

People are CRAZY

GAMERS OF BIBLICAL PROPORTIONS

- Mother and daughter played Herod - Mark 6:21-28
- Jacob took advantage of Esau - Genesis 25:29-34
- Delilah out-maneuvered Samson - Judges 16:15-19

Judges 16:15-16

*Then Delilah pouted, "How can you tell me, 'I love you,' when you don't share your secrets with me? You've made fun of me three times now, and you still haven't told me what makes you so strong!" She tormented him with her **nagging** day after day until **he was sick to death of it.***

STRATEGIES of a "GAMER"

1. SWEET TALK
2. ULTIMATUMS
3. GUILT

HOW DO I CRACK THE CODE?

1. PRAY FOR WISDOM TO recognize THE GAME.

Matthew 16:21-22

*From then on Jesus began to tell his disciples plainly that it was necessary for him to go to Jerusalem, and that he would suffer many terrible things at the hands of the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but on the third day he would be raised from the dead. But **Peter took him aside** and began **to reprimand him** for saying such things. "Heaven forbid, Lord," he said. **"This will never happen to you!"***

How do you know if you're being PLAYED?

- Struggle with feeling guilty and find it hard to say "no"
- Lower your standards to please others

Galatians 1:10

*Obviously, I'm not trying to be a **people pleaser!** No, I am trying to please God. If I were still trying to please people, I would not be **Christ's servant.***

HOW DO I CRACK THE CODE?

2. TRUST GOD FOR strength TO PUT HEALTHY boundaries IN PLACE.

Matt 16:23

*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**.”*

HOW DO I CRACK THE CODE?

3. BE WILLING TO ADMIT MY OWN NEED FOR control AND SURRENDER everything TO GOD.

Isaiah 26:3-4

*You will keep in **perfect peace** all who **trust in you**, all whose thoughts are **fixed on you!** 4 Trust in the **Lord always**, for the Lord God is the eternal Rock.*

Talk it over:

1. What type of people tend to get under your skin the most? Why do you think they bother you so much?
2. Which of the strategies of “Gamers” are most effective on you: SWEET TALK, ULTIMATUMS, or GUILT? Why are they so effective?
3. What healthy boundaries do you need to enforce to stop playing games in your life?
4. Is there an area of your life that isn’t fully surrendered to God? What will you do today to let him have control?