



Text: Ephesians 5:18, Revelation 2 and 17, and Mark 1:12-13

**Introduction:**

1. *Have you ever felt that you were being controlled or manipulated by someone?*
2. *Do you have an excessive fear of being controlled?*
3. *Do you think that you might be a domineering, controlling person yourself?*

What is the Christian's response to these questions?<sup>1</sup>

First of all, not all control is negative control.

Every saint is called to exercise self-control in order to be free from sin. Keeping the Bible Open and applying the Word daily can only do this.

Now the Bible is our balance and our discipline, but the people with abusive control seek to become the deciding factor in the lives of others,

We need positive control:

What are some examples of positive control?

- Parents controlling children
- Governmental laws controlling criminals
- Biblical authority controlling the saints

Today we want to look at the negative control (abusive), either in the natural realm or in the demonic realm.

---

<sup>1</sup>Robert Liardon's book, "Breaking Controlling Powers" deals with some of these questions.

## What is negative or abusive control?

Negative control is an attempt to dominate another person for the purposes of the controller's fulfillment of their own ends usually their personal security with no regard or consideration for the person they are dominating.

### The Characteristics of a Controlling person:

- Insecurity (Despite outward confidence)
- Fear of rejection (Despite outward strength)
- Manipulation
- Supervision of others
- Stifle the work of the Spirit
- Selfish

We are dependent on God and inter-dependent on others.

The Bible talks of the Jezebel Spirit<sup>2</sup>

### History of the Jezebel Spirit (O.T)<sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>2</sup> Jezebel

*2:20-23 "Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols. I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling. So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer immensely, unless they repent of her ways. I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds."*

The problem with Thyatira's Jezebel was not that she was a prophet of the feminine gender, but that she was a false prophet. The Lord tells us what her corrupt teaching consisted of: seducing believers into tolerating, accepting, and engaging in immorality and idolatry.

'The worship of this demonic god spread throughout Israel because of Jezebel's influence, and she used her wealth to sponsor more than 800 false prophets of Baal.

It was Jezebel who attempted to murder the prophet Elijah after his famous encounter with 480 false prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel.

There, you recall, the false prophets failed in their attempt to call down fire from their god Baal to consume a sacrificial bull.

But when it was Elijah's turn, he called upon God, and God sent fire from heaven to consume not only the sacrifice upon the altar, but the wood fuel, the stones of the altar, the dust of the ground, and the water Elijah had poured upon it all.

When Jezebel learned of the humiliation and defeat of Baal and the prophets of Baal, she threatened Elijah's life.<sup>3</sup>



Basically all we need to know about Jezebel (Isabella) is this,

- ...That she was the daughter of Ethbaal, king of Tyre (Northern Kingdom of Israel)
- ...And wife of Ahab
- ...Infamous for her idolatry (Pagan Worship- Baal (fertility god) Worship)
- ...Cruel persecution of the prophets (1Ki, 16:31; 18:4,13; 21:5; 2 Ki.9: 7)

**NT reference:**

Evidently, there was a woman in the church at Thyatira who was influential, domineering--and depraved.

Jesus names her "Jezebel." indicating her character. Jezebel was the most evil and loathsome woman in the Old Testament as we have just seen.

The problem with Thyatira's Jezebel was that she was a false prophet.

The Lord tells us what her corrupt teaching consisted of: seducing believers into tolerating, accepting, and engaging in immorality and idolatry.

**Revelation 2:20-23**

It is an influential, controlling, domineering and depraved spirit (like Jezebel in the OT) seducing believers into tolerating, accepting, and engaging in immorality and idolatry.

Jezebel also murdered her neighbor Naboth so that her husband, the king, could seize the dead man's vineyard. Jezebel was a ruthless, godless, calculating, power-mad seducer of the people. According to Old Testament prophecy, her life ended when she was thrown from the palace window into the courtyard below. There her body was set upon by dogs, who licked up her blood.<sup>4</sup>

The Jezebel spirit (controlling) always wants us to depart from keeping Christ at the centre of our lives, which is idolatry.

