

Home Group Notes
Week of February 4, 2024
2 Peter 1: "You CAN Have it All" week #5 – Self-control



WHAT KIDS DO

If you have been around children, you know that sometimes they do things that lack self-control. What comes to mind?

LEARN FROM GOD'S WORD

We are walking through a letter in the Bible, written to (1) encourage believers to live in the knowledge and grace of God, (2) to be people of holiness and godliness, and (3) to warn them of false teachers and to be prepared for the difficult days ahead. This letter could be written to the church today. These same challenges and dangers are in our culture and the same grace and knowledge of God is just as needed.

Peter said in chapter one, that the result of adding certain qualities is that "we can become partakers of the divine nature." We can grow to be more like Jesus. Each week we are spotlighting one quality that Peter says to add to our genuine faith. The sequence looks like this: Add to your faith, goodness (excellence), to goodness add knowledge, to knowledge **add self-control**. The Greek word for "self-control" is *egkrateia*: "Self-control, self-restraint, to exercise mastery over oneself, esp. control of one's own emotions, desires and actions. Gene L. Green suggests that this means "being constrained by conviction rather than passion. (Green, 2 Peter Baker commentary).

Read the following passages and consider what we learn about "self-control / self-restraint."

Proverbs 16:32

Proverbs 25:28

1 Corinthians 7:5

1 Corinthians 9:27

Galatians 5:23

2 Timothy 1:7

What does the Bible say about the natural desires of people (the flesh) in Galatians 5:17-21? How are these about self-control?

Many believe that much of self-control is about controlling our bodies. This includes eyes, mouth, and sexual organs. In each of the following sins from 2 Peter 2, which part of the body lacks self-control?

- 2:14
- 2:12-13, 19
- 2:2, 14, 18

APPLY IT THIS WEEK

Self-control is essential to living the life God wants for us. But we all wrestle with self-control. The Scriptures give us three keys to self-control: (1) trusting in the power and leading of the Holy Spirit, (2) prayer, asking God, and (3) teamwork with God's family (i.e., building trust and transparent relationships with other believers). Which of these are most needed in your life?

DISCUSS TOGETHER

Do you think that biblical self-control (self-restraint) is valued in our culture? Why or why not?

In Acts 24:25, Paul spoke to Felix about self-control and judgment. How are these connected? Why do you suppose that Felix reacted as he did?

How is "self-control" essential to a disciple (1) living a "godly life" (a life of reverent devotion), (2) participating "in the divine nature," and, (3) to escaping "the corruption in the world caused by evil desires?" (See vs. 3-4)

PLEASE PRAY

- That our Trinity family will show love and hospitality to every person, especially to guests
- For our Pastor Search Team and Elders who are praying and considering candidates
- For our Light and Power members, servants, and their outreach in our community
- For middle-schoolers returning from camp and high-schoolers preparing for camp