

Summer, 1995 Sus, France

What is Self-Control?

Gal 5:23 — Self-control can only be possible when one is under the grace of the Holy Spirit. Then one can and will *control himself* — his whole being — *just like* Messiah did. 1 John 2:6 — It will be no less self-control than He had because of Gal 5:24. The self can only be controlled by the *human spirit*, by the grace one receives from the *Holy Spirit*. Only then can love, joy, peace, patience, etc., be possible. There can be no love or joy or peace or patience *if the self is not controlled* — *crucified* — for self lives for its own desires. Gal 5:24 — The flesh is the fallen self-life of the condemned person who must obey the terms of the covenant, Rom 6:1-7. Parents who have no control over their son do not have the son's heart. It is like the Holy Spirit who represents the Father. If the Holy Spirit has no control of a man's human spirit, this man's self will *not* be controlled by God — and the fallen self will be in control of the person. To put it another way, the *person* will not be in control of his own *self*. There has to be a way of controlling self.

Since the fall of human nature the way back is for man to recover what he lost in the fall and be faithful to the covenant which has redeemed him — the blood of Messiah, the Redeemer. He can now be faithful since in Redemption man has received the Holy Spirit in his heart, 1 Cor 6:17, even though he still must deal daily with the fallen self or human nature, Luke 9:23.

The Good News is to be obeyed, Mark 8:34-35. If only there was a way provided for a person to *actually attain* to Mark 8:35 and *continue* — enduring in the life we are to live in the Body until the end, Matt 24:13. By this the witness of the Kingdom to the whole world would be a people who have actually obeyed the gospel and *continue* to obey the gospel daily. This can be done within the only confines where the Holy Spirit dwells — the Body of Messiah, the Community — where lack of self-control *hurts* and even *destroys* this "Temple" (1 Cor 3:16,17).

Consider the Consequences

In this new Temple, not built by human hands, Matt 12:30 is not without *repercussion* and it will be carried out with true justice. What do you think a person deserves who destroys the Body of Messiah? How great of a crime is it then not to be for or with Him — who is the *Builder* — and to build with Him — but instead destroying the *works of His hands*? Has anyone considered the consequences? The indirect effect of not being with the builders of His empire has *eternal repercussions* — at which one will recoil at His judgment of them.

There can be no rectification of a person who *indirectly* has a negative effect upon the building program the Son of God is carrying out with His elect on earth. There is no refining of the human nature that will not submit to the Sovereignty of the Messiah in absolute trust and confidence.

Once one has begun to destroy — tear down what Messiah is building up — he sides with Satan (2 Tim 2:26). We are either with Messiah or Satan. There is no neutral ground according to the word of Messiah Himself. Matt 12:30 is as it says, and so is Gal 5:24. It is according to whether we have crucified the flesh or not — if we *have* and do *daily* we can build with Him. If not we will scatter the works of *His hands*.

Scatter

Scatter is *indirect* in Matt 12:30. It is *a deviation* from direct course; not coming as direct effect, but as a *consequence*. So it was in the First Church where it took many *years of scattering* of those not with Him, Rev 3:4, to destroy the Temple to the ground. Titus destroyed the physical temple, and the *enemies* of God in the Edah destroyed the spiritual temple on earth

(James 4:4). 2 Cor 11:3,4, 13-15 was *indirect*. Titus destroyed the temple and the city in so many *months*, but the spiritual temple was destroyed in so many *years*.

Scatter = Disseminate, the opposite of *inseminate*, except by Satan's insemination. *Dissipate* — *disunity* — *separate*. This takes a process which is seen in the epistles over a period of years. *Scatter* means to spread, to sow seeds of dissension and complaint. Over a period of time this destroys, 1 Cor 3:10-17. Matt 12:30 is in conjunction with verses 31 and 32. The one who is *not clearly with us* is against us. If there is any *doubt* about a person, John 15:8 clears up who are His disciples. If someone is not entirely for Him it is plainly seen. Then he or she is against Him. We need brothers and sisters who are clearly on *our side* with Messiah and not working *against us* and Him — 1 John 2:19 — *Us* is His Body.

*Us* is His Temple. Not to be certain about a person and his motives is the uncertainty that causes division. Can your brother clearly say that you are with Messiah? If not, you are a *hindrance* — you must have some *reservation* about serving Him — *since you want your own way*. You are not with Him but are working against Him and His purpose to build up His Body, to build up His Temple (Mal 3:1). He will come to His Temple when His Spirit builds it for His habitation (Eph 2:22).

Are you on His side? Are you working for Him without reservation, without dragging your feet with doubt, hesitancy, skepticism. Serving Him in *reserve* is holding back — not giving 100%, as He gave — and it *proves* you do not know His love. So does *not trusting* Him in the Body, or the *elders*, or the *anointing*.

