



## Control # 2

Hello everyone. Welcome to “Notes from the Presence.” We are talking about 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. Today, my thoughts turn to three realms of existence and how we exert control in those arenas. These realms by no means cover the scope of human expression, but they will help give structure to our topic. We will probably only have room for two of them today, and we will finish the third one next week.

The first is, our personal realm of existence. This category includes personal relationships like family and friends. I will start first with the idea of marriage. There is probably no more destructive pattern in a marriage than a husband or wife trying to control or "dominate" each other. I have to be blunt here in saying that the whole idea of biblical submission has nothing to do with a husband controlling his wife. A man and a woman are made somewhat different in the way they interact with each other. The first mandate of a husband in this context is to love his wife as Christ loves His church. (Ephesians 5:22-33) This is a love so far beyond human comprehension there are hardly words to describe it. It is a love that compelled Jesus to a horrible death on a cross in order to secure freedom for His bride. Men, if we are not daily laying down our lives for our wives, we have absolutely no right to demand her to submit to us. Let me step out on a limb here and say that there is not a man on this planet that loves perfectly with this type of love. For this reason, as husbands, I recommend we strike the testosterone-motivated notion of our wives submitting to us from our memory banks forever! Submission is not ours to command; we were never given control over our wives. On the other hand, if we, by God's grace, manage to love in this way, our wives will, without hesitation, come under this "love covering" for protection, friendship, and the mutual benefit and future of the marriage of her own free will. This is the way God has created

her to function. However, in all fairness, I have seen in equal proportion, wives that try to control every aspect of their husband's lives. This can also be extremely destructive.

The Hebrew language is very picture oriented. Each letter in the Hebrew alphabet, as well as each word, describes a multidimensional image of the concept it is trying to convey.

*Genesis 2:22-23 Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from the man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman because she was taken out of Man."*

In the Hebrew text we have just quoted there is a beautiful picture that doesn't come across very well in translation. It is an image of a husband and wife standing face to face; perfectly and equally suited for one another. So, God actually created the wife to stand face to face with her husband as a fully equal opposite.

Looking at other family relationships, I have seen both mothers and fathers try to control every aspect of their children's lives. This is possible when the children are small, but in later years it wreaks havoc on the relationship and often causes major dysfunction. I have frequently witnessed key family members who erroneously believe it is their mandate to control the overall environment and actions of their family at large. It is interesting to me how most families seem to have at least one member like this. It is also telling that it only takes one individual of this kind to set an otherwise harmonious family in complete disarray. Moving outward from the core family unit, we also try to control our friends and acquaintances. We do this through words, actions, insinuations, deceptions, intimidation, craftiness, and communications both verbal and nonverbal.

The second realm I would like to talk about is the corporate world – a realm ruled by a spirit of domination, control, and intimidation like few others. It manifests as a distinct and deliberate pecking order governed, for the most part, by greed. This nasty combination takes its toll on a scale that is unparalleled. Stress, burnout, corporate dismissal, death, perpetual unhappiness, and emotional devastation are just a few of the fallouts of this system. In the typical corporate environment, human culture has constructed nothing more than a grownup world mirroring an elementary school yard where playground bullies rule the scene. But when you add into this, factors of corporate profit, the situation goes from bad to worse. It is a system that eats up the innocent.

*James 5:4-5 Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of*

*Sabaoth. You have lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury; you have fattened your hearts as in a day of slaughter.*

I would like to bring one more thought into play. A lot of my life experience in the work environment has been in the context of churches. I am not criticizing anyone here because there are many outstanding people in this work force; however, in my lifetime I have seen much devastation due to church leadership trying to control those under them. Many people I know have walked away from church and God for this reason.

In our next article, we will talk about the third realm of control – the global one. We will discuss “control” in the context of government and nations, among other things.

Thanks for reading. Jesus is real – and His love never fails.