

SERMON SERIES: THE DIFFERENCE HE MAKES

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Sermon title:

“The Difference He Makes: SELF-CONTROL”

Introduction

This week we are concluding our series The Difference He Makes. We are talking about the last fruit of the Spirit, self-control. Throughout this series, we have been able to focus on how the Holy Spirit works in us and through us to make a difference in our lives. This week, as we focus on self-control, we have a chance to hear from Scott Beckenhauer and his dad, Jerry, together.

- Have you ever tried to teach a pet a new trick or seen an animal do a trick? Share your story, and consider how self-control is something that even pets learn from time to time.

Seek the Word

Read Galatians 2:20.

- What might this verse mean when the author says that he has been “crucified with Christ?”
- What does it mean to live by faith in the Son?

Read John 13:34-35.

- How is loving others an example of self-control?
- How does this passage help us understand the character of God better?

Go Deeper

Do a short word study on “self-control” as it is used in Galatians 5:22-23. Using your Bible, a concordance, a Bible dictionary, or online tools will be helpful. Answer questions like “what did this word originally mean?” and “Why did the author choose this word?” Consider looking at where else this word is used in Scripture.

Talk About It

- Is self-control an easy fruit for you to bear? What tends to make it more difficult?
- When was the last time you intentionally displayed self-control?
- How does self-control help us lead others to Jesus?
- Is there a situation coming up this week where you can practice self-control?

Wrap Up

Reminder: Self-control allows God’s love to be known to others.

Challenge: Take a minute to think through the situations that are most difficult for you to show self-control in. Create a short list of action steps you can take when that situation occurs, writing it on a sticky note or paper. Place this list somewhere visible to help you remember that self-control allows God’s love to be known to others.