Reserve is to hang onto one's own life, Matt 16:24, as one hangs on to his own possessions.

Reserve is serving *with restraint*; the opposite of Acts 26:7. Reserve is aloofness, being close-mouthed, cold, cool, demure, undemonstrative, unsociable, unforthcoming, unresponsive.

Reserve is sharing without doubt that one has doubt and is not with Messiah. Not being with Him *indirectly* destroys, tears down the building that Messiah and all who are with Him are building. Self-control is the fruit of the Spirit, *not* the self-control that people could exert over themselves to do good and not do evil. This is the *fallen nature of man*. Gen 3:16-19 is the knowledge of good and evil, the natural law. But Rom 6:14 says it is by grace we submit to the Spirit's power to produce in us His fruit which is the control over one's own flesh which comes from our *regenerated spirit* in Him. 1 Cor 6:17 — But it is when we are in communion with Him, not just *union*, but *communion* — Rev 3:20, control over one's own self. That is the restoration of man. If one has control of one's self — then he by the same Spirit is able to love as He loved (John 14:34,35), thereby proving that we are His disciples.

John 15:8 and 13:35 — Without the *fruit* there is no *proof* that we belong to Him (Gal 5:24), because all who belong to Him have *crucified what causes the Body* to be *divided* — which is the flesh, the almighty flesh by which Christians justify their disunity and put off unity until we all get to heaven someday. John 17:23 is to be fulfilled in this *present age* (Acts 3:21).

Self-Control in All Things

1 Cor 9:24-27 — Self-control in all things is *necessary* if one is to endure to the end, Matt 24:13, as disciples to be a testimony *to all*, verse 14. Without self-control it is impossible to please Him, 1 John 3:22. Even Paul said that even after enlisting others for the race he would be *sidelined* if he did not exercise self-control. Self-control in all things *means all things* — that means Heb 12:1.

So self-control — is it *self* that is in *control* of your actions? Self-control — or is it the *self* that needs to be *controlled*? Which did Paul mean? *Which self*? Your new self or your old self? Should it read, *flesh control*, since verse 24 says the flesh is crucified with its passions and desires? Should I read the self is *crucified* with its passions and desires? Why the difference? Or is there a difference?

*Control* means *command*. The self is in command, or *is to be commanded* (controlled), dominated, reigned over, ruled, curbed, restrained. Gal 5:19 starts with the works of the flesh and lists many works of the flesh — verses 20,21. Verse 22 lists the fruit of the of the Spirit. The only way the Holy Spirit can fully control my life is when the *flesh is crucified*, only then is it possible to produce these graces or gifts or fruit of the Spirit.

*Patience* is hard to pretend long. Only if the Holy Spirit is in *control* — not one's flesh — can we have the grace and ability to be empowered by Him to act for the welfare of those taxing our patience. The grace of the Spirit works in us the ability to be *like* our Master. When our flesh is crucified the *abrasiveness* is also cut off from our character or human nature, 1 Tim 6:11. As gentleness is your *strength under control* — so is the self under control of the Spirit and our passions under control.

The person whose strength or self is under control possesses the quality to pardon injuries and rule his own self. One expresses self-control in all things, unless he is disqualified or becomes disqualified. We can become disqualified — 1 Cor 9:27. *Become* indicates being one who does not exercise self-control but quits practicing Luke 9:23 and lets the *flesh rule him*. He lets his *self* rule in place of his *spirit*. Self is the human nature without the Holy Spirit ruling in his spirit. Self-control is self-denial.

1 Cor 10:1-13 — Self-control. Israel of old had redemptive experience which typified water baptism and the Breaking of Bread. This is what verses 1-4 signify, but many sinned and were destroyed (Rev 3:4). 1 Cor 11:32 — and these same lessons apply now with us, 1 Cor 10:11-13. The fall of the First Church is *clear* — Rom 11:22 — even as they were *warned*.

Instead of confessing your lack of self-control in a certain area — confess your unwillingness for your Master to come into your heart and take charge of you, Rev 3:20. To be lacking in self-control in any part of your life is to be lacking in *love* also — and the joy and peace which flows from love. With this love we are patient with a faulty brother and we pardon *injuries* — 1 Cor 13:4-7. Unless this is true in our lives, we are nothing but *abrasive*, useless men to God our Father who abundantly provides all things for us who ask in readiness to receive. So we can live for Him; to do His will and not live for ourselves.

We know when self is motivating us. Self rules us — or self is being ruled by us. Then when self is being ruled by us we are under the King's rule. Our spirit is in communion with His — Eph 4:30; 1:13; 1 Cor 6:17; and Rev 3:20,21. Rev 3:21 is the way we rule with Him now and in the ages to come.