

Discussion Questions:

1. From our Reflection Assignment last week: How have you seen the “Battlefields” of Depravity demonstrated by the men you know? How have you (or others) encouraged or discouraged nobler character in them?
2. In what ways are women suited to nurture the human race?
3. What are the benefits of the feminine capacity to nurture in the lives of other people?
4. Why is being nurtured so appealing to men? How can it help them or hurt them?
5. How can nurture become a means of control?
6. Can you think of situations in your life (i.e., worklife, marriage, parent/child relationship, extended family, friendships) where you are trading nurture for control?

*We are greatly indebted to Robert Lewis of Fellowship Bible Church for the basic ideas

Reflection Assignment:

Look for evidence of your desire to **Trade Nurture for Control**. For example, do you find yourself “doing everything”—maybe because others don’t do it “right”? Or, are you regularly frustrated by other’s resistance to your plans or your advice?

Passage to Ponder this week: Proverbs 31:30

Week Nine Summary...

Most of us know people of very strong personality. These are folks who have great strengths of character which can be powerfully positive traits but, when misapplied, can become their greatest weaknesses. For example, a visionary, dynamic leader can damage relationships when *people* get in the way of her direction. Depravity works that way. It takes our most positive potentials and bends and twists them until they do more damage than good.

One of the greatest strengths of women, in general, is our capacity to nurture. Not only are we biologically equipped to bear and sustain life, we are emotionally and psychologically wired to care for the people around us—whether we are mothers or not. We are the givers of life, the keepers of the hearth, and the preservers of relational ties. What a hugely valuable contribution!

Unfortunately, depravity has introduced a dark side to our nurturing nature. We look at those we love, and we KNOW what would be **good** for them. So, we launch campaigns to make that **good** happen. An almost irresistible urge drives us to use our nurturing skills to manipulate the people and circumstances around us. It's as if we are making a deal with the world, "I will take care of everything, and in exchange, I expect to be in charge." Others may respond in one of two ways: They may let us make all the decisions and "take care of everything," in which case they lose our respect. Or, they may resist us, either actively or passively, in which case they frustrate or anger us. It's a "no-win" situation for them *and* us. How does that work in your life?