

Life on the Vine
Self-Control
September 7, 2014

"Like a city whose walls are broken down is a person who lacks self-control."

Proverbs 25:28 (NIV)

General comments about the fruit of the Spirit:

1. The Holy Spirit's role is to _____.
2. My role is to _____ to _____.
3. The fruit of the Spirit are intended to be _____ - _____.

Obstacles to true self-control:

1. The unbridled _____ of _____.
2. The subtle message hidden in the saying, "_____ in _____."
3. _____ within the church, or the notion that you are not _____.

Cultivating true self-control:

1. True self-control is a product of _____ to _____.
 - Luke 9:23-25
 - Romans 12:1-2
 - James 4:7-10
 - Romans 7:15-8:3

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Reflect and Respond

- Our culture clearly reflects a drive for filling our lives with pleasure. How has this cultural defect influenced my life? Are there areas where my desire for happiness has exceeded healthy limits?
- Consider the phrase: "Moderation in all things." In what areas of my life does this teaching provide value? Where might that advice be destructive?

Have I allowed that kind of thinking to water down my zeal for the things of God? Am I holding back from God any areas in my life? What are they and what is keeping me from going "all in?"

- What are the sources of legalism within the church? In what ways has legalism affected my life, or those who have not yet placed their faith in Christ?
- Romans 12 exhorts: "offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God..." It has been said that the only problem with that is living sacrifices like to crawl off the altar. What areas in my life make me susceptible to crawling off the altar and living my life according to my agenda?
- Read Romans chapter 7:15-8:3. In what ways do I identify with Paul? Make a list of as many ways that Jesus sets people (me) free?
- Read 1 Peter 1:13-16. Where does true holiness come from? What is my part in living a holy life? What resources do I have to help me live a holy life?

Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written:
"Be holy, because I am holy."

1 Peter 1:13-16 (NIV)

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