

Agape House of Worship
Interactive Mid-Week Service & Bible Study

Topic: Control Part 1

April 28, 2021

Scripture: John 19:10-11

Teacher: Deac. Kip Wright

John 19:10-11 NIV - “Do you refuse to speak to me?” Pilate said. “Don’t you realize **I have power either to free you or to crucify you?**”¹¹ Jesus answered, “You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore, the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.”

Matthew 26:53 NLT - Don’t you realize that I could ask my Father for **thousands of angels to protect us**, and he would send them **instantly**?

People, the enemy and situations want to make you think that they have ultimate control over you. They use **lies and intimidation** to get you to submit to their **exaggerated** claims of dominance over you. At all times, we have to be sure that we know God is **sovereign**. **Psalm 103:19 AMP** - The LORD has established His throne in the heavens, And His **sovereignty rules over all** [the universe]. **Ephesians 2:6 NIV**- And God raised us up with Christ and **seated us with him in the heavenly realms** in Christ Jesus, **Psalm 24:1 NKJV** - The earth *is* the LORD’s, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein.

Control - *the power to influence or direct people's behavior or the course of events, to exercise restraining or directing influence over, to have power over: rule, the situation of being under the regulation, domination, or command of another, to order, limit, or rule something, or someone's actions or behavior, the power to make decisions about something and decide what should happen*

Healthy Control/Healthy Alignment - God’s initial plan was to create man, set him in paradise, put him in a position of dominion and to provide everything he would need including food, a home and helpmate.

Everything that God does and plans for us is **good**. He wants us to live a **full and abundant life**.

- **Jeremiah 29:11 NLT**¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you,” says the LORD. “**They are plans for good** and **not for disaster**, to give you a future and a hope.
- **John 10:10 B portion NKJV** I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* **more abundantly**.

What are some examples of healthy control?

First attempt to exercise unhealthy control in the Bible – Genesis 3:1 - Now the serpent was more crafty (subtle, skilled in deceit) than any living creature of the field which the LORD God had made. And the serpent (Satan) said to the woman, “**Can it really be that God has said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree of the garden’?**”

What was at the heart of the serpent’s statement/question? What was he trying to do?

John 10:10 A portion NIV - The thief comes **only to steal and kill and destroy**;

John 8:44 NIV- You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, **he speaks his native language**, for he is a liar and the **father of lies**.

There are consequences of falling to the unhealthy control of others

- Effects the alignment/relationship we have with God – Genesis 3:9-10 NKJV ⁹ Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, “Where *are* you?” ¹⁰ So he said, “I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was **afraid** because I was naked; and I hid myself.”

Sometimes we are led away from God’s healthy control to very negative situations

Can you give an example of this?

- Effects the way we see things including ourselves - Genesis 3:7AMP ⁷ Then the eyes of the two of them were opened [that is, their awareness increased], and they knew that they were naked; and they fastened fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

It’s hard to look at ourselves in light of the truth.

- We are open to things that can hurt us - Genesis 3:5 NIV ⁵ “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

It would have been best to just know good, some things are not best for us to know.

- We use others as scapegoats - Genesis 3:12 NIV ¹² The man said, “The woman you put here with me— she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

Adam couldn’t even accept the responsibility for his actions, he used the woman as a scapegoat. We tend to do the same thing and blame things on others.

- We suffer from negative consequences – All three (the serpent, the woman and Adam) involved in the situation had to deal with consequences of their actions.
 1. Serpent - Genesis 3:14-15
 2. Woman – Genesis 3:16
 3. Adam – Genesis 3:17-19

Is there any significance to the order in which consequences were handed out?

In our world today there is a strong desire to control others - Can you give any examples? Who or what is trying to control you? What is their ultimate goal?

Matthew 20:25-26 AMP ²⁵ But Jesus called them to Himself and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles have absolute power and lord it over them, and their great men **exercise authority over them [tyrannizing them]**. ²⁶ It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant,

Case Study of Control – Coronavirus Covid-19 How has this Virus tried to control us?

Components of Control (steal, kill, destroy)

1. **Fear** – death, financial collapse, scarcity of resources, other people
2. **Separation** – from each other, from family members, 6 feet apart, hospital, funeral
3. **Negative thoughts & mental challenges** – depression, anxiety, etc.
4. **Questions the Sovereignty of God** (Supreme power and authority)

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 Easy-to-Read Version -The weapons we use are not human ones. Our weapons have power from God and can destroy the enemy’s strong places. We destroy people’s arguments, ⁵ and we tear down every proud idea that raises itself against the knowledge of God. We also capture every thought and make it give up and obey Christ.