

Five Traits of Kingdom Citizens—Part 2

“Self-Control”

Matthew 18:7-10

Self-Control = Walking in the Spirit (cf. Jer. 31:33ff; Ezek. 36:25-27ff; Gal. 5:16-26)

those who practice = a life characterized sin (cf. 2 Cor. 13:5)

I. Jesus’ W_____ (v. 7)

- a. **Woe** = *ouai* (οὐαί) = “disaster, horror, or how dreadful”
 - i. It’s an interjection, but it becomes a divine declaration of God’ coming Judgment when Jesus uses it (cf. Matt. 11:21ff; 23:13-29; 24:19; 26:24; Luke 17:1-2)

b. Fallen W_____

- i. All of Creation is cursed because of man’s sin (Rom. 8:20-22)
- ii. **stumbling block** = *skandalizō* (σκανδαλίζω) = “to cause someone to stumble or cease believing,” “a trap or a snare” (cf. Rom. 14:13, 19, 21; 15:2; 1 Cor. 8:1-13)

c. Fallen M_____

- i. Just because the world is broken, we still have no excuse for our own personal sin or causing someone else to sin (cf. Rom. 1:18-20; 3:23; 6:23)

- d. Although God is sovereign, we are all still personally responsible for our sins and our behavior (cf. Matt. 26:24; 2 Peter 1:10-11; Rom. 3:23; 6:23)

- e. **Holy Spirit Empowered Self-Control is essential to keeping us from tempting others to sin.**

II. Jesus’ W_____ (v. 8-9)

- a. These verses are a close repetition to Jesus’ teaching on lust and adultery in His Sermon on the Mount (cf. Matt. 5:27-30)

- b. Although He’s speaking to His disciples, Jesus still mentions the eternal fire of hell to increase the power of His message
- c. Jesus is in **NO WAY** suggesting or endorsing physical mutilation
 - i. This is hyperbole to show us how seriously God takes our sin
 - ii. That as horrifying as losing a hand, foot, or eye should be, the thought of falling into the hands of an angry God should be magnitudes higher!
- d. Our unconditional salvation does NOT give us a license to sin! (cf. Rom. 6:1-2)
 - i. But we often return to our sin (cf. Prov. 26:11; 2 Peter 2:22; Mark 8:34-37)

- e. **Holy Spirit Empowered Self-Control is essential to keeping us from sinning ourselves.**

III. Jesus’ W_____ (v. 10)

- a. **these little ones** = Jesus’ spiritual children (cf. 1 John 2:1, 12, 18, 28; 3:7, 18; 4:4; 5:21)
- b. **despise** = *kataphroneō* (καταφρονέω) = “to despise, to scorn, to look down on” or “to feel contempt for someone”
- c. **their angels** = does NOT mean Guardian Angels (cf. Ps. 91:11; Dan 10:10-14; Luke 1:19; Acts 12:15; Heb. 1:14; Revelation 2:1-3:22; 8:2)
 - i. However, it does show how serious Jesus’ Warning is, especially in the context of His disciples’ arrogance! (Phil. 2:3-5ff; 2:12-13; Ps. 15:1-4; Rom. 14:3; 1 Cor. 11:20-22; 16:10-11; 2 Cor. 10:10; Gal. 6:1-2; 1 Thess. 4:6; Titus 2:15; James 2:1-8, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:16; 1 John 3:17-18)

- d. **Holy Spirit Empowered Self-Control is essential to Kingdom Citizens experiencing the Humility of Jesus Christ our Lord.**

