



Truth doesn't take polls. Truth doesn't care how one votes. Truth doesn't change—like it or not. In this series we will look at how the never-changing gospel can change the way we deal with reality.

These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.

1 The battle to be in charge has been waged from the beginning. Adam and Eve were seduced by the lie that they should take control of their lives, and their infected DNA has been passed on to all of us. We all have “empire desire” and want to build our own kingdoms. How have you noticed this to be true in your own life and how does our culture encourage it? What's the problem with thinking that you are actually in control?

2 I AM A recovering controlaholic. We all have a great motivation to establish order in our lives, and we all experience great frustration when that order is not realized. On a scale of 1 to 10 how would you rate your own experience with being a “controlaholic” and how might that compare with how those closest to you might rate you? What are some unhealthy ways our battle with “control” often manifests itself?

3 CONSIDER THE TRUTH... that life does not recognize your sovereignty. Life refuses to take orders from any of us. **Read James 4:13-15.** What are some of the presumptions we often make about life according to what James says in this passage? What can we do to guard against the sin of presumption (also see **James 4:16-17**)?

4 CONSIDER THE TRUTH... that God does not share His throne. Like it or not you and I were born into someone else's kingdom. **Read Psalm 103:19.** Wisdom acknowledges that control belongs only and always to God. How can giving up the “illusion of control” in your life actually lead

to freedom? Share an example of a time this has been true in your life.

5 SURRENDER THE THRONE... and you will love better. “Controlaholics” live with a constant irritation: people. Other people are constantly frustrating our plans, agendas, and preferences, refusing to align themselves with our will. As long as we seek control other people will always be the problem. How many of you are frustrated right now with someone who will not let you change them? What if we let God have the job of changing them, and our job was to love them? Talk about the difference that paradigm shift would have.

6 SURRENDER THE THRONE... and you will live bolder. Most people believe the goal of life is to die safely. However, with God in control we do not have to be cautious; we can be courageous (See **Acts 28:31**). Controlling outcomes is God's responsibility; pursuing obedience is ours. How can internalizing that truth revolutionize how you live your life?

7 SURRENDER THE THRONE... and you will praise bigger. “Controlaholics” act as if their circumstances are the deciding factor in determining how much worship God is due. But the truth is, we can praise God even in the difficult seasons of life. **Read Psalm 43:5.** What part of your life is out of control right now? What is one way you can praise God today even in the midst of circumstances you can't control or manage? Close your group time by expressing your praise to God in worship and prayer.

