

Sermon Notes - Sunday 5th July 2020

The Fruit of the Spirit

Self Control – ἐγκράτεια (enkrateia) /self mastery

Galatians 5: 22- 26; 1 Peter 5: 8 – 9; Psalm 1; Proverbs 4: 23 -27; 2 Peter 1: 3 – 9; Ephesians 6: 10 – 18; Genesis 4: 1 - 12

How do you think that the qualities that are mentioned in Galatians 5: 22 – 26 complement one another?

“The last quality, **enkrateia**, self control, is neither Godward nor manward, but more properly selfward.” Alan Cole, Galatians, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries. What is meant by this?

The Spirit and Human Nature. “For what our human nature wants is opposed to what the Spirit wants.” (Good News Bible). The flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit (NIV Bible). Did Paul have anything specifically in mind when he mentioned self control, taking into account the context he was writing in?

“God’s chosen people are to practise a distinctive way of life which will act as a rebuke and magnet to the surrounding nations.” David Smith in Encounter with God SU notes. This was and is demanded of God’s people. How do we act as a magnet. Are we too timid to rebuke?

In the light of the reading in 1 Peter 5: 8 – 9, how seriously do we take spiritual warfare?

Developing a Christian mind. What can we do to make this process more effective in our lives as individuals, and amongst other Christians?

How do you react to injustice?

“If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, *but you must rule over it.*” (Genesis 5:7)

To what extent does lack of self control account for some of the issues in our society, such as obesity, drug use, drunkenness, violence, racism, and corruption in political and social life?

Bibliography “The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe, C S Lewis.

If you have read the book, look it up on Wikipedia and discuss the section on the reception of the book.

Pray for self control in our lives, how we divide our time, our thoughts, and guidance on how we protect ourselves and our children.