



Dealing With Difficult People, Pt. 4: Manipulative People

Manipulative people have been a common problem throughout all of time. The Bible offers several examples of people being manipulated, to include Jesus. Although manipulation comes in different forms, the goal is the same - to control others. We don't have to endure this behavior though. It is possible to be free from the power of manipulation.

Bottom Line: Allowing yourself to be manipulated keeps you from God's path. Trying to manipulate others places yourself above God.

Discussion Questions:

1. What types of people tend to get under your skin the most? Why do these people bother you so much?
2. Why do you think manipulative people are such a common problem for most people?
3. Sunday's message described 4 types of manipulators. Describe a time when you have been impacted by one or more of these manipulators.
 1. Aggressive - uses power and intimidation to achieve their goals.
 2. Deceptive - plot & scheme behind the scenes until they get the desired results.
 3. Eroding - they just keep at you until you give in.
 4. Passive - will sometimes use personal resources to buy the right control.
4. **Read Matthew 16:21-23.** How do you know when you are being manipulated? How do you deal with a manipulative person?
5. What healthy boundaries should a person enforce in order to ensure they aren't manipulated by another person?
6. How have you manipulated others? What tactics did you use and what were the results of your manipulation? What steps can you take to not be manipulative?
7. What has been the most helpful thought/idea from the message this week? How has that thought/idea helped you?
8. How can the group encourage you this week?

*If time doesn't allow for you to discuss all of these questions, use only the ones you feel would be most helpful for your group.