

## Which Master?

### The Fruit of the Spirit Self-Control

Text: Romans 6:18-23; 7:14-15

The term self-control itself is a little misleading. It sounds as if we are capable of controlling ourselves, which is not what Paul had been teaching in Galatians.

Self-control actually signifies a self that is controlled, but not by the self, but by the Spirit.

Self-control as Paul uses the word, is personal will power under the dominion of the Spirit of God, control over oneself empowered by the strong might of the Holy Spirit.

How can self-control be achieved?

First acknowledge who is in control of your life God or Satan

We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one. 1<sup>st</sup> John 5:19

An uncontrolled will or self will just naturally drift down the path of least resistance.

The Bible tells us clearly in Exodus 34:7, in the days of Moses, the children were punished for the sins of their fathers.

Satan's way is easy, God's way is more difficult.

When the Apostle Paul named Self-Control in his fruit of the Spirit cluster, he means that our self-will "In His Spirit" is fighting against the current moving upstream by a power greater than the downward pull of Satan.

The greater the extent of the Lordship of Jesus Christ in our lives, the lesser Satan has power over us. Ref: 1<sup>st</sup> John 4:4

Rescue comes from God, who redeems us, pays for our release from slavery through the death of Jesus Christ on that cross at Calvary.

Every person has a Master, its either God or Sin? A Christian is not someone who does not sin, but someone who is no longer a slave to sin.

### Our Freedom Is Absolute, But It Is Also Conditional

Contrary to popular opinion, sin is not what you want to do but can't; it is what you should not do because it will hurt you and hurt you bad.

God is not a policeman. He is a Father concerned about his children. As a Christian you are a Son or Daughter of God.

If we tolerate sin, it will eventually lead to separation from the presence and blessing of God in your life. James 1:14,15

We can attain self-control by acknowledging that God is in control of your life.

Secondly, We Can Go For the Best Benefits We Can Get

Do not love the world or anything in it. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world, the cravings of sinful man, the lust of the eyes, and the boasting of what he has and does comes not from the Father but from the world. 1<sup>st</sup> John 2:15-17

You are free to choose between two Masters. But you are not free to manipulate or change the consequences of your choice. Ref: Romans 6:23

Each of the two Masters pays with his own kind of currency. The currency of sin is present separation from God and for the unbeliever eternal separation in a place called hell.