



Sermon Study Guide
4/15/18

Gods' grace growing in us, among us, and through us, bringing the fullness of Jesus Christ to all of life.

Series Theme

iChoose

Sermon Title

Surrender vs. Control (Shea Strickland)

Key Sermon Points

- The way we make decisions matters. Our choices have consequences and impact our life and the lives of those around us.
- We are the sum total of our decisions Those we make today will have an effect tomorrow.
- The Bible endorses a life lived asking ourselves how to best apply God's principles, such as choosing the path of surrender rather than control.
- We are all tempted daily to try to control everyone and everything in our life.
- Control is not our job, it is God's.
- Our heart is the center of our beliefs, choices, interests, decisions, etc. In every area of our lives we have the choice to lean against the supportive and sure word of God or to try to go our own way.
- Submission is a life lived in surrender and compliance before God- to keep our eye on Him for guidance and direction. If we live in surrender, God promises to direct and guide our paths.
- Control leads to anxiety. We cannot even begin to control everything. a life of controlling leads to a vicious cycle of effort, failure and fear.
- God took 25 years to fulfill His promise to Abram and Sarai. During these years they tried to take matters into their own hands and created much chaos, pain and conflict that has lasted for thousands of years.
- "We can have control or growth, but not both."
- Three questions to ask yourself about control:

1. Is it worth my concern?

We don't have to die on every hill.

2. Is it mine to control?

Submission does not equate to passing on our responsibilities

3. Is it for God alone?

Don't be anxious... present your requests to God... and the peace of God will guard your heart... writes Paul.

Prayer ought to always be our first step/thought

- When we surrender control to God, He fulfills his promises and guides our steps.

Scripture: Proverbs 3:5-6, Genesis 16:1-6, Philippians 4:6-7

Personal Application

1. Make a list of people and situations in your life that you most try to control. Pray for God's perspective and help in surrendering these things to Him.
2. Memorize Proverbs 3:5-6 this week. Print it, post it in a prominent place and review it daily... *"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."*

Discussion Questions: (conversations)

1. What (or who) is it that you are most trying to control? Why do you think it is difficult to give God control of these things?
2. What is your view of submission and surrender? What areas in life do you find this more or less difficult?
3. In what way(s) does Jesus model surrender and submission (Matthew 3:13-17, 4:1-11, 16:21-23, 26:1-75, 27:11-54, etc.)?
4. How might our choices (both individual and corporate) to submit to God's way, rather than controlling people and situations, have an effect the way people perceive us, the Church, and Jesus?

Life Groups

Use the discussion questions above (and others as you are led) as you study the areas of submission and control. Is there a way in which your group could choose (and pursue) submission together?

Children & Families

Discuss submission, trust and control with your children. Share with them the submission and trust Jesus gave to His Father (see conversations) and the ways you choose submission in marriage, work, family, etc. Have them draw pictures of situations in their life in which submission is important.

Other Resources

A Beautiful Defeat: Find True Freedom and Purpose in Total Surrender to God: by Kevin Malarkey, Matthew Jacobson

Total surrender to God: the surprising key to experiencing the sense of peace and purpose you crave. There is a gnawing feeling inside all of us that says we could be better. If we would just be more organized or work a little harder, we'd finally have the rich and fulfilling life we want. But the message of the cross is different. The message is not one of God saying, "I died for your sins to work as a consultant to help you achieve the life you're determined to have." Jesus died to reconcile us to God so that we can die and give our lives to him and to others—a total surrender that is truly *a beautiful defeat!* Perspective and peace in the midst of the stormy chaos of life are always available to the person who lives a surrendered life. The result is a rich existence basking in the pleasure and approval of God.