

life|GROUPS  
**40's & 50's**  
Building Strong Families

**Destruction of Manipulation  
vs  
Benefits of Ministry**

2-15-17

- I. **Manipulation:** Whenever the goal of our behavior is essentially to change the other person, whether the change is good or bad, we are wrong. *This is manipulation!*
- II. Manipulation always leads to destruction.
  - A. The first manipulator: Satan Genesis 3:1 – Crafty (manipulative)  
Satan manipulates women and man to participate in sin.
  - B. Woman manipulates man
  - C. Genesis 3:8-12 - Both man and woman try to manipulate God.
- III. Abram and Sarai try to manipulate God's plan.
  - A. Genesis 16:1-4 - Sarai gave Hagar to Abram, and Ishmael was conceived. Sarai had much contempt.

- IV.** David and Bathsheba –
  - A. II Samuel 11: 1-17  
Manipulation – ends in murder.
  
- V.** Ministry – Being used by God to help others become everything He wants them to be.
  - A. Ministry always benefits God’s plan (whether we see it at the time).
  
- VI.** Ministry vs. Manipulation
  - A. Ephesians 4:29 – Ministry (Builds Up)
  - B. Ephesians 4:30-31 – Manipulation (Destroys)
  - C. Ephesians 4:32 – Ministry (Builds Up)
  - D. Galatians 5:19-21 – (Product of manipulation)
  - E. Galatians 5:22-23 – (Benefits of ministry)
  - F. Galatians 5:24-26 – (Power of Christ – we can overcome manipulation)
  
- VII.** How do we move from manipulation to ministry?
  - A. Philippians 2:1-4 (Put others first)
  - B. Philippians 2:5-8 (Christ led by example)
  
- VIII.** Conclusion
  - A. Let us examine our motives for why we do what we do and why we say what we say.
  - B. How can God use us to minister to those that are in our sphere of influence?

### *Questions*

1. What are your thoughts on tonight's lesson?
2. Did you realize you manipulated?
3. How do you feel when you are manipulated by someone?
4. How do you see where manipulation has failed in your relationships?
5. What benefits have you experienced when you have ministered to others?
6. How do we move from manipulation to ministry?
7. How do we bring this mindset into our homes?