

The other day, I was sitting in on a boundary training seminar. If you haven't been through boundary training, it is an experience that I do not wish upon anyone. Boundary training is a very important part of any job. And over the years, I've seen the evolution of these courses improve substantially.

If you don't know what boundary training is, it is a course or seminar that teaches individuals appropriate behavior in the workplace. Most of the time, the topics covered are very specific to an incident that occurred at the workplace.

I remember my first training session. I was in college and we had the opportunity of sitting through the course. The only topic of discussion was that we could not voice our disapproval with someone else physically. We spent 8 hours discussing how talking out our differences was better than punching someone.

Over the years, I've attended so many of these classes and I've always thought at least once, "Why would someone think that this behavior was OK?" But, there is always someone that does something inappropriate or these classes wouldn't be necessary. And one time I realized that I was part of the problem.

I didn't think that even though my intentions weren't meant to be hurtful, they could easily be interpreted as hurtful to someone else. We don't always realize what we are saying might not come across how we mean for them to.

One of the topics for this session was social media. Social media touches all of our lives in so many ways. We can use a social platform like Instagram or Twitter. Or we can just be sitting in the background and we are streamed across the world on Facebook. Social media is everywhere and sees everything.

For example, last week a really famous politician was at a rally event for a hopeful governor. The former politician posted pictures from the rally and how big a success it was. After he posted the pictures, a number of individuals checked the pictures and found them to be from a rally in November 2021 and not last week.

The same former politician had pictures leaked showing fundraising letters with nuclear codes in the body of the letter. But, the same people that found his rally pictures to be fake, found that the fundraising letters were faked by someone else.

Social media is everywhere and checking everything. But, there is someone else that is everywhere. And that's God. He is everywhere and sees everything. Jeremiah reminds us of this. God says to him, "Am I not near? And am I not far?" He is telling us that not only is he here with us now, he is also everywhere else. And with everyone else.

God continues to tell Jeremiah that no one can hide from him. He inhabits all of heaven and earth. He can see everything at all times. He is everywhere and sees everything. He knows all and is all.

He warns that we need to beware of false prophets. These prophets tell us that they are doing the work of God. That God has spoken to them in their dreams and directed them. That we should not follow them, but only the one true God.

Over the past 6 weeks, people ask me what I'm doing now. I tell them that I'm a minister and their reactions have been both positive and negative. And one of the comments that I've gotten is that my opinion matters more now because I'm a minister.

I don't see myself differently than before. But obviously, others do. And that was something we talked about in our boundary training. People do give what ministers say more credibility than other people and we need to be careful about what and how we say things, especially on social media.

Social media gives an excellent opportunity for false prophets to reach people. It allows them to reach more people more easily. And so many people take what they see on social media as the absolute truth without questioning it.

In Luke, Jesus tells us that he has brought fire to Earth. Many times, the fire is interpreted as a destruction. But the fire is also representative of God's word. It is how he communicates in Exodus and Isaiah. Jesus is on Earth to teach us about God's word and he has brought it to us.

But, this is one of the rare times that Jesus shows his frustration with humankind. He says that he has a baptism to be baptized. He is telling us that he will be baptized through his death and we will be baptized through him. He knows that his time is coming to an end and he has so much to do with little time to do it.

He tells us that he isn't here to bring peace on Earth, he is here to bring division. He is here to bring division. He has brought the true word of God. But, not everyone in the house believes his word. Some follow the false prophets and refuse to accept him as the son of God.

We see that a lot in social media today. I have lost friends over the years because they believe what some parties say differently than I do. They support behaviors that I feel are counter intuitive to God's word. But they feel the same about me. They believe in hate and force and I don't.

With all of the information that we are bombarded with, how do we know what is true? What should we believe? Who should we trust?

I can't tell you the answer to that. What I can tell you is that God put you here for a reason. He has given you a song to sing in our earthly chorus. He has shown you right and wrong and gave his only son so that you can know his love.

We all have different opinions. We believe some things more than others. But in the end we are all God's children. We walk hand in hand with Jesus daily. We are here to make the world a better place.