

Respect the Autonomy and Freedom of Others

Our society is getting more controlling. Governments are wanting more control to bring about the agenda of 'the elite'. People are wanting the government to have more control of others so they can have things done the way they (the individuals) want it. People are being excessively litigious, taking others to court in lawsuits, so they can control them by forcing them under the law to do what they want.

Control, control, control.

Not so with the Kingdom. There is no control there because control is a tool of the enemy. Father's love (not agapē) produces freedom and liberty, not control. We aren't Father's slaves – we're sons he loves dearly. We are to operate in the same way out of his genuine love.

This is why Peter gave the injunction not to control others.¹ He commanded the 1st century believers not to tell others how to live their lives or control them. That means others are to be responsible for themselves.² His injunction, of course, is modified somewhat for apostolic overseers and parents, but they are not to want to determine the lives of those they oversee.

Paul put this into practice with the *ekklesia* he generated in Asia Minor. He'd go to a town where the Gospel of the Kingdom hadn't been preached by one of the Apostles and he'd speak about it there. A group of people would be drawn into the Kingdom and he'd stay teaching and discipling them for a few years. Then, he'd set elders in place and leave them to Holy Spirit and the King to look after them. He'd take his hand off them because they were responsible as individuals and as an *ekklesia* to forge their own way ahead in tandem with the Trinity.

Here's a recent reminder that this IS the way the Kingdom is to function today:

*"It is futile to try to manage those things that are beyond your ability to control. Everyone has been given the option to decide and choose, yet there are times when you want to hijack that right and intervene where you have no authority to do so. I call on each one to respect the autonomy and freedom of every individual without judgment."*³

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(Readers will need to look up for themselves any scriptures alluded to in this document)

1 – 1 Peter 4:15

2 – READ: canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/02-Meddling-is-a-Hindrance.pdf

3 – "Small Straws in the Soft Wind" (13-12-2020) ft111.com/smallstraws.htm

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