

# G U A R D R A I L S

EXPERIENCING  
FREEDOM  
IN  
GOD'S  
COMMANDS

 **NEW LIFE CHRISTIAN CENTER**  
**OCTOBER 02, 2022**  
PASTOR JON NICHOLS | TURLOCK  
PASTOR JEREMY MOORE | PATTERSON

“no other gods”

Jeremiah 17:9 (NLT), Mark 7:21-23 (NLT), Exodus 20:1-5a; 7a; 12-17

1. God demands to be \_\_\_\_\_ in my life.

*But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Matthew 6:33 (ESV)*

- We \_\_\_\_\_ God
- We \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves

*“How could you worship two gods at the same time? You will have to hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You can’t worship the true God while enslaved to the god of money!” Matthew 6:24 (TPT)*

2. I will \_\_\_\_\_ to putting God first.

- Be in \_\_\_\_\_

*How can a young person stay pure? By obeying your word. I have tried hard to find you - don’t let me wander from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. Psalm 119:9-11 (NLT)*

*“I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.” John 16:33 (NLT)*

*“Yes, and everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.” 2 Timothy 3:12 (NLT)*

- Be in \_\_\_\_\_

*Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near. Hebrews 10:23-25 (NLT)*

- Be a \_\_\_\_\_

*But now we have been released from the law, for we died to it and are no longer captive to its power. Now we can serve God, not in the old way of obeying the letter of the law, but in the new way of living in the Spirit. Romans 7:6 (NLT)*

*“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Mark 10:45 (NLT)*

- Be \_\_\_\_\_

# GUARDRAILS

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“no other gods”

Jeremiah 17:9 (NLT), Mark 7:21-23 (NLT), Exodus 20:1-5a; 7a; 12-17

## 1. God demands to be FIRST in my life.

*But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.* Matthew 6:33 (ESV)

- We DISHONOR God
- We HURT ourselves

*“How could you worship two gods at the same time? You will have to hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You can't worship the true God while enslaved to the god of money!”* Matthew 6:24 (TPT)

## 2. I will COMMIT to putting God first.

- Be in GOD'S WORD

*How can a young person stay pure? By obeying your word. I have tried hard to find you - don't let me wander from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.* Psalm 119:9-11 (NLT)

*“I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.”* John 16:33 (NLT)

*“Yes, and everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.”* 2 Timothy 3:12 (NLT)

- Be in FELLOWSHIP

*Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.* Hebrews 10:23-25 (NLT)

- Be a SERVANT

*But now we have been released from the law, for we died to it and are no longer captive to its power. Now we can serve God, not in the old way of obeying the letter of the law, but in the new way of living in the Spirit.* Romans 7:6 (NLT)

*“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.”* Mark 10:45 (NLT)

- Be GENEROUS



### [CONNECT]

Have you ever been in an accident/collision that involved a guardrail? Did the guardrail keep the accident from being worse? Or, have you ever driven through the mountains and realized the only thing between you and danger was a metal guardrail? How did that make you feel?

### [ENGAGE]

What stood out to you from this weekend's message?

### [GROW]

Without looking them up, see how many of the 10 Commandments you can list.

From your perspective, how is culture's definition of a 'guideline' different than God's definition of a 'guardrail'? (ex. Culture says wait until your "ready" for sex. God says wait until your "married" for sex)

Like guardrails were designed to keep us safe and guided, God designed the 10 Commandments for both protection and direction. What are some other cautions/guardrails God gave us for protection and guidance?

If you're comfortable, share within your group some regrets that could have been avoided if you had better guardrails in your life at the time.

Point #1 from the message says, "God DEMANDS to be first in my life". Describe the urgency this may create in your spirit to take inventory of your current relationship with Him. What "things" in your life can you honestly admit often come before God?

Read Matthew 6:24 and discuss the two things that occur in our lives when God isn't first.

- 1) We dishonor Him
- 2) We hurt ourselves.

Discuss the following things believers can do to help keep God first in their lives:

- Be in God's word (Psalm 119:9-16; John 16:33; 2 Timothy 3:12)
- Be in fellowship (Hebrews 10:23-25)
- Be a servant (Romans 7:6; Mark 10:45)
- Be generous

### [CHALLENGE]

Perhaps you've been living with other 'gods' of your own. Remember this guardrail that God put in our lives to have "no other gods but Him, and to worship Him alone" - is for our freedom, not for our bondage. Freedom IN Him and freedom FROM our self-destructive behavior.

We all face temptations to replace Him with something or someone, which is why we need Him, and each other to guide us and help us stay strong. Make the effort to have no other gods, but the One true God, so you can continue to grow in your relationship with Him - and experience the full life that only He can provide.