

“Control yourself!”

Who controls your body?

Can you...

- **Wiggle your nose?**
- **Wiggle your ears?**
- **Move your hair like a cat moves its tail?**
- **Change the color of your hair by thinking about it?**
- **Change your heart?**

Can you change someone else 's heart?

What can we really do?

1

“Control yourself!”

Who controls humanity?

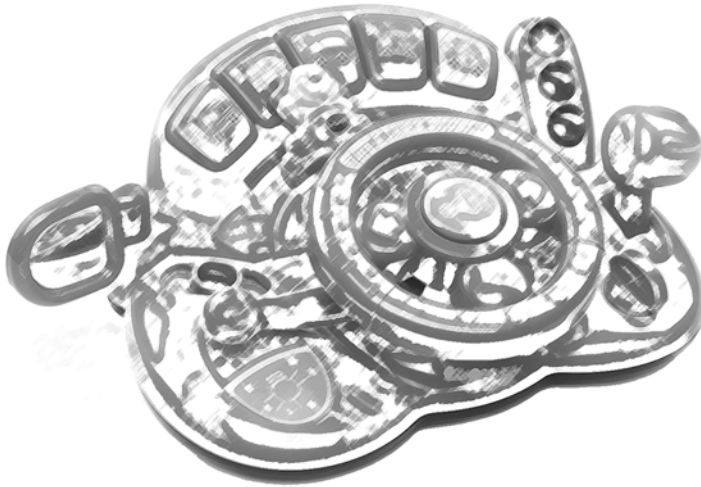
A year ago...

- **Who could see the pandemic?**
- **Who knew we would be 9+ months online for church??**
- **Who could foresee the divisions over race and politics?**
- **... that video recordings of actual events would only increase the divide?**

What power do you and I have to control or change humanity?

Let us ask God for His wisdom and instruction

2



Pathetic Pride

Proverbs 19:20—21

bib.ly/Pro19.NIV
tiny.cc/cmchandouts

3

We so often imagine...

- **If it doesn't make sense to me, it doesn't make sense**
- **The more convinced I am, the more certain it is that I am right**

**A fool doesn't listen to ideas contrary to one's own
 which is the only way to learn
 and grow**

Listen to advice
 and at the end

and accept discipline
 you will be counted among the wise.

Proverbs 19:20

4

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We so often imagine...

- Pain and difficulty are without value

**A fool doesn't learn through trouble
So a fool wastes all that hardship!**

Listen to advice and **accept discipline**
and at the end you will be counted among the wise.

Proverbs 19:20

5

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So a fool wastes all of that struggle!**

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and at the end **you will be counted among the wise.**

Learn from others
Grow through trouble
and eventually we will...

Gain wisdom → far more than decision making
→ skill/ability to live well in any situation

Gain the fruits of wisdom
→ peace, provision, knowledge → worth more than gold!

Proverbs 19:20

6

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and at the end you will be counted among the wise.

Proverbs 19:20

7

Only a fool denies that...

- **people have power to make things better**
- **people have power to make things worse**

**A fool thinks that the power of people
can prevent the purposes of God**

Many are the plans in a person's heart,
but it is the **Lord's purpose** that prevails.

The Lord foils the **plans of the nations**;
he thwarts the **purposes of the peoples**. *Proverbs 19:21*

But the **plans of the Lord** stand firm forever,
the **purposes of his heart** through all generations.

Psalm 33:10-11

8

No person is saved
by the size of...

Bank account
Intellect
Attractiveness
Skill

Determination
Relationships
Cultural intelligence
And on and on...

“No king is saved by the size of his army;
no warrior escapes by his great strength.
A horse is a vain hope for deliverance;
despite all its great strength it cannot save.
But the eyes of the Lord are on those who...

Psalm 33:16-18

9

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And on and on...

“No king is saved by the size of his army;
no warrior escapes by his great strength.
A horse is a vain hope for deliverance;
despite all its great strength it cannot save.
But the eyes of the Lord are on those who **fear him**,
on those **whose hope is in his unfailing love.**”

Psalm 33:16-18

10

Listen to advice and accept discipline
and at the end you will be counted among the wise.

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but it is the **Lord's purpose** that prevails.

Proverbs 19:20-21

11

The Big Idea

**True good is only found
by humbling ourselves
before others
and before the unfailing love of God
for all who hope in Him**

12

Application

Humble ourselves before others

- Learn from others
 - Including those we tend to look down on
- Value different perspectives

**“The way of fools seems right to them,
but the wise listen to advice.” *Proverbs 12:15***
- But I always thought: “The wise don’t need advice!”
- The wisdom of the wise is listening, learning, and following wisdom, not just their own perspectives & ideas

**A wonderful gift in a diverse church: a greater wealth
of perspectives & ideas...if we'll humble ourselves**

13

Application

Humble ourselves before God

- His purposes so often don’t match ours
- His strategies so often don’t match ours
- His purposes will be accomplished
 - Ours only happen if they fit within His
- Look to the future with humility

...and hope

**“But the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him,
on those whose hope is in his unfailing love.”**

Psalm 33:18

14

The Lord foils the plans of the nations;
 he thwarts the purposes of the peoples.
 But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever,
 the purposes of his heart through all generations.

Psalm 33:10-11

**The Lord Almighty has sworn,
 “Surely, as I have planned, so it will be,
 and as I have purposed,
 so it will happen.”** *Isaiah 14:24*



**Like a child with a play steering wheel
 we foolishly think we're in control!
 In reality, “It is the Lord's purpose that prevails.”**

15

Application

Humble ourselves before God

- I **am not** saying...
 - It doesn't matter what we do
 - We should simply wait for God to do His work
- I **am** saying...
 - We should learn the purposes and strategies of God and join Him in that work

“Jesus gave them this answer: ‘Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.’ ” *John 5:19*

16

What is the work of God that we should join?

- “The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness” *Exodus 34:6*
- “The Lord works **righteousness and justice** for all the oppressed.” *Psalms 103:6*
- “For the Son of Man came to **seek and to save the lost.**” *Luke 19:10*
- “Father, **glorify your name!**” *John 12:28*
 “Jesus gave them this answer: ‘Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; **he can do only what he sees his Father doing**, because **whatever the Father does the Son also does.**’ ” *John 5:19*

17

The Big Idea

**True good is only found
 by humbling ourselves
 before others
 and before the unfailing love of God
 for all who hope in Him**

- **Humble ourselves before others**
- **Humble ourselves before God**

18

Pray

- **Confess that our hope is so often in people and things that cannot save, instead of in God**
- **Confess that sometimes we don't even hope in God**
- **Admit our need for...**
 - God's perspective, direction, and commands
 - God's power to help us join His work
 - God's work to accomplish His purposes
- **Join the purposes and strategies of God**
 - Build up His Church
 - Bring people to saving faith and to grow in His ways
 - Bring righteousness and justice
 - Glorify His name

19

“The eyes of the Lord are on those who **fear him**,
on those **whose hope is in his unfailing love.**”

Psalm 33:16-18

20