

Oaks-West church of Christ

Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 a.m. & 5:00 p.m. • Bible Study: 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.

Services are live-streamed to our website: oakswestchurchofchrist.com

SEP 1, 2024

Self Control Is Fundamental

by Ken Weliever

“Never did a great man produce so little,” wrote William Barclay in describing the life of the English poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834).

Barclay further substantiated his charge writing, “He left Cambridge University to join the Army; he left the Army because he couldn’t rub down a horse; he returned to Oxford and left without a degree.”

“He began a paper called The Watchman which lived for ten numbers then it died. It has been said of him: ‘He lost himself to visions of work to be done, that always remained to be done’. Coleridge has every poetic gift, but one—the gift of sustained and concentrated effort.”

“Coleridge is the supreme tragedy of indiscipline,” concluded Barclay.

The opposite of this vice is the virtue of self-control. It is fundamental to our faith. Peter said so in the listed ladder of virtues in 2 Peter 1:5-9.

But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. 8 For if these things are yours and abound,

you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.

This quality is included among the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23. “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.”

The adjective form of this word is used in Titus 1:8 as one of the qualities for an elder. He must be self-controlled.

The apostle Paul uses the verb form of the word, translated “temperate” in some versions, in comparing the Christian life to the discipline and training exercised by an athlete. “Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.”

Self control is “the virtue of one who masters his desires and passions, especially his sexual appetites.” Barclay says that self-control “is the ability to take a grip of one’s self.” It is a virtue of which

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends. We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

Important Dates

Gospel Meeting with Steven Locklair at Junction Highway in Kerrville, September 22-25

Gospel Meeting with Mark Roberts at Northwest in Austin, September 27-29

Our Gospel Meeting with Ruben Amador is scheduled for October 13-16

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.

ancient Greek writers often spoke and wrote. Aristotle defined self control as the ability to subjugate our passion to reason.

The old KJV renders the word temperance. The Message translates it discipline. Barclay uses the term “self-mastery.”

Theologian Douglas Moo defines it as “the ability of the human being to act entirely of one’s own free will without being subject to the whims and pressures of other people, competing philosophies, or one’s own emotions.”

Leadership guru, John Maxwell once defined self control as “the choice of achieving what you really want by doing things you don’t really want to do.”

The virtue of Self-Control has application in every area of our lives. Mentally. Emotionally. Physically. Relationally. And spiritually.

Self control...

- ...regulates what we read.
- ...governs our thoughts.
- ...curbs the lusts of the flesh.
- ...supervises what we watch on TV.
- ...restricts our surfing on the internet.
- ...limits wasting time.
- ...bridles the tongue.
- ...deters anger, wrath, and clamor.
- ...subordinates emotional impulses.

Furthermore, Self Control...

- ...enables us to set priorities and follow through on what is most important
- ...promotes positive action.
- ...improves work ethic.
- ...enhances relationships.
- ...produces sound fiscal stewardship.
- ...values time.
- ...exercises its talents, gifts and skills.
- ...seizes opportunity.
- ...builds character.

Finally, the words of the wise man in Proverbs 25:28 ring true when self-control is not developed.

Whoever has no rule over his own spirit
Is like a city broken down, without walls.

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Prayer Requests

Jack Wilson is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

Dinah Williams continues to have mobility issues.

Don Simmons is at home and on constant oxygen. He also has a wound on his leg and is seeing a wound doctor.

Terry Behrns is recovering at his sister’s home

Jay Parker’s father has cancer. His mother has had some recent health problems as well.

Jimmy Stinnett is struggling from his leukemia and is under treatment.

Jerry Richardson is undergoing radiation treatments for lymphoma.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,” (Ephesians 6:18)

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord’s body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord’s will.

We are not a part of any larger organization – we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

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