

THEME: SEVEN DEADLY CONTROLLERS

TOPIC: THE CONSEQUENCE & BREAKING FREE FROM POSSESSIVENESS

TEXT: ROMANS 8:5-8, 14, 1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-8

Introduction

Today we will be concluding our study on Possessiveness which is the fourth controller in the seven deadly controllers. Our aim is to understand the consequence of possessiveness and how we can break free from its grip and hold as a deadly controller.

Love is a strong thing to experience. It is very hard to quench.

Songs of Solomon 8:7

However, where it is the irrational behaviour of possessiveness it is cruel and destructive. It is consuming as the grave. **Songs of Solomon 8:6**

THE CONSEQUENCES OF POSSESSIVENESS

There are several people who have walked the path of possessiveness and the result have been that the person whom they are trying to make a demand on reaches a point where they can no longer take it.

It all starts with a departure from one another, followed by a dividing of whatever binds or joins them and finally ending in a divorcing. Possessiveness consumes the individual's life particularly the possessive. They become restless, suspicious, anxious, fearful and insecure. In turn, this leads to various assumptions about their spouse.

1. Possessiveness is mind absorbing and consuming. It becomes the driving force behind a person's daily actions. In

that state of mind, the one who is possessive has no other thought but the whereabouts of their spouse.

2. **Possessiveness leads to embarrassment**, particularly when suspicions, stories and allegations are evidently proven to be untrue. The by-product is that it destroys friendships and relationships.
3. **Possessiveness excludes others**. It creates a myopic view of the world around the person who is being claimed and dominated to the exclusion of other people.
4. **Possessive people are intensely jealous**. Where it has not been known to be corrected, it could be extended to the children. Jealousy creates wounds, jealousy hurts people. Proverbs 6:34.
5. **Possessive people will require you to isolate yourself from friends and family** because they want to be the only one close to you. This monopolisation makes it quite suffocating and resulting in unhappiness for the person in the relationship.
6. **Possessive people do not see anything wrong with the trait they are exhibiting**, they call it “Being loving”. They fail to realise that love must not result in hurting the person it is directed at.
7. **Possessiveness eats into the individual freedom**. When God made man, he was single, wholesome and unique. Then came Eve. That sense of being single, unique and whole must not be lost because of marriage.
8. **Possessiveness can therefore result in an explosive situation**. Once the one who feels their life choke can no longer take it, it could result in an emotional outburst.
9. **Possessiveness can produce foolish behaviour** in the one being possessed and the one expressing it. People have been

known to go out for a fling because their wives are unnecessarily possessive and controlling.

10. Possessiveness can kill for the object of their desire.

Possessive people, having idolised the person they direct their love to, are sometimes willing to go any length to express their love. If it means killing or carrying out evil on the behalf of the other person, they will do it.

11. Possessiveness can distort your worldview.

Some people enjoy it when they meet a possessive person. They feel that having not been loved all their lives, they finally have met someone who really truly loves them. Their worldview having been distorted, they are particularly changing things to satisfy the possessive.

12. Possessiveness segregates. It separates friends. Many great friendships and family ties have been broken by the incoming of a possessive person.

BREAKING FREE FROM POSSESSIVENESS

One of the stories which shows how to be free from possessiveness is the story of Ruth and Boaz. Although Boaz loved her and would have loved to take her hand in marriage, he knew somebody else was more qualified and he gave the benefit to that one. His ability to wait is an expression of trust in God and the belief that good things come to those who wait. **Ruth 4:1**

Is there a good side to possessiveness?

There is a sense in which one must build a hedge around that which is theirs. **Luke 13:34**

We must recognise what belongs to us and build a hedge of protection. We must recognise what belongs to us and give true love. The degree of abundant love in any relationship, the degree of self-improvement in which people engage in any relationship qualifies and beautifies the love that exist.

Possessiveness in its negative sense becomes unnecessary where there has been an attempt to realise that there is no fear in love.

1 John 4:18

Yes there is good possessiveness according to Paul in **2 Corinthians 11:2**. He writes to the Christians in Corinth as a man who has, with godly jealousy, worked until they are now in love with the Lord Jesus-Christ.

Godly jealousy, godly possessiveness will mean working to see that the people around us are not suffocated by us but helped to become the best that they could be. Which is what we might say a coach has, when they stay on the case of the one they love until they become the best they could be. **Romans 10:19, 11:11**

Conclusion

Possessiveness means that all emotion is focussed towards one person. Life is about rubbing our own emotions with others. Essentially, no man is an island. The degree of your socialisation and your ability to reciprocate love is an indication of your maturity.

Once extremities are expressed which cut away other people, you live in your own little world and are unable to fully understand what it takes to give and take love.