

CouplesInBloom.com – Dealing With Control

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Reading the Bible from a relationship viewpoint gives us wisdom. God inspired our Scripture; therefore revering it fulfills Psalm 111:10 ⇨ “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Everyone practicing them has good understanding. His praise stands forever.” **Dealing With Control** is vital to relationships, especially intimate ones.

Being created with a free will by the only God certainly raises questions about control. Being one of two spouses also raises questions about control. We cannot cover the countless aspects of this topic but we can find help to successfully live by in the Bible.

God’s headship does not negate our free will, and a husband’s headship does not mean he commands his wife. God treats us, the Bride of Christ, with protective guidance yet without manipulation or force. His Bride has ultimate control of her own destiny. Being *irritated that God foreknows what each free will will choose before they choose it* is a **symptom of control**. This is how and why God loved Jacob and hated Esau: both had the same controlling mother, and Jacob was manipulative, but God saw Esau’s murderous heart ⇨ Genesis 27. People see us outwardly, but God sees our heart ⇨ 1 Samuel 16:7.

Another **symptom of control** is being *irritated that our viewpoint is not embraced by others*. Even God, the only one whose viewpoint **IS** always correct, does **NOT** do this. Leading by example, He communicates His will but does not demand it. This is very important to understand: the only God, who knows how horrific hell will be and who died a horrific death to save people from hell, still honors the free will He gave them! We have no excuse to be controlling knowing this. Paul learned this the hard way ⇨ Acts 9:10-16.

Control includes passive manipulation such as displaying irritation, not just active control such as *nagging* ⇨ Judges 16:16. Also called *contention* ⇨ Proverbs 25:24, this **symptom of control** includes harassment by giving *too many reminders*. Jesus preached, ministered to those who responded, and moved on ⇨ Matthew 13:58 without harping on the importance of His message... *even* healing right now and life eternally! Amazing!

Another **symptom of control** can be *withdrawal*. We all need times to withdraw as Jesus did ⇨ Luke 5:16, but withdrawal as a lifestyle is not Biblical ⇨ Genesis 3:8; Matthew 5:15. The phrase “among them” is used over 130 times in the Bible; read Bible verses containing it. Scripture often mentions *reason*, citing good- ⇨ Isaiah 1:18; Acts 24:25 and bad- examples ⇨ Mark 2:8-12; 2 Corinthians 3:5. Read ⇨ James 3:14-17.

Withdrawal may be a good **response to control**, depending on the audience. Proverbs 26:3-5 ⇨ says fools need discipline, not words. Jesus had nothing to say to his murderers ⇨ Acts 8:32-35; Isaiah 53:7-8 until *after* their choice, which was forgiveness ⇨ Luke 23:34. Control is **NOT** a good **response to control**; Scripture tells us to minister in the opposite spirit ⇨ Romans 12:21, overcoming evil with good. This requires knowing God.

Questions may be a good **response to control**; if they do not include nagging. Jesus often used questions to help people *think* about what they were saying... for the purpose of getting to *truth*. Our life needs to be worship in **Spirit** and in *truth* ⇨ John 4:23, so that **what we say and how we say it both need to be controlled by Him**. ♥ Loren Falzone