

Restoration Ministries
Webinar – 8 PM (Central) Jan. 14, 2019
UNRIGHTEOUS CONTROL VS. GODLY LEADERSHIP
Session 3

In our last 2 webinars we've considered **unrighteous control vs. godly leadership** and how that positively or negatively impacts relationships. In tonight's webinar we want to invite you to consider:

I. Modern Day Examples of Controlling Behaviors or Using Authority to Damage People or Relationships

A. In Parenting

1. How can parents wrongly use parental authority?

How did most fathers in the pagan world of Paul's day rule their families?

What did Paul command fathers or parents not to do? Eph. 6:4, Col. 3:21

What kind of balance do parents need to find?

“respectable” is made of two words, “able” and “respect”

2. An adult parent may try to parent or control their adult children.
By expecting their adult children to obey them instead of recognizing they are now God's authority and responsible to Him.

Placing controlling demands on them, manipulating, or intimidating them.

Once our children become adults, we must ask ourselves, “What is our role now?”
See “Mending Fences Healing Hearts” – Dr. Chuck Lynch – Pg. 10-12

What will this kind of treatment by a parent result in?

B. An Employer

1. A boss can be harsh, or use their position to tear employees down verbally, and emotionally, or treat them unfairly.
2. In Bible times how did slave owners often use their position of authority?

What did Paul tell Christian slave owners to do? Eph. 6:4 Why?

3. How does this apply to a Christian business owner or boss today?

4. A beautiful example for a Christian employer in the Bible is Boaz. He was a wealthy farmer with many employees. He used his authority **to bless and not oppress**. See Ruth 2

C. Pastors and Spiritual Leaders

1. In the days of Ezekiel the prophet, the spiritual leaders of Israel were using their position to abuse God's people. Read Ezk 34:2-10

What were the spiritual leaders in Israel doing to God's flock?

How did God view these shepherds and what was he going to do to them?

2. Another example in Scripture of spiritual leaders who used their authority to dominate, manipulate, and intimidate were the Pharisees.

Matt. 23:2-7, 13-15, 25-28, 33-36

3. Does this still happen today?
4. How does it impact believers or non-believers when they see or experience this from someone who claims to be a spiritual leader?

D. Governmental Leaders

We find many examples throughout history of people in places of government using their authority to harm others.

E. In Marriage (by a husband or a wife) Resulting in Domestic Abuse

1. **Dr. John Henderson defines domestic abuse as** "A godless pattern of abusive behavior among spouses involving physical, psychological and/or emotional means to exert and **obtain power and control** over a spouse for the achievement of selfish ends."
2. **Sophia Lee (writer for World Magazine) – In an article called "Hidden Violence"** addresses spousal abuse as being far too common in churches and in many cases are being ignored by those who are in spiritual leadership. She says "Domestic abuse situations are not easy. Most of the damage from domestic abuse is invisible: It involves repetitive behaviors that terrorize, dehumanize, objectify, degrade, and control spouses. **Such abuse is a hammer to the soul, pounding over and over at the personhood, dignity, and freedom of the spouse.**"

3. Christian author and counselor Leslie Vernick, who is the author of “The Emotionally Destructive Marriage” says, “An emotionally destructive marriage relationship is where one’s personhood, dignity, and freedom of choice is regularly denied and criticized or crushed. This can be done through words, behaviors, economics, attitudes, and misusing of Scripture.”
4. Is there a legitimate problem of abuse caused by the wrong use of God given authority, or by controlling behaviors in marriage?

II. VARIOUS WAYS ABUSIVE CONTROL CAN BE MANIFESTED IN A MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP?

A. Verbal Abuse – How?

1. Prov. 18:21- “Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.”
What will words of death, to and against one’s spouse do to a marriage relationship? What will words of encouragement and blessing do?
2. Prov. 11:9 – “With his mouth the godless (spouse) destroys his (her) neighbor (spouse).”
3. Ask your spouse, “Do you ever feel verbally abused by me? When was the last time you experienced verbal abuse from me? What form did it take?”
4. Or a great question to ask would be “How do I encourage and empower you with my words?”

B. Emotional Abuse – How?

1. Through passive control such as:
Purposefully withdrawing -

Withholding what they need emotionally –
2. Through aggressive forms of control.
3. Through emotional co-dependency in which one spouse needs the other spouse to be _____ for them.

C. Controlling Physically

1. What would be some examples of physical control in a marriage relationship?
Depriving a spouse of what is needed for their physical well - being.

Restraining, or striking physically, or using some object to physically threaten.

2. Controlling a spouse's schedule, their time, or not allowing one's spouse to go out with friends, having to know their every move.

D. Controlling a Spouse Sexually

1. Sexual pressuring – How?
2. Withholding sexual intimacy from a spouse to punish them, or using intimacy as a “reward”, instead of seeking to meet one another's intimacy needs and enjoying what God has designed for a husband and wife to enjoy.
3. There are times when a spouse, **knowingly or unknowingly may be sexually abusing their spouse**. What is a good way to discern if this is the case?
See Pain Word Sheet associated with sexual abuse.
4. It may be that a spouse doesn't want to be sexually intimate because of the way their spouse is treating them. What do the two of them need to do?

E. Controlling a Spouse Financially

1. What would be examples of this?
2. Control issues over money will usually be tied to underlying fears of some kind. A couple in that situation would be wise to get some good help in financial stewardship as well as from a wise counselor to help them address the root issues to this problem.

F. Controlling Academically or Mentally

1. Our pastor shared about a class in college in which the professor took a Bible and threw it in the trash can, and conveyed to the Christian students in his class what he thought of their believing the Bible.
 - a. What kind of control did he use on his students?
2. How can a spouse control their spouse academically?
3. Rom. 12:3 – “For by the grace given me, I say to every one of you: **Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment**, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.”

4. Gal. 6:3 –“If anyone **thinks they are something when they are not**, They deceive themselves.”

G. Controlling Spiritually

1. What are some ways this can be done?
By using God or misusing Scripture to –
Using Scripture out of context or in an unbalanced way –
2. These actions will **spiritually abuse** a spouse and can make it hard for them to connect with God, trust Him, or to respond to God’s Word.
3. A spiritually abusive controlling relationship will be legalistic and performance based instead of motivating through God’s love and grace.