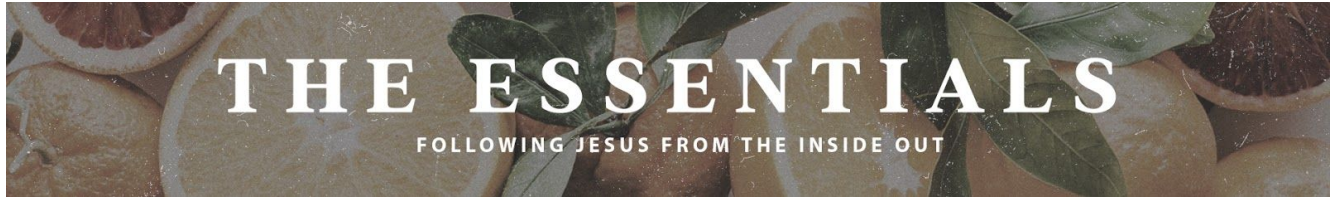


BEYOND SUNDAY: November 29, 2020



Series Page: wearepcc.com/theessentials Message: Self-Control

The Essentials 9-week series will focus on what it means to reflect the character of Jesus. Each week, we will wrestle with one of the essential characteristics of Jesus with the hope of it bearing fruit in our lives as we become more dependent on the Spirit to lead us. This week our focus is on the final fruit of the Spirit, which is self-control, along with what we have learned from this series.

#1

This week's speaker and Lead Pastor, Gary Gaddini, helped explain the importance of self-control by using the illustration that "self-control is like a basket that holds all the other fruit." What does that mean to you? He goes on to define self-control as sacrificial stewardship for the glory of God. This includes the sacrifice of laying down our rights, and stewardship in managing all our resources for God. What, then, is the counterfeit of self-control?

#2

See [Proverbs 25:28](#). From what you know about Old Testament history what purpose does a wall around a city serve? How is self-control like that wall? What is it **inside you**, or **about you** that needs protecting?

#3

In his book, [Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit](#), Christopher J. H. Wright states that "God is not tempted in any way by evil. So in that sense (self-control over evil desires) this is not a quality of God." He goes on to say that "self-control is something that we need, **not something God has to exercise.**" This idea might seem controversial. Is God not exercising love and self-control today in keeping His promise not to destroy the earth again after the flood, as seen in Genesis 7? In Genesis 18 and 19 was God not holding back/exercising self-control in displaying His wrath on Sodom and Gomorrah? It's OK to disagree here -- we get to exercise gentleness, kindness, and self-control while discussing this in our groups! Let's put into practice what we've been learning.

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#4

Using your New Testament knowledge, make a list of the times Jesus exercised self-control while here on earth. Which one stands out to you and why? For extra credit give the Bible reference with your answer. Note: Self-control gives us the power to respond to situations (like Jesus did), and not just react or grit your teeth in holding back.

#5

Gary made the statement in his message, “What if I told you that having self-control isn’t God keeping you from something good, but protecting you from the very things that will destroy you?” (See [2 Timothy 3:1-5](#)). So in what area of your life do you need self-control? What action does [Psalm 139: 23-24](#) encourage us to take? According to [Galatians 5:22-23](#) who is the one producing the fruit?

#6

Series takeaways: Thinking back to the previous messages in this series: The Essentials and the chapters in [Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit](#) by Christopher J.H. Wright, which of the nine fruits most resonates with you and why? What new insight did you learn in this series? What verses have you claimed that will help you stay connected to the super-power, the Holy Spirit?

Actions

- Ask God to help you walk in the Spirit daily so you can bear fruit
- Ask God to help you hear from Him during our Advent Series: [A Weary World Rejoices](#)
- Participate in our [Christmas Community Outreach Opportunities](#)
- Join a [House Church](#)