

The Family Room

By: Dr. Roy Don Whitehead

A Need to Control Hurts the Marriage

John controls Mary. (All characters are fictitious.) Mary is not even aware that this is happening, and John would deny it if anyone pointed it out to him. Even though the two are not aware of this, their marriage is being damaged by John's need to control.

How does John control Mary?

1. He controls the money. Though Mary works, she gives her paycheck to John and he deposits it in their joint account. It is a joint account in name only because John carries the checkbook and writes all the checks.

When Mary asks questions about their finances, John tells her, "Trust me, honey. Everything is OK." John gives Mary an allowance each week, and, if she needs more, she has to ask him for it. "Sometimes I do feel like an eight-year-old," she admits.

2. John also controls who Mary's friends are. If he does not like one of her friends, he lets her know that, "I know he doesn't like my friend Sheila," Mary says. "Every time I come home from being with her, he gives me the silent treatment. That is hard to endure, so I have been seeing Sheila less and less." John's method of control is subtle but effective.

3. He also tries to control the amount of time Mary spends with her family.

"I don't see my mother and sister as much as I used to," Mary acknowledges. "John is always angry with me after they call or when I visit them, so it is easier for me to not go than to put up with his anger."

John is never violent. When angry, he may be silent and emotionally withdraw or make sarcastic comments. He does not have to be violent to control Mary.

4. Mary is intimidated by John, and this adds to his ability to control her. John is six feet four inches tall and weighs 225 pounds. Mary is five feet six inches tall and weighs 135. When John raises his voice to her, which he does occasionally, she is scared of him. "I don't really think he would hurt me," she says, "but he sure does seem scary when he is like that."

Mary's mother also had a loud voice, and she feels the same way with John that she felt as a little girl with her dad: scared.

5. John is very critical of Mary, and this also adds to his control. She feels so bad about herself that she has no confidence. She believes she needs someone to tell her what to do, and John happily obliges. "You don't have any common sense," John told her when they were shopping for her a car, so he sent her home and made the decision himself. "You talk too much when other people are around," he tells her, therefore she keeps quiet when company comes. "Other people aren't interested in what you have to say," John tells her.

6. John makes all the major decisions for the family. He decides what car to buy and in which house they will live. When Mary wanted to register her daughter for Girl Scouts, she had to ask John's permission. "He would have been mad if I had done it without asking him," she reports. John decided where they would attend church. "I don't really like the church," Mary confided in a friend, "but John is happy there so that is where we go."

With put-downs and intimidation John keeps Mary in line. They have been together ten years, but how much longer can this marriage last?



Brandon and Becky Powell would like to announce the birth of their daughter, Kelsey Victoria Powell. Kelsey was born January 12, 2001 at Central Baptist Hospital. She weighed 6 lbs. 11 ozs. and was 18 1/2 inches long. She was welcomed home by one sister, Kleine Rebecca. Her paternal grandparents are Carl and Sylvia Powell of Richmond. Maternal grandparents are Tommy H. and Libby Burdette of Brodhead and Dr. George and Charlotte Griffith of Mt. Vernon.



Thomas Joel Deatherage of Mt. Vernon and Bethany Clark of Brodhead would like to announce the birth of their son, Aaron Thomas Deatherage. He weighed in at 9 lbs. 10 ozs. and was 22 1/4 inches long. He was born on March 23, 2001 at Pattie A. Clay Hospital in Richmond. Maternal grandmother is Joyce Phillips of Brodhead. Maternal great grandparents are Lloyd Phillips and the late Alma Rae Phillips, the late Ralph Clark and Irene Clark, all of Three Links.

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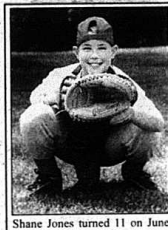
Livingston High Class of '59 holds reunion

Livingston High School Class of 1959, and their spouses, had their 42nd reunion on May 26, 2001 at Home-town Cafeteria in Berea. Those attending are pictured above, back row from left: Teresa Philbeck, Curt Bond, Walt Ballinger, Deloris Ballinger, Bob Pangburn, Leola Allen Huffman, Sara Moore Taylor, Eugene Taylor, Pattie Ponder, and Paul Ponder. Seated from left: Barbara French, Bradley French, Janice Mullins Pangburn, and Estill Philbeck.

Everyone enjoyed a wonderful time in food and fellowship, and we are planning another reunion in 2002. Those that didn't attend this year were missed and we hope you can come next year.



Haley Marie Hopkins, daughter of Michael and Emmie Daugherty Hopkins, celebrated her first birthday on March 29, 2001 with a Precious Moments party at her home in London with family and friends. Haley Marie has two brothers, Joseph and Wesley. Those celebrating were: maternal grandparents Roy and Telvis Daugherty, paternal grandparents, Leo and Patsy Hopkins, her uncle Marcus Hopkins, cousins Jordan and Justin and two church friends.



Shane Jones turned 11 on June 15th. Shane thanks everyone for a great birthday party. Thanks for a pretty day, thanks for the gifts, for the food, and a special thanks for Mom and Dad, Rodney and Jonimae Jones of Rt. 1 Brodhead.

Veteran Benefits Available

By: Homer Vanover
Veterans Benefit Field Rep.

You may be entitled to receive benefits from the Federal Veterans Administration that may include compensation for disease or injury received while in service. Pension for war time veterans, survivor benefits and assistance with medical expenses. Rockcastle County receives over 2 million dollars per year from Veteran benefits.

The Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs provides counseling and assistance to Veterans and dependent in filing claims for state and federal veterans benefits. This is a service provided by the commonwealth. There is no charge or fee of any kind. A Veterans Benefit Field Representative will be at the Rockcastle County Courthouse in Mt. Vernon on July 3rd from 10-2 p.m. For further information, please call 1-877-773-7747 to speak with a Veterans Benefits Field Representative.

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