

SESSION #12 - BIBLICAL MANHOOD: CONTROL

I. INTRODUCTION

1.



2. In our next two sessions, we are going to continue the practical application of our biblical “Battle Plan” to real life situations we all face as men by looking closely at some particular surface idols, traps, and behaviors that are motivated by our three deep idols.

II. CONTROL

1. The Deep idol of CONTROL tells us the fundamental _____ that, “If I can just maintain influence or mastery over this situation, people in my life, my performance, my schedule, my income, whatever... THEN I’ll be okay, content, dominate, strong, and safe.”
2. Our lust for control can make us men of fear.
3. The Fear Trap

List of potential things you can fear:

- Fears for your safety and the safety of those you love.
- Fears about how you will die: disease, cancer, being alone, broke, drowning, in a plane crash.
- Fears about what happens after death, being forgotten, judged, extinct
- Fears about living a meaningless life
- Fears about being unloved and alone
- Fears about being in love and then hurt or abandoned
- Fears about what you might lose: a friend, your girlfriend, your hair, your youth, your mind, your money, your job, your spouse, your health, your purpose, or even your faith.

From *Running Scared* by Ed Welch

- We can have a Deep Idol of CONTROL to the point that it can overwhelm us with _____.
 - Even our bodies can showcase our anxiety.
4. The Workaholic Trap

- Having “work” under control gives us the illusion and mirage of _____.
- The need for CONTROL drives fear, and _____ can drive workaholism. We are so afraid of not having control that we can't take a break.

5. The Anger Trap

- Fear can make us an _____ person with a short fuse and an explosive, toxic tongue.
- Look behind anger and you will find fear. Look behind fear and you will find CONTROL.

6. The Power Trap

- The power trap is motivated by the _____ to dominate.

III. REPLACING IDOLS OF CONTROL – TRUST AND STEWARDSHIP

2. Replacing Fear

- Fear creates a fork in the road, and we can either turn to run or run to ourselves or we can turn to and run to _____ and His truth and grace.
- We can replace fear with trust.
- Let's look at some truths of Scripture that will help us remember this and fight the battle against the fear side of CONTROL.
 - “Do you know that the most frequent command in the Bible turns out to be? What instruction, what is order, is given, again and again, by God, by angels, by Jesus, by prophets and apostles? What do you think – “Be good?’ ‘Be holy?’ Or, negatively, ‘Don't sin?’ ‘Don't be immoral?’ No. The most frequent command in the Bible is: ‘Don't be afraid Don't be afraid. Fear not. Don't be afraid.”
- Biblical scholar, N.T. Wright
 - “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and He will make straight your paths.”
Proverbs 3:5 [ESV]
 - Jesus says: “I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on...for your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all of these things will be added unto you.”
Matthew 6 [ESV]
 - The Bible tells us to trust God, not ourselves with the details of our lives.
 - “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-7 [ESV]

3. Replacing Power

- One antidote for power is the Biblical concept of _____. Things are given to us to control or dominate; rather, they are given to us as a stewardship.
- “Biblical stewardship touches every area of our lives. It requires a basic commitment to present ourselves completely to God as His servants, with no strings attached...The ultimate question, then, is this: Am I the lord of my life, or is Christ the Lord of my life?...This is the difference between the great ‘I will’ and the great ‘Thy will...’ A wise STEWARD will treat things according to their true value, treasure the things that God declares to be important and hold with a loose grip the things that God says will not matter in the end.” – Ken Boa

IV. CONCLUSION

1. In the next session, we will look at the other deep idols: COMFORT and SIGNIFICANCE.

DISCUSSION / REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Several traps can emerge from the deep idol of control: fear, workaholism, anger, and power. Discuss any of these traps that can be a temptation for you.
2. When was the last time that you got really angry? What caused it? Was an idol of yours involved?
3. How should the concept of stewardship change our perspective of things and the people that God has allowed in our lives?
4. Discuss John Bryson’s testimony about his struggle with control. How could you relate?
5. Write down and share with your group your one or two STRATEGIC MOVES that you need to make in order to apply what you’ve learned in this session.

ANSWERS:

II. CONTROL

1. The Deep idol of CONTROL tells us the fundamental lie that, “If I can just maintain influence or mastery over this situation, people in my life, my performance, my schedule, my income, whatever... THEN I’ll be okay, content, dominate, strong, and safe.”
2. Our lust for control can make us men of fear.
3. The Fear Trap
 - We can have a Deep Idol of CONTROL to the point that it can overwhelm us with fear.
4. The Workaholic Trap
 - Having “work” under control gives us the illusion and mirage of security.
 - The need for CONTROL drives fear, and control can drive workaholism. We are so afraid of not having control that we can’t take a break.
7. The Anger Trap
 - Fear can make us an angry person with a short fuse and an explosive, toxic tongue.
8. The Power Trap
 - The power trap is motivated by the desire to dominate.

III. REPLACING IDOLS OF CONTROL – TRUST AND STEWARDSHIP

1. Replacing Fear
 - Fear creates a fork in the road, and we can either turn to run or run to ourselves or we can turn to and run to God and His truth and grace.
2. Replacing Power.
 - One antidote for power is the Biblical concept of stewardship. Things are given to us to control or dominate; rather, they are given to us as a stewardship.