



Road Trip

Part 4: The Road Less Traveled

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1 Peter 4:7-11

The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray. ⁸ Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. ⁹ Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Marks of Self-Control

Self-control is an outward expression of an inward reality

Can you identify self-control in your life?

Knowing God (*Mark 12:29-31; John 17:3; Fear of God is the beginning of wisdom*)

Knowing Self (*Luke 1:19; Knowing who you are and who you are not*)

Life by the Spirit Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

What comes against self-control?

Distraction

Discouragement

Deception

Disobedience

Desire (*Psalms 66:18, Romans 7:8, 1 Peter 2:11, 1 John 2:16-17*)

(Continues on back)

We Need a Course Correction

Peter's reflection in the garden...

To **remain** is to **abide**: to remain stable or fixed in a state; to continue in a place; to continue unchanged.

- An abiding word (*John 15:3,7*)
- An abiding prayer (*Matthew 6:6-13, Matthew 26:41*)
- An abiding obedience (*John 15:10-14*)

Peter's experience is our gift.

"Be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray."

Next Steps

- Spend 10 minutes praying and 10 minutes reading the Bible each day this week. This is a way to begin "abiding." You might start reading in the Book of John in the New Testament, or any of the scripture passages referenced in this outline.
- Spend time this week reading John 15:1-17. Then answer the following questions for yourself:
 - a. Am I "cleaning myself" with the word of God? (*verses 3 & 7*)
 - b. Is there fruit in my life as a result of remaining in Christ?
What does it look like?
 - c. Is there any unforgiveness in my life that I need to take care of?
(*verses 12 & 17*)

Group Life Discussion Questions



1. Do you have any personal goals that you are currently working on? What are they, and how's it going?
2. What do you think are some of the biggest areas that people want to bring under control in their lives?
3. Which of the following fruits do you think others see as evidence of God being alive in you?
Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.
4. Are there some areas that you would like to bring under God's control in your life right now? What are they?
5. Jesus says in John 15 that you must remain in me if there is to be fruit in your life. What do you think it means to remain in Him? What might this look like in your life this week?
6. How can we pray for you today?