

“ADD TO YOUR FAITH” (2 PETER 1:5-7) SELF-CONTROL

The word “self-control” is also translated “temperance.” C.S. Lewis wrote, “One great piece of mischief has been done by the modern restriction of the word Temperance to the question of drink. It helps people to forget you can be intemperate about lots of other things” (*Mere Christianity*). Indeed, Lewis makes a valuable point. There are many ways the Christian must practice “self-control” in his Christian walk.

We must control our words.

The Christian should not be one with “loose lips” or who “goes off.” The

Christian must learn to use his tongue wisely, not allowing anger to lead to sin (James 3; Ephesians 4:29-5:4).

We must regulate ourselves sexually. One who engages in sexual relationships outside of Scriptural marriage is not exhibiting the proper type of self-control in this area. God expects us to act within His guidelines (Matthew 19:4-9; 1 Corinthians 6:18).

We must be disciplined in our spending habits. The one who “loves money” loves this world. Such a love causes us to forget the eternal God in favor of temporary possessions

(Matthew 6:19-24; Colossians 3:1-4).

We must control our minds.

In the list of elder’s qualifications in 1 Timothy 3, the term “temperate” is followed by the word “sober-minded.” One who exhibits self-control also has a sober mind. A lack of self-control starts with a failure in thinking. Can alcohol contribute to a failure to think clearly? Absolutely. For this reason, the one who seeks to exhibit “self-control” should avoid any drug which alters the mind and, thereby, weakens our ability to make sound decisions as Christians. *Joshua R. Welch*

WHY MY FAMILY NEEDS THE BIBLE A FAMILY COMPASS

God knows what is best for families. He created “woman” in the garden to be with “man” and instituted the basic structure of the home at the very outset of humanity (Genesis 2:18-25). Some believe the principles of Genesis 2:24 were simply for the first couple. However, the very wording of Genesis 2:24 suggests God’s anticipation of the replication of this familial formula throughout all time. The text says, “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother...” What “father” or “mother” did Adam or Eve leave? None. This passage looks forward to all families after Adam and Eve who must “leave father and mother” to “be joined” to their spouse.

Over the course of history this family paradigm has not grown outdated. Jesus Himself quoted from Genesis as He was questioned about marriage (Matthew 19:4-6). In harmony with the Savior’s

teaching, His apostles taught about marriage and each person’s role in family relationships as well (1 Corinthians 7:1-3; Ephesians 5:22-6:4; Colossians 3:18-21).

Sadly, we live in a world which has decided God’s way is no longer relevant. Many start families before or without marriage—a reversal in order of the Biblical pattern for procreation (after marriage, not before or without, leading to fornication). Others end their marriage by divorce and begin a new marital relationship for any reason (ignoring what God says about being “joined together” and often committing adultery). There is a growing push in the United States to legalize same-sex marriage (violating the Scriptural precedent of “male and female” and resulting in homosexuality). These trends are becoming so common it can be difficult to find a family built on God’s standards.

Yet, as we are awakened to the fruits of our self-inflicted family wounds we will see why our families need God’s guidance so badly. Men and women are hurting. They are depressed and broken-hearted to see their marriage, security and years of their lives wasted by the pain of sin in marriages. Others are dealing with the guilt connected to the wreckage of their sinful pasts. Children are lonely, unguided and morally confused. Some in single-parent homes are rarely able to spend quality time with their parents. The family burden is unshared and the children often carry the heaviest of loads. They are left to learn morals by themselves, learn how to be good husbands and wives with little example. It is taking its toll on our families.

We need to get back to God’s basics for the family. He knows best. Follow His plan for your life. *Joshua R. Welch*

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