

Ep. 1423: What kind of Self-Control is Really Required of a Christian? (Christian Character Series – Part V)

<https://christianquestions.com/character/1423-self-control-part-v/>



God has granted everything needed for life and godliness through His promises. These promises form the foundation of Christian character. Our response is allegiance—loyal commitment to God’s will. 2 Peter 1:5-7 is used throughout the questions.

Overarching Question: Why does the Apostle Peter place self-control after knowledge, moral excellence and faith in the “ladder” of Christian character development? How does this order impact the way Christians should grow?

1. Why is it necessary to bring our passions under allegiance to God? Utilize the sense of the Greek word, *egkrateia* (self-control/inner mastery), in your answer.
2. Choose any of the following scriptures—Proverbs 15:1, Ephesians 5:15-16 or 2 Corinthians 5:20—and reflect on a time when your response did not align with these principles. When you face moments of temptation or frustration, what practical strategies can help your response more fully reflect the ideals in these verses?
3. Jesus showed the apostles (and us) profound self-control in John 4:30-34, and even more so in Matthew 27:12-14, 1 Peter 2:21-23, and Matthew 4:1-11. How do we follow his example? (1 Corinthians 6:12; Matthew 12:33-35) What does this reveal about choosing “the next most important thing” in your own discipleship?
4. How does Paul’s analogy of the athlete illustrate the intentionality and the limitations required for spiritual self-control? (1 Corinthians 9:24-27) List three limitations or boundaries you can intentionally set this week to avoid unhelpful habits or impulsive reactions in your daily routine.
5. Where do you see the difference between freedom and self-indulgence in your own life, especially in areas where society encourages “making your own truth”?
6. Consider what is currently controlling the direction of your life. How do these passages—John 6:38, Mark 14:34-37, and 2 Corinthians 5:14-16—redefine what *should* be controlling it?
7. How does self-control apply to Christian leaders? (Titus 1:7-9, Galatians 5:23)
8. How is self-control both a fruit of the spirit (Galatians 5:23) and a personal responsibility for Christian growth (2 Peter 1:6)?
9. Self-control is the pivot point where inner transformation becomes outward action. What is one area of life where applying self-control would immediately open the door to deeper spiritual growth?
10. Why is self-control the next quality after knowledge?