

GUARD RAILS

Direct and Protect

Andy Stanley

Scripture: *Ephesians 5:15–18*

Idea: Just as we need physical guardrails on a road to direct and protect us, we need guardrails in other arenas of our lives as well.

Introduction

1. Starting a new series: *Guardrails*. We all know what a guardrail is:
 - **Guardrails:** System designed to keep vehicles from **straying** into **dangerous** or **off-limit** areasThe three most common locations:
 - Bridges: little room for error
 - Medians: to protect you from oncoming traffic
 - Soft shoulders/curves: unexpected change
2. Guardrails do two things:
 - **Direct**
 - **Protect**
3. Guardrails are not placed in the danger zone. They are placed inside the safety zone.

[GRAPHIC: **Safety Zone/Danger Zone** – see DVD]
4. If there were no guardrails on bridges, you could drive closer to the edge.
5. No one argues with the logic of placing guardrails inside the safety zone.
6. Guardrails are designed to **minimize** damage. The damage done by hitting a guardrail is **minor** by comparison.
7. The highway isn't the only place we **need** guardrails.

Your greatest regrets may have been avoided if you had established financial, moral, relational, and professional guardrails.

Future regrets can be avoided if you establish them now. The problem is . . .

- Culture doesn't **encourage** guardrails.
- Culture is content with **painted** lines.
- Gray lines:
 - Drink responsibly.
 - Sex: Wait until you are **ready**.
 - Consolidate your debts.