knows you. What are your besetting sins, and what triggers them? In what areas are you spiritually vulnerable? Set the Biblical boundary now:

### **Proverbs 4:23**

*Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.*

Maybe there are places you can't go anymore, people you can be around, things you can't watch or listen to. Pray and ask God to guide you and give you strength in each of those areas of your life. And He will, often by imparting wisdom from His Word:

**Proverbs 1:1-7**

*The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel; To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding; To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity; To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion. A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels: To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

It is then our responsibility to heed and obey His Word—something He cannot do for us.

**Psalms 101:3**

*I will not look with approval on anything that is vile. I hate what faithless people do; I will have no part in it.*

Discern and determine, like King David, not to even glance at vile, wicked images and idols. In our fallen world that is full of seducing spirits—camouflaged as words and images on phone, tablet and TV screens—to look away from such seduction seems impossible. But with God all things are possible (Matthew 19:26). Also, though God's agape love will help you love sinners, you refuse to love the sin they practice. And you certainly don't want their sinful lifestyles to rub off on you—and corrupt your heart. See James 1:27.

**Psalms 101:4**

*The perverse of heart shall be far from me; I will have nothing to do with what is evil.*

In principal what King David resolves here may seem dogmatic, but realize that the carrying out of God's commands must be tempered with His love and mercy:

**James 2:12-13**

*Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.*

**Ephesians 4:15**

*But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:*

We are in the world, and are to be salt and light (Matthew 5:13-16) and rub shoulders with the lost. However, when it comes to our families, our personal circle of friends, firm boundaries will be like a fortress for us.

### **Psalm 101:5**

*Whoever slanders their neighbor in secret, I will put to silence; whoever has haughty eyes and a proud heart, I will not tolerate.*

King David is adamant here that no one—Christian or not—who delights in detached gossip and whisperings about others will carry on in his presence.

### **Proverbs 20:19**

*A gossip betrays a confidence; so avoid anyone who talks too much.*

When I use the term “detached gossip” I am referring to those people who have no connection or reason to be speaking about a person or situation they themselves are not connected to, and have no intention of helping to resolve. Ill intent.

Also, no one who is arrogant, proud, unteachable, and domineering will ever hold a position of leadership in the king’s palace. God-promotion according to God’s Word and the Holy Ghost is one thing, self-promotion according to human stubborn will and carnal means is quite another!

Pride holds first-place on God’s hate list:

### **Proverbs 6:16-17**

*These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood*

### **Psalm 101:6**

*My eyes will be on the faithful in the land, that they may dwell with me; the one whose walk is blameless will minister to me.*

The Bible teaches that:

### **1Corinthians 15:33**

*Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."*

Like King David, take a good look at the people you hang with. I’m not speaking of the general public whom we love and witness to. I’m talking about close friends. Ask yourself: Is this person in love with Jesus, growing in the grace and knowledge of their confessed Lord? Are they open, transparent, authentic? Are they trustworthy? Are they sincerely humble and loving? Are they listeners? Are they evidently lovers of God’s Word? Ultimately, is this person someone I want to be influenced by?

And remember Jesus, who sticks closer than any brother (Proverbs 18:24) will lead you first to Himself, then to a few other authentic followers of Christ who love Him as you do. These kinds of believers are faithful in always pointing us back to Scripture and its trustworthy Author.

**Psalm 101:7**

*No one who practices deceit will dwell in my house; no one who speaks falsely will stand in my presence.*

We know Jesus as the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6). We know that good hates falsehood (Proverbs 6:17). Therefore, we might conclude that true followers of Jesus would walk as He walked (1 John 2:6)—in truth!

On a personal note, before I knew Jesus personally, I was a chronic liar. I got quite good at it, until it nearly landed me in jail a number of times. When I became a Christian, I feared God and repented after even speaking the tiniest of white lies. I'm still that way. I used to think all believers were basically truthful—until I met far too many who were shady cover-up artists. Not who they appeared to be:

**Matthew 23:27**

*Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness.*

I grieve over the Body of Christ today and the rampant falsehood and deception that God so hates and will judge according to His Word. Brethren, when you get red flags about a person inside or outside God's church, when you observe questionable character traits that make you uneasy, pray and stay away! You don't need these kinds of people in your house or in your life. Sometimes it is better to pray and minister from a distance. But do pray!

**Psalm 101:8**

*Every morning I will put to silence all the wicked in the land; I will cut off every evildoer from the city of the LORD.*

What? Did King David literally and spiritually clean house and city streets every morning, identifying and kicking out those who were evildoers? Yes, folks, he did. Jerusalem is not called the Holy City for nothing! How did David know who was an evildoer? Interestingly, while evildoers don't think anyone knows what they're up to, they are self-deceived. We will know them by the obvious spiritual fruit they produce:

**Galatians 5:22-23**

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

Having discipled people for over two decades now, let me say this:

Spiritual fruit is not manufactured by the person (John 15:5). We may call this manufacturing self-righteousness, which God does not accept (See Isaiah 64:6). True spiritual fruit is manifested and produced by the person's intimate connection with the Lord (See John 15:1-8). No fakery. good fruit is obvious!

\*QUESTION FOR MEDITATION: Having watched or read through this lesson, why do you think personal and relational boundaries are necessary for all believers? Is setting Biblical boundaries the same thing as wrongly judging, dismissing, or hating someone else? Why or why not?

\*STUDY POINT: Compile a list of Scriptures—some given in this lesson, some not—that make a solid case for setting Biblical boundaries in your own life. After all, If you believe a Biblical principle, the only thing left to do is to implement it into your daily walk with God!

Thank you for following us on our journey through Psalm 101: How To Cultivate A Perfect Heart. I hope God's Word has ministered deeply to You. That's God will and intention (Isaiah 55:11).

~ Reverend Darren McClelland