



“ALIGNING WITH THE NINE”
***CORPORATE AND INDIVIDUAL GROWTH AND
DEVELOPMENT ON THE ATTRIBUTES OF THE HOLY GHOST***
CORPORATE FOCUS ON TEMPERANCE
Session One

Vessels of Honour Church, Inc.

2020 – 2021

TEMPERANCE

LAST BUT NOT LEAST

- TEMPERANCE FALLS IN THE THIRD SET OF THE NINE ATTRIBUTES OF THE HOLY GHOST
- IT IS ONE OF THE VIRTUES LISTED AS A GENERAL CHARACTERISTIC TRAIT IN THE LIFE OF A BELIEVER ALONG WITH FAITHFULNESS AND GENTLENESS
- THE GREEK WORD “*egkrateia*” MEANS THE MASTERY OVER SINFUL HUMAN DESIRES AND THEIR LACK OF RESTRAINT
- IT REPRESENTS THE SELF-FULFILLMENT AND POWER NEEDED TO KEEP US OUT OF SLAVERY AND THE “YOKE OF BONDAGE”
- TEMPERANCE REQUIRES TOTAL SURRENDERANCE TO GOD’S WILL. THIS INITIALLY FEELS LIKE A LOSS OF CONTROL (BECAUSE IT TRULY IS!) BUT AS WE LEARN TO EXERCISE SELF-CONTROL GIVEN TO US ONLY BY THE HOLY SPIRIT (UNOBTAINABLE BY OURSELVES/FROM OURSELVES OR FROM OTHERS) WE THEN RELY ON HIM FOR THAT WHICH IS IMPOSSIBLE IN OUR OWN STRENGTH

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- As we are exploring the virtue or attribute of the Holy Ghost, “temperance,” this lesson calls for reflection after key segments.
- Several online sources are used to assist in the study material and their references are credited.
- During each “purposeful pause” everyone should have a notebook or some sort of electronic source that allows for memo taking
- The following three questions should be answered:
 - Concerning what I am learning about temperance; what should I:
 - STOP DOING
 - KEEP DOING
 - START DOING
- Answer these questions for yourself, and then for our church, for the body of Christ abroad, and as citizens in our current land

EXAMPLE OF ASSESSING YOUR BAROMETER ON TEMERANCE

TEMPERANCE	I WILL STOP DOING	I WILL KEEP DOING	I WILL START DOING
FOR MYSELF			
FOR VOH			
BROAD BODY OF CHRIST			
AS BEING "IN" THIS WORLD BUT NOT "OF" THIS WORLD			

EXAMPLE OF ASSESSING YOUR BAROMETER ON TEMERANCE

TEMPERANCE	I WILL STOP DOING	I WILL KEEP DOING	I WILL START DOING
FOR MYSELF	I am going to stop assuming that I know what temperance is	I will continue to study this lesson and pray for God's insight concerning temperance	I going to start questioning my motives differently than I have in the past
FOR VOH	I am going to stop judging others' lifestyles against my own to make myself seem better than them	Keep praying with my brothers and sisters in Christ and ask them for feedback on my behavior	I am going to strive to be an example of the attribute of temperance by testifying specifically about it when given opportunity
BROAD BODY OF CHRIST	I am going to stop making assumptions that others are wrong and that I am right without question	I will continue to pray for the Peace of Jerusalem and their needs as God's chosen people	In my daily prayers, I am going to include that temperance be developed in full strength so the Body of Christ can be fitly joined together in this world.
AS BEING "IN" THIS WORLD BUT NOT "OF" THIS WORLD	I am going to stop thinking I have a pass on this attribute just because I have the Holy Ghost	I will continue to use my prayer time and accountability partner to help me become stronger in this area.	Start deliberately testifying that I am NOT of this world and that I have ACCESS to the attribute of Temperance differently than the "nice" non-believer.

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- Throughout scripture we see the battle of self-control described as an ongoing war between the spirit and flesh.
- “For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.”
Galatians 5:17
- Paul goes into great detail on the subject in Romans chapter 7: “For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.” – Romans 7:19
- The flesh is that voice in your head that tells you, “If it feels good do it.”
- It tells us that we need things when we don’t, and if we followed it we’d sleep too late, eat too much, and eventually come to poverty.
- That’s where the heart wants to lead us.
- The Spirit is the voice that leads you in truth.
- The closer you walk with God, and the more time that you spend in His presence the more that you become aware of His will in your life.
- His covenant is written upon our hearts and our minds, but there’s a battle within each one of us, as Satan wants to pull us away from our faith.
- And how does he do that? Most of the time it’s with arguments that make a whole lot of sense in the moment, but in the long run they always lead to destruction.

TEMPERANCE

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- Adam and Eve were given one commandment—only one.
- They could eat from every tree in the garden, but one was forbidden to them. Satan is cunning. He came in the form of a serpent to tempt them to disobey God. Eve said, “God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.” (Gen. 3:3)
- And the serpent said unto the woman, “Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.” (Gen. 3:4-5)
- Part of that appeared to be true—they didn’t die a physical death that day. They went on to live for many years, but the real truth of the matter is that they experienced a spiritual death **the moment/second** they chose to disobey God.
- God doesn’t lie, but scripture can be distorted and it’s often twisted to fit our agenda.
- The minute that something doesn’t make sense to us, we want to figure out why. It’s good to be a deep thinker and to study the will of God.
- By all means, we should!
- But if we come to a cross road where we have to choose the wisdom of God over our ability to rationalize it, we must be willing to follow the Spirit!

