



### 03/05/2023 "Toxic Relationships"

Relationship decisions require wisdom. We need to lead with love and it is super important to be gracious, patient, and kind, but do we ever need to just cut a relationship off? The answer depends.

1. Do you find it easy or hard to set relationship boundaries? What makes it easy and what makes it hard?
2. What good relationship advice or principles have you received? What about bad advice?

The Hebrew term *herem* (חרם) means to ban, consecrate, to set aside for destruction. It often refers to those who are purposefully live contrary to the ways of God and therefore experience a destructive life. In other words, they reap what they sow. Israel is instructed to set aside foreign nations who follow others God for *herem*. To set boundaries that protect them from the influence of their way of evil.

Read Deuteronomy 7:1-7

1. These verses are not easy to read. What stands out you from these verses? Why?
2. In what ways did John discuss the concept of *herem*, to destroy? Are there other ways that you have heard this Old Testament concept of destroying others explained?
3. What reasons are provided in Deuteronomy 7:1-7 for taking such drastic actions?
4. Can you identify any principles from these verses that might help promote healthy relationships and boundaries today?

Read Ephesians 4:11-19

5. Verse 15 seems to balance love and truth. In what ways does this verse provide balance to a love without boundaries?
6. What role does speaking truth have in Ephesians 4:11-19? How does truth, as described in these verses, lead to spiritual health and relational health?
7. What can help you discern whether to lead with love or speak with truth? What have you found most helpful?
8. Where do you feel God challenging you to set a new boundary or speak truth to an unhealthy situation?
9. How can the group be praying for you as you respond to this week's message?