

Cultivate Self-Control in a Culture of Out of Control

November 10-11, 2018

INTRODUCTION: "Just let people do what they want."

Proverbs 25:28 (All verses from the New International Version 1984)

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

Opening Prayer

Holy Spirit, I pray that this day you will fill me with yourself and cause your Fruit to ripen in my life: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Amen.

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- Titus 2:11 ***For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people.***
1. **Self-control is a response to God's grace.**
- Genesis 39:6b-10 ^{6b} ***Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, ⁷ and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!" ⁸ But he refused. "With me in charge," he told her, "my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care. ⁹ No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?" ¹⁰ And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her.***

- Titus 2:12a ***It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions.***

2. The battle for self-control is first won in the heart and mind.

- Matthew 26:38-39 ³⁸ ***Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." ³⁹ Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."***
- Titus 2:12b ***It teaches us...to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age.***

3. Self-control is a process of God’s Spirit working through you.

- Genesis 39:20b-21 ^{20b} ***Joseph's master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined. But while Joseph was there in the prison, ²¹ the LORD was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden.***
- Titus 2:13 ***While we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.***

CONCLUSION: Guts or Grace?