TEMPERANCE

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- If we're only obeying God when it makes sense to us then we're living to serve ourselves, not the Spirit.
- God's laws don't always make sense to us, quite often they require us to step out of our comfort zone or to feel the sting of refinement.
- We live in a modern, self-centered society that encourages people to be happy at any cost.
- We're fed this idea that people are strong and in control because they do what they want, they say what they want, and they live anyway that they want to.
- Assuming that someone is strong because they do whatever they want to or whatever they feel like doing in the moment is foolish.
- It takes strength to bring your flesh under subjection to your spirit.
- Whether we're getting up early to dig into the Word, controlling our appetite because it's the right thing to do, or breaking off a relationship that's detrimental to our life, we're going to feel the sting that comes with refinement.
- The Bible compares the refinement of our faith to fire.
- It hurts. It stings. It's difficult to endure... But once you come out on the other side, you see that "joy unspeakable" is yours for the taking.
- Temporal happiness could never compare to the inner peace that comes from serving the Lord.
- There's an old Cherokee legend about two wolves at war.
- It's good food for thought on the topic of self-control.
- One night a grandfather was teaching his grandson about life.
- "A fight is going on inside me," he said to the boy.
- "It is a terrible fight between two wolves. One is evil – he is anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego."
- He continued, "The other is good – he is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith.
- The same fight is going on inside you – and inside every other person, too."
- The boy paused to think for a moment before looking up at his grandfather. "Which wolf will win?" He asked.
- The wise man simply replied, "The one that you feed."

TEMPERANCE

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- **Hearing that story, reminds us of the scripture that says, “And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.” – Galatians 5:24**
- **Those who walk in the Spirit walk according to the wisdom that they’ve been given.**
- **In other words, they make choices day after day to put away sin.**
- **When we fall, we praise God for His unfailing grace, but we stand up again and get back in the race.**
- **Putting away sin starts with a decision, and then it calls for self-control. Scripture after scripture talks about the virtue of self-control.**
- **It talks about controlling our appetites, about greed, and how our bodies are temples of the Holy Ghost.**
- **It talks about crucifying the flesh and anything else that controls you.**
- **Many of our habits are okay in an of themselves, but the overuse of them can be detrimental to our walk of faith.**
- **Remember, a virtuous person isn’t ruled by their passions—they passionately pursue an incomparable God.**
- **<https://timewarpwife.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/VirtueStudyGuide2.pdf>**

BIBLETOOLS.ORG TOPICAL STUDY ON THE WORD – “TEMPERANCE”

- **1 Corinthians 9:27**

- **In the New Testament, the most common Greek word for self-control (temperance, KJV) is *enkrateia*. Its root meaning is "power over oneself" or "self-mastery." Self-control, in its widest sense, is mastery over our passions. It is the virtue that holds our appetites in check, controlling our rational will or regulating our conduct without being duly swayed by sensuous desires. Moderation is a key element in self-control.**

• **Martin G. Collins**

Self-Control

BIBLETOOLS.ORG TOPICAL STUDY ON THE WORD – “TEMPERANCE”

- In Galatians 5:23, "self-control" (*temperance*, KJV) is the translation of the Greek word *enkrateia*, which means "possessing power, strong, having mastery or possession of, continent, self-controlled" (Kenneth S. Wuest, *Word Studies in the Greek New Testament*, "Galatians," p. 160). *Vincent's Word Studies of the New Testament* adds that it means "holding in hand the passions and desires" (vol. IV, p. 168). The word thus refers to the mastery of one's desires and impulses, and does not in itself refer to the control of any specific desire or impulse. If a particular desire or impulse is meant, the context will indicate it.
- Self-control is comprehensive in practical application to life, but the Bible does not use the word extensively. It is implied, however, in many exhortations to obedience, submission, and sinless living. The noun form is used only three times, the verb form twice (I Corinthians 7:9; 9:25), and the adjective form once (Titus 1:8). The negative form of the adjective is used three times. In II Timothy 3:3, it is translated "without self-control [*incontinent*, KJV]"; in Matthew 23:25, "self-indulgent [*excess*, KJV]"; and in I Corinthians 7:5, "lack of self-control [*incontinency*, KJV]."
- Another Greek word, *nephalios*, has the same general meaning, but it generally covers a more specific area of self-control. It is often translated as "temperate" or "sober." Even though its root condemns self-indulgence in all forms, the Bible's writers use it to refer to avoiding drunkenness.
- Despite self-control's obvious importance, we should not limit our understanding of these words to merely the stringent discipline of the individual's passions and appetites. These words also include the notions of having good sense, sober wisdom, moderation, and soundness of mind as contrasted to insanity.

ASSESSING YOUR BAROMETER ON TEMERANCE

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