## **METHODS TO ENSURE CONTROL**

### **1. Emotional manipulation<sup>4</sup>**

- Tears and helplessness
- Anger
- Threatening behavior (Proverbs 18:21, Ps 59:7)
- Silence

We should never be controlled by what one is doing or not doing.

### **2. Spiritual manipulation** (examples: a false vision - for instance, Christ will return in 1914 or Y2K; false prophecies)

- They are no superstars in the Kingdom only servants
- They are no super-spiritual saints

Be careful that you don't fall prey to spiritual delusions thinking that a particular person, or a particular ministry is the only one that will give you a deeper understanding of God.

Beware of controlling prayers (influence decisions)

Spiritual gifts can be used to control others (People who think they are the only ones with a direct line to God.

### **3. Word of failure and defeat, unnatural obligation, guilt, criticism, intimidation.**

Jesus does not want you to be controlled in a negative manner by anyone or anything. The Pharisees could not control Jesus, Peter or Paul.

---

<sup>4</sup>(Examples: a baby crying to get her way, a boss going into a rage to intimidate an employee, a spouse giving the silent treatment to manipulate the other spouse)



## **How did our Lord and the Apostle Peter and Paul defeat the controlling spirits?**

They all defeated the controlling spirits by being filled with the Holy Spirit.

Controlling spirits working through people will try to keep your highest potential from being in God.

## **HOW DOES ONE KNOW THEY ARE BEING CONTROLLED?**

1. If you feel physically drained.
2. If you feel like you are running a race but losing.

Controlling people like to get you alone with them so they can program you. A method used by cults.

The controller will give you reasons to get away from your Church leadership, your church and anyone else who might contradict the controller.

They will only allow you to be around people with whom they can also control or with whom they know will be sympathetic to their ideas. A controlling person will deny that they are trying to control you and try to make you believe that all of the choices you make are purely your own.

4. If you feel you have lost your vision and you are depressed much of the time.
5. If you fear being controlled. This can be as controlling as actually being controlled. People who fear being controlled have a difficult time in discerning the difference between natural authority and un-natural control.
6. If you are willing to compromise your values to try to please another person.
7. If you "hide" or "run away" from a problem rather than confronting the controller over the situation. People who are controlled often feel they are too "weak" to confront the person controlling them and in their weakness will try to "hide" or "run" away from the problem.

## **WHAT CAUSES PEOPLE TO BECOME CONTROLLERS?**

1. Hurts and wounds - People get hurt and vow not to get hurt again so they control their whole

world.

2. Environment - People who grow up in an atmosphere of control tend to do the very thing they hate when they grow older.
3. Some people just choose to be controllers.
4. Pride
5. Insecurity
6. Laziness

### **HOW DO YOU KNOW IF YOU ARE A CONTROLLER?**

1. If you feel the only way you can be important is to give orders or commands.
2. If you feel possessive toward other people.
3. If you do not let other opinions be voiced or discussed.
4. If you feel jealousy toward a person.
5. If you feel threatened over new relationships a person close to you has or finds.
6. If you are over-protective toward those near you.
7. If you try to dominate every area of a person's life.
8. If you make plans for the person you control without his/her permission.
9. If you criticize every move and every statement the other person makes.
10. If you think the person you control owes you something, and you demand that he pay you back.
11. If you control people with flattery.
12. If your life totally revolves around nurturing and developing another human being.
13. If you begin having romantic feelings toward someone of the same sex, because the homosexual spirit is a very dominant spirit.

### **HOW DO YOU GET FREE FROM A CONTROLLING SPIRIT?**

1. Recognize that you are controlled.
2. Recognize how that person controls you.
3. Write down the corrections you will need to make in your thought patterns and actions to prevent control from happening in your life.
4. Remember that being controlled equals idolatry. The person who is controlling you has become your idol.
5. Realize that control is not only a psychological problem, but also a spiritual problem.
6. Get counsel on how to be set free or you may over-react.