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lifechurch.tv

July 27&28 2018

Relational Vampires / Controlling People

2 Weapons controlling people use :Threats & Guilt

Matthew 16:21 –25

From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.” But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.” Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

1. Know WHAT you are CALLED to do. = CLARITY

People pleasing is a form of idolatry.

2. Know when someone is trying to CONTROL you.

3. Know when to draw a LINE in the SAND.

If you don't like what you have, change what you EXPECT and what you ACCEPT



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TEACHING NOTES

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EVEN IF THEY WON'T

This is a tricky one to navigate and I appreciate why Pastor Craig wants to teach on it. It's interesting – the idea of controlling people because honestly, **we have no control** over how people will respond as we apply these good things – clarifying a calling, drawing a line in the sand, etc.

Those who are in the practice of trying to control others often have a very difficult time not doing it. Therefore, it's likely that **we will always have some of this mixed into some of our relationships**. It may be us who tends to be controlling. It may be someone else.

The key is to recognize that even if they don't get it. Even if they can't see it within themselves or just refuse to stop trying to control everything, we still must love them. Jesus certainly didn't stop loving Peter even though he was a controller. Days later when Jesus was arrested by the temple guard in the garden, it was Peter who tried to control the situation by fighting back. Jesus (again) corrected him and told him to put his sword away. But Jesus loved him anyway.

I love Pastor Craig's helpful, biblical teaching that we should not allow others to control us. It's not good for our calling and it's not good for them either. But, even if they continue to try and control (like Peter), we can still always love them. We may need to redefine a relationship and set healthy boundaries, but we can still continue to serve them, pray for them and express grace and love to them.



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