

Controlling People

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"My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come. ³⁴ "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. John 13:33-34

Two types of controllers - Aggressive controllers and Manipulative controllers

Whoever controls you controls your future.

From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. ²² Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!" ²³ Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns." Matthew 16:21-22

How do we love the people who are trying to control us?

- Know who you are and what you are called to do. (v.21)
- Recognize when someone is trying to control you. (v.22)
- Decide when to draw a line in the sand. (v.23)
 - The relationships you have are a combination of what you have *created* and what you have *allowed*.
 - If you don't like what you have, change what you *expect* and *accept*.

Could it be me?

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." Matthew 16:24

- Follow Jesus by surrendering control of your life to Him.

Let's Connect

- Are you more of a controller or a people pleaser?

Let's Talk About It

We all have *difficult people* in our lives. You know, those everyday people who take a little more energy to love. Some of them are controlling people who try to impose their will on you and move you away from God's will for you. When we allow other people to control us, we surrender our lives to someone other than God. To love controlling people, you must know who you are and what God is calling you to do, recognize when someone is trying to control you, and decide when to draw a line in the sand. As a response, trust Jesus and surrender your need to control to Him.

John 13:33-34; 1 John 4:10-11; Matthew 16:13-24

- Which part of the message impacted and challenged you?
- Read John 13:33-34 and 1 John 4:10-11. Jesus sends His followers to go and reach those who don't yet know Him by showing what God's love looks like. What does it look like for you to go and show God's love to people who don't yet know Jesus?
- Read Matthew 16:21-24. Discuss Jesus' interaction and what it teaches us about control, trust, and following Jesus.
- What areas of your life do you try to have the most control over? What would it look like for you to surrender control of those areas to God?
- Read John 13:33-34. What relationship in your life causes the most worry and anxiety? Are there any unhealthy relationships you've allowed to control you? How will you begin to draw boundaries and love them in a healthy way?

Take a Step

- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you see any ways you have controlled others or have been controlled by others. Share this with someone you trust and take action to find freedom.
- Choose one relationship in your life that is causing you the most worry and anxiety. Start each day asking God to bring healing and freedom to that relationship.

Here's My Prayer

- God, You are in control. Teach me to trust You enough to let go. Please show how I have controlled or allowed control to come into my relationships. Give me strength to draw a boundary and follow You with everything I've got. In Jesus' name, amen.