

# KEYS FOR LIVING LIBRARY



THE ATTITUDE AND CHARACTER SERIES

# MANIPULATION

*Cutting the Strings That Control You*

## What Is God's Heart on Manipulation?

Manipulation is the way that our world system manages relationships. Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, and Rachel all chose to follow the ways of the world in using deceit and domination, selfishness and self-preservation as ways to get their *own way*. Have you been using the world's playbook to guide your relationships, or are you following the Lord's direction?

*"Do not love the world or anything in the world.  
If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them.  
For everything in the world—  
the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—  
comes not from the Father but from the world.  
The world and its desires pass away,  
but whoever does the will of God lives forever."*

(1 JOHN 2:15–17)

**The world says** there is no God, but God says He has made Himself plainly known to everyone.

*"They know the truth about God because he has made it obvious to them. For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God"* (ROMANS 1:19–20 NLT).

**The world says** follow your heart, but God says guard your heart.

*"Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life"* (PROVERBS 4:23 NLT).

**The world says** make your own plans, but God says that He has good plans for you.

*"I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future"* (JEREMIAH 29:11).

**The world says** it's okay to do whatever you want, but God says if it causes your brother to stumble, don't do it.

*"If what I eat causes my brother or sister to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause them to fall"* (1 CORINTHIANS 8:13).

**The world says** it's okay to "save your own skin" or lie to keep yourself out of trouble, but God says He detests lying and delights in truth.

*"The LORD detests lying lips, but he delights in those who tell the truth" (PROVERBS 12:22 NLT).*

**The world says** it's okay to shirk your responsibilities, but God says each of us must do our own part.

*"Each one should carry their own load" (GALATIANS 6:5).*

**The world says** it's okay to hold a grudge or get even when you're angry with someone, but God says to forgive as He forgives you.

*"Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you" (COLOSSIANS 3:13).*

**The world says** that bitterness and slander is acceptable when you've been wronged, but God says to put away bitterness and slander and to be kind and compassionate.

*"Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another" (EPHESIANS 4:31–32).*

**The world says** to get what you can any way you can, but God says ill-gotten gains profit nothing.

*"Ill-gotten treasures have no lasting value, but righteousness delivers from death" (PROVERBS 10:2).*

**The world says** to conform to its ways, but God says to be transformed and to seek His ways.

*"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will" (ROMANS 12:2).*

## Go Deeper

Want to learn more about this topic? Check out the *Keys for Living Library* to discover biblical hope and practical help on this topic and many more. The *Keys for Living* are designed to help you—and help you help others—overcome difficulties, grow in maturity, and move forward in life.

Thank you for your interest in Hope for the Heart. We pray God will encourage, equip, and empower you with His life-changing truth.

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P.O. Box 7, Dallas, TX 75221  
hopefortheheart.org