

# king's chapel

## *Community Group Discussion Guide*

Week of August 13, 2017

**This Week's Focus:** Jesus displayed perfect self-control by submitting himself to the Father's will, living a Spirit-empowered life of obedience to God's law, and purchasing our freedom from sin on the cross so that we can live God-glorifying lives marked by 9 elements of the Fruit of the Spirit.

**This Week's Text:** Galatians 5:16-24; Proverbs 25:28; 1 Corinthians 9:25-27; Psalm 19:7-11

"The fool is characterized by lack of self-control. A breached city, which has no wall is defenseless... [A] person whose spirit has no restraint, paradoxically presents a person who has uncurbed psychic vitality within him like an attacking enemy from without. His unchecked animal drives plunder him like an attacking enemy. His salvation is to embrace the Lord and his wisdom immediately for his defense and for victory. Wisdom, which is a divine grace attained by faith, not native power, fortifies the inner self and so safeguards its possessor." **Bruce Waltke**

### **Observations and Questions for Discussion:**

- What was the major issue Paul was addressing in his letter to the Galatian church? What were the Judaizers teaching was the formula for salvation? Like the Galatians, are you relying on your moral performance (living under the law) to solidify your relationship with God?
- What is the Fruit of the Spirit, and what is its source? Why does Paul describe these 9 elements as a single fruit? How is the Fruit of the Spirit different than natural temperament?
- Discuss the difference between biblical self-control and the world's brand of self-control. What is at the heart of secular self-control?
- What is the chief enemy of self-control (and all the other characteristics of the Fruit of the Spirit)? Martin Luther described sin as "man curved in upon himself." What is he driving at? Give some examples of good things (gifts from God) that we use to gratify our sinful desires, and thereby exalt ourselves.
- What is wisdom and how is it related to self-control? How does self-control in the form of obedience to God fit into our salvation?

- Discuss the following ways that we practically exhibit self-control.
  - Avoiding sin
  - Repenting when I sin
  - Meditating on Scripture
  - Pursuing Jesus Christ
  - Humbling myself to the needs of others
- What is the pathway to self-control? Who does Scripture lead us to? Discuss how Jesus displayed perfect self-control when he purchased our freedom from sin. Are you resting on Christ's work as your motivation for loving God and loving others?