

Relationships and Control

December 2, 2018

CONTROLLING ANOTHER'S DECISIONS, ACTIONS OR LIFE - *in the very best of Biblical teaching and counsel you can provide, there is a line you can never cross - making or forcing the decision for them*

- Give them the very best Biblical counsel you can, then leave the decision to them.
- The more I interfere, the more I hinder, in both the person, and in God's work.
- Making or forcing someone's life decisions can:
 - breed codependency, hijacking their heart and dependency from God
 - retard and handicap their personal maturity and ability to manage life's difficulties
 - rob from them the eternal joy and rewards of personal convictions being forged
- We, many times, confuse investment with ownership - "the more I've invested, the more I can control."

2 Corinthians 1:23- 2:2 KJV

23 **Moreover I call God for a record upon my soul, that to spare you I came not as yet unto Corinth.**

24 **Not for that we have dominion** (*kyrieuō - to be lord of, rule over, have dominion over, to have power over, exercise influence over*) **over your faith, but are helpers** (*synergos - companion in work, fellowhelper, helper, labor together with*) **of your joy: for by faith ye stand.**

1 **But I determined this with myself, that I would not come again to you in heaviness.**

2 **For if I make you sorry, who is he then that maketh me glad, but the same which is made sorry by me?**

The Backstory

1 Corinthians 5:1-2 ESV

1 It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife.

2 And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you.

1 Corinthians 5:5-6 ESV

5 you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.

6 Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?

- In the midst of some very painful decisions and actions this assembly was struggling with, dealing with the sin and discipline of 1 Corinthians 5, Paul does not hover or micro-manage. Instead, he gives them space and time.
- The one who makes us glad, is the same one who made us sorry. Paul did not want them making decisions and taking action just to make Paul happy with them. Paul wanted them to make decisions and take action to please God.
- After providing Godly counsel, Paul removes himself to allow them to struggle in the decision and the process.

Mark 10:42-45 ESV

42 And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them.

43 But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant,

44 and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all.

45 For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

1 Peter 5:1-4 ESV

1 So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed:

2 shepherd (*poimainō* - to tend as a shepherd, to furnish pasture, feed, nourish, cherish, to supply for) the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight (*episkopeō* - inspect, look after, care for, look diligently, the care of the Church), not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly;

3 not domineering (*katakyrieuō* - to bring under one's power, control, subjugate, lord over) over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.

4 And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

- **NOTE the balance** - "...exercise oversight v.2...not domineering v.3..."

Hebrews 5:12-14 ESV

12 For though **by this time you ought to be teachers**, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. **You need milk, not solid food**,

13 for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled (*apeiros* - without experience, unskillful) in the word of righteousness, since he is a child.

14 But solid food is for the mature, for those **who have their powers of discernment trained** (*hexis* - a power or habit acquired by practice and use) **by constant practice** (*gymnazō* - to exercise vigorously in mind and body) **to distinguish good from evil**.

John 8:3-11 ESV

3 The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst

4 they said to him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery.

5 Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?"

6 This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground.

7 And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her."

8 And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground.

9 But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him.

10 Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"

11 She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more."

- *It is never right to justify sin. But it is just as wrong to condemn without knowing the back-story. Jesus had a wonderful quality of seeing past the sin to see the person.*
- *No matter how bad the circumstances, scars, sin, perversion, abuse or even violence, if someone wants to change, all of the life and power of the cross, the resurrection, the Word of God and Spirit of God are available and able to cleanse, change and transform. It is their choice.*
- *Jesus never tried to make, persuade, force or coerce a decision for this woman. The choice and decision was hers.*

John 6:56-69 ESV

56 Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him.

57 As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me.

58 This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate, and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever."

59 Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum.

60 When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?"

61 But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, "Do you take offense at this?

62 Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before?

63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

64 But there are some of you who do not believe." (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.)

65 And he said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father."

66 After this many of his disciples [of the 70/72] turned back and no longer walked with him.

67 So Jesus said to the Twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?"

68 Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life,

69 and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."

- *Jesus never tried to explain, negotiate with or appeal to the disciples who left.*
- *Jesus was not stoic or impersonal in His question to the twelve, but He was leaving the decision entirely to them. He never tried to persuade or coerce in any way.*