**Restoration Ministries**

**UNRIGHTEOUS CONTROL VS. GODLY LEADERSHIP**

**Session 4 – Handout notes**

**Last Thurs. was Valentine’s Day?** Anyone want to share something special that they may have done with your spouse or significant other for Valentine day?

What should a healthy relationship look like? 3ingredients for healthy relationships:

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – There is **giving and receiving** in the relationship through mutual

caring, honesty, respect, responsibility, and repentance.

2. Reciprocity – Both partners give and receive and there is a safe and open exchange

of thoughts and ideas and all perspectives are valued.

**3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ –** To speak up, or respectfully challenge, or disagree, or confront one

another with the commitment to strengthen one another, without fear of retaliation

or danger.

In our last 3 webinars we’ve been considering **unrighteous control vs. godly leadership** and how this positively or negatively impacts relationships. In our last session we considered 7 different ways abusive control can manifest itself in a marriage.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Abuse

2. Emotional Abuse

3. Controlling \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. Controlling Sexually

5. Controlling \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

6. Controlling Mentally or Academically

7. Controlling Spiritually

If you missed any of those sessions, we encourage you to watch them on our website.

In tonight’s webinar we want to consider:

**III. WHAT DRIVES A PERSON’S NEED TO CONTROL?**

**A. The Need to Control is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Issue**

1. A study of the various Hebrew and Greek words translated “pride” or “proud”

in the Bible defines it as “to be swelled or puffed up, to be arrogant, to show

oneself above others, to make to smoke, or to envelop with smoke, to inflate

with self conceit, to be high-minded.

1. How does pride blind a person?

b. The sin of pride and wanting our way feeds the need to control others, which

is totally contrary to having the mind of Christ spoken of in Phil. 2:3-5

**2. Two Types of Pride**

**a. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** Pride – A person with a self confidence to the point of boasting or

glorying in themselves, or their abilities, or they control others or express their

opinion over others because their way is the best way.

b. Hidden Pride – A person focuses on their pain or problems and is consumed

with thinking about themselves in a negative way.

c. Pride in both forms is about being self centered instead of God centered

or others centered.

**B. The Need to Control Can Be A Rebellion Issue**

1. What can cause this?

2. They may vow never to be controlled by anyone again, and to stay in control.

3. How will such a decision impact their life and relationships?

**C. False Teaching that Emphasizes the Headship of the Man in the Family**

1. Scripture teaches the husband is the head (leader) of the wife just as Jesus Christ

is the head (leader) of His church. (Eph. 5:23)

2. However, there are times when this truth is misunderstood and a **“hyper-**

**headship”** is taughtthat emphasizes the man is to be in total control of his

wife and his children, and omits the clear instruction found in Eph. 5:21 that

we are to “submit to one another” out of reverence for Jesus Christ, and

in Christ, male and female are equal even though they have differing roles.

Pastor Jason Meyer from Bethlehem Baptist Church in Minneapolis MN.

says “Hyper-headship is a satanic distortion of male leadership, but it can fly under

the radar of discernment because it is disguised as strong male leadership. Make no

mistake—it is harsh, oppressive, and controlling. In other words, hyper-headship

becomes a breeding ground for domestic abuse.”

3. What will be the result when a Christian husband is controlled by the Holy

Spirit?

A husband and wife are to be like a **king and queen reigning in life together**

**through Jesus Christ. (Rom. 5:17b)**

4. In some cases churches or religious groups teach hyper-headship. In other cases

men saw it modeled in the homes they grew up in and believe it’s normal, so

repeat the same pattern in their marriage and family.

**D. The Negative Emotion of Fear**

1. Many controllers are controlled by underlying fears instead of being motivated

By **faith** that trusts God, and a **love** for people.

1. Fear of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, or that others will fail

b. Fear of being \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, or abandoned, or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1) King Saul used his authority abusively to try to destroy David, who was

to be the next King of Israel.

2) King Herod who ordered all male children 2 yrs. old and younger to be

killed in response to reports the King of the Jews had been born in

Bethlehem.

c. Fear of loss or potential loss

d. Fear of being \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, or of life being out of control, or chaos

1) They were abused by someone who controlled them

2) Life felt chaotic

3) These and other fears trigger an excessive need to control that in turn

damages relationships.

e. Fear of the unknown or of having something painful take them by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

They become hyper-vigilant and controlling to protect themselves from being

painfully surprised again.

2. Cmp. 2 Tim. 1:7, 1 John 4:19

3. Controlling people often use **anger to control** others.Their anger may be

driven by fear.

**E. A Lack of Faith**

1. Can we trust God to work in people’s lives and change them?

2. Or are we going to try to do God’s work and try to control and change them?

3. What are we doing when we have to control other adults?

4. Look at Phil. 1:6, 2:12-13, 1 Thess. 5:23-24

a. What is the promise you see in these passages?

b. Who works to sanctify the child of God?

