

## BIBLICAL WISDOM #1 - IDENTIFYING MANIPULATION

### PROVERBS 3:13-35

Manipulators attempt to control another individual by inciting an emotional reaction rather than a biblical response.

#### I. CHRONIC CONDITION

- A. Manipulation everywhere (Internet, TV, Entertainment)
  - 1. "Control by artful, unfair, or insidious means."
    - a. Immigration - don't you care about kids?
    - b. Abortion - don't you care about women?
    - c. Climate - don't you care about the planet?
- B. Usually involves intimidation (threats) to coerce
  - 1. School Yard: "I won't be your friend anymore."
  - 2. Christians: "Your sin is much worse than mine."
- C. We cannot judge hearts only actions (MATT. 7:16 & 20)

#### II. DANGEROUS DESIRES

- A. To exert unjust control over another (PROV. 29:13)
  - 1. This is Satan's tactic in the Garden (GEN. 3:5)
  - 2. Malign another's motives / threatened loss
- B. Seek to entice guilt/shame/hurt/anger/fear/anxiety
- C. They want it badly enough to fight dirty (JAMES 4:1-3)
  - 1. They often know what they want is wrong / sinful
  - 2. Idolatrous Desire: Anything wanted enough to sin

#### III. EMOTIONAL ENTICEMENT

- A. The manipulator is NOT your biblical authority
  - 1. But uses "you should, you must, you can't," etc.
  - 2. They will portray THEMSELVES as the victim!
- B. Martha and Mary: A perfect Bible example LUKE 10:38-42
  - 1. Do you not CARE? (Seeking sympathy and guilt)
  - 2. She could have just asked Mary to please help
- C. Tactics: Accusations/Criticisms/Crying/Sulking/Why!?!
  - 1. Even Joseph and Mary tried it! LUKE 2:41-48

#### IV. FOOLISHNESS FORBIDDEN

- A. Proverbs (as usual) gives us the answer: PROV. 26:4-5
  - 1. Answer NOT: If they lie, don't tell a bigger one
  - 2. Answer NOT: If they yell, don't yell louder
- B. Meet emotional deceit with Bible fact - Have I sinned?
  - 1. Are you upset with me about something God isn't?
  - 2. Answer folly as the folly deserves (PROV. 15:28)

MATT. 7:16 - "Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?"

MATT. 7:20 - "Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them."

PROV. 29:13 - "The poor and the deceitful man meet together: the LORD lighteneth both their eyes."

GEN. 3:5 - "For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil."

JAMES 4:1-3 - "From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? (2) Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. (3) Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts."

PROV. 15:28 - "The heart of the righteous studieth to answer: but the mouth of the wicked poureth out evil things."