



Control # 1

Hello everyone. Welcome to “Notes from the Presence.” Today is the first in a series of articles on the idea of the dominion mandate that God gave to our species at creation, and how it has morphed into a twisted version of us trying to control our fellow planet-mates. This could get fun by the end. I have no idea where it will go. For now, I will just let my thoughts begin to write.

In the past few weeks I have seen a couple of fresh examples of the devastation caused when we as people try to control other human beings. There have been two specific contexts my thoughts have fallen into: first, how we as people are obsessed with controlling other people, and second, how we think God wants to control us. Let us begin with some familiar scripture.

Genesis 1:26-28 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

The word translated "dominion" here is the Hebrew word "radaw." It means to subjugate, to prevail against, reign over, rule over, tread down, or have control over. It is evident to me that we as human beings have been built for dominion.

For sake of contrast and to gain a better understanding of this concept, let's talk about God for a moment. God is a Spirit (John 4:24) and as such, He reigns and holds dominion in the spirit world of heaven and paradise. However, as recorded in the first verses of Genesis, God created a new realm; a natural world made out of natural

elements. He then created mankind in His image and likeness to rule and have dominion over this realm, to govern it for Him if you like. For this reason, God made us with three distinct parts: a spirit, a soul, and a body.

Our human spirit was made to integrate into, relate to, and connect into God's realm. Everything we are and do, as well as the dominion we wield, should have its origins in, and flow out of this heavenly world. However, God also gave us a natural body. This part of our being was made to integrate into, relate to, and connect to the earth in which we live. Then, we have also been given a soul, a beautiful combination of mind and emotion, to bring consciousness, make sense out of our existence, and draw these two worlds together. In other words, our sphere of influence and existence was meant to flow from God's realm (heaven), into our human spirit, through our soul, and then out into our world through the expression of our body.

Now that we have set a context, let us return to the theme of control. Some of the first words to land on human ears contained the directive of "dominion." Because of this fact, there is no way we will ever be able to live any other way; let's face it, we were created to rule! Here, according to the Bible, is a list of things we were given to rule over: "have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing (some translations read "creeping thing") that moves on the earth" (Genesis 1:28b). This is an impressive list. In basic and simple terms, we have been given dominion over this world and everything in it as far as the eye can see. This includes all plant and animal life, the elements, and everything that pertains to our planet. But notice something, there is one key thing missing from this list. We were never given dominion over other human beings. However, because we are built for dominion, the fallen idea of dominating beings of our own kind has come to represent the ultimate egotistical expression of our dominion mandate. For this reason we have become infinitely obsessed with the notion of controlling every facet of the lives of our human planet-mates.

In my estimation, there is no other obsession that has gotten us into more trouble than this idea of controlling other people. In fact, this notion under the sinister influence of a rogue, evil, and heartless spirit, the devil himself, has nearly destroyed our planet. The amount of devastation perpetrated under this guise is overwhelming to me. We as humans are deceived into thinking that we have both the right and the mandate to control the minds, actions, reactions, destinations, and wills of everyone around us. Here is a list in no particular order of the people we try to control: our husbands, our wives, our children, our brothers and sisters, our family members, our friends, our enemies, our colleagues, those under us in rank, and in general anybody that thinks differently than we do. Played out to its fullest, this notion reduces our world to a giant, cheesy, pyramid scheme. It designates to every person alive, a rank among their fellow human beings; a

place in the great human pecking order. We all fight for a higher position in rank and this is done, for the most part, through trying to control those around us. Think about the fact that if we can gain control over another person, it then puts them under us in the pecking order and elevates us one step higher. This in turn gives a boost to our ego and our fragile self-esteem. We inevitably create rules that we expect others to follow, or ways of thinking that we expect others to buy into; and if they don't follow our rules or think the way we do, we then find ways to punish or intimidate them.

OK, I feel like we are off to a great start. I don't often rant, but looking back at this article, it is definitely borderline rantish!! Cool!

Thanks for reading. Jesus is real – and His grace is upon you.