**IV. HOW SHOULD UNGODLY CONTROLLING BEHAVIORS BE**

**ADDRESSED IN RELATIONSHIPS?** // Situations can vary, and wisdom is

needed to know how and to what extent controlling behaviors should be

confronted. If a person or spouse is in a potentially dangerous and volatile

situation where there is the possible threat of domestic violence, **they must seek**

**help and not confront alone.** A Christian ministry that helps someone in that

situation discern what to do is focusministries1.org. Phone - **630-617-0088**

**A. By Those Who Are Being Controlled and Abused by A Controller**

1. Lovingly and firmly appeal to or confront the controller, or the person who is

misusing authority to abuse.

To **allow them to continue to abuse** and destroy relationships with those

around them is **not an act of love** for them or for those they are wounding.

2. We see examples of this in Scripture

a. Matt. 18:15-17 – Sadly there is far too much abuse going on by professing

Christians that is being tolerated in the church today and it’s time believers

lovingly come alongside of other Christians who are damaging their marriage

and family relationships to bring change and accountability.

b. In 1 Sam. 25, David was ready to kill a foolish man named Nabal, and his

whole household because he repaid David and his men evil for good. What

did the man’s wife do?

1. She appealed to him to not render evil for evil.

2) She laid a cool hand on David’s hot head and prevented David from acting

wrongly and misusing his authority.

3) Abigail reminded David of **God’s purposes** for him, of **his identity** as

God’s anointed king, and **convinced David to not use his authority** in

anger to get revenge, but leave it in God’s hands to deal with her husband.

4) Abigail had the courage to lovingly confront and appeal to David.

5) There are times when a spouse may need to lovingly confront the ungodly

use of authority or leadership by the other spouse.

3. To properly appeal or confront, a spouse must develop **CORE strength.**

**(**This acronym is from Christian counselor Leslie Vernick)

**C – \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the truth –** Identify the lies they believe about their

marriage, or themselves, or God, such as “I deserve this, or it’s all my

fault, or I’m unlovable, or there is no way out, or no way my spouse would

ever change, etc.” We must discern what is right and true from God’s

perspective and stand on that.

**O – Open to the Holy Spirit’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and the wisdom of godly people.**

1. Cmp.Psalm 143:8-10 – What did David ask God for?
2. God will use wise godly people around them to see things more clearly

and what needs to be confronted and wisely respond.

Verses on seeking counsel – Ps. 16:7, 32:8, 73:24, Prov. 1:5, 24:6

**R – Responsible for oneself and respectfully communicate** to the controller

what they must do to begin acting responsibly.

There are 3 wrong roles a spouse can take in an abusive situation.

1) Persecutor – Has a goal to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ others

2) Rescuer – Has a goal to be a good \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and tries harder to be God

for the person they are trying to rescue or fix.

3) Victim – Wants the rescuer to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for them, and may become the

persecutor if they don’t get the response they want.

What is theproper response? Become an **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** that determines before

God what they are to do and then responds in obedience to Him.

**E – Empathetic \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** without enabling the controlling abuser. A

spouse confronting controlling abusive behaviors can respond with empathy

and Biblical love while still holding firm with boundaries and

consequences.

Some would call such an approach \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ love.

Does God ever use tough love on His children **–** Heb. 12:4-11

4. What if **after a spouse** is lovingly confronted, **there is no repentance** and the

abusive person will not get help or make needed changes? What if they continue

to abuse their spouse and family members? What should a spouse do?

1. Does Scripture give us any guidance in those situations?

See Prov. 22:3, 24:25

1. What did God say to the Israelites in Jer. 4:18? Their conduct brought

consequences. What can implementing consequences for wrong choices and a failure to be responsible result in?

5. Are there times when a spouse must take drastic actions, such as a separation, to

motivate their spouse to get help to make meaningful and lasting changes?

1. Would God’s Word support such drastic action? If so, when should a spouse

take such action? Are there times when boundaries of separation must be

established for protection?

What did Joseph do to protect Mary and Jesus from abusive King Herod?

Matt. 2:13-15

1. David repeatedly set boundaries and remove himself from King Saul.
2. Gal. 6:7-8

d. A separation may lead to reconciliation down the road because of repentance

and a change of heart.

1. The purpose of the separation is not to divorce, but to bring sufficient

consequences and loss to bear, that it results in a person repenting of their

sinful ways and surrendering to the Lord Jesus.

1. Time will reveal whether a genuine reconciliation can take place.

**B. By the Controlling Abuser**

1. They must get help to identify and address the underlying negative emotions and

core belief lies feeding into their controlling attitudes and actions.

Are there traumatic events or abuse in their past that wounded their heart and

adversely affect their behavior / responses?

What does the Lord Jesus want to do in their life? Luke 4:18-19, Rom. 12:1-2

2. There must be a genuine repentance of their sinful selfish controlling ways and a

surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ.

This includes embracing the cross and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to one’s self. Rom. 6, Gal. 2:20

3. Be filled (controlled) by the Holy Spirit – Eph. 5:18-21

a. What will be the evidence of the Holy Spirit taking control in a believer’s life?

b. Gal. 5:22-23 - What is the 9th evidence of the Holy Spirit’s control? v. 23b

4. Embracing and Living Out the Mind of Christ – Phil. 2:1-8