RELATIONAL VAMPIRES

Controlling People

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Dave Michel
Stepping Stones Community Church

29 Jesus replied, "The most important commandment is this: 'Listen, O Israel! The LORD our God is the one and only LORD. 30 And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.' 31 The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these."
Matthew 22:29-31 NLT

1. The controller's two greatest <u>weapons</u>

- **<u>Threats</u>**

- **<u>Guilt</u>**

21 From then on Jesus began to tell his disciples plainly that it was necessary for him to go to Jerusalem, and that he would suffer many terrible things at the hands of the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but on the third day he would be raised from the dead. 22 But Peter took him aside and began to reprimand him for saying such things. "Heaven forbid, Lord," he said. "This will never happen to you!" 23 Jesus turned to Peter and said, "Get away from me, Satan! You are a dangerous trap to me. You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God's." 24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me.
Matthew 16:21-24 NLT

2. Three things to know

- **Know what you are <u>called</u> to <u>do</u>**

- **Know when someone is trying to <u>control</u> you**

- **Know when to draw a <u>line</u> in the <u>sand</u>**

The relationships you have are a combination of what you've <u>created</u> and <u>allowed</u>

If you don't like what you have, change what you <u>expect</u> and what you <u>accept</u>

Next Steps:

- ☐ Commit to love the Relational Vampires in my life
- ☐ Commit to stay true to my calling in life when I know someone is trying to control me
- ☐ Ask for God's help to change and make a stand when I know I'm being controlled
- ☐ Attend the rest of "Relational Vampires" series
- ☐ _____