

When the Bible speaks of being self-controlled, it is within the context of a bigger picture...

Photo by: Kolby Schnell's. www.flickr.com

As believers, we are required to live differently. We are to be self-controlled; appreciating the pleasures of this world in moderation and as the Lord intended. The Bible makes numerous references to this fact, and it is something that is generally understood in Christian circles. While the theory is relatively simple, actually putting it into practice is a different animal. If we took a second to think, I have no doubt that we could all list a number of areas in our current lifestyles that we so wish were different.

another time). Possibly, the reason that we struggle with the same issues week after week is that our focus is wrong. The emphasis in popular Christian culture, I believe, is on behaving well. If we have our life in order by attending church once a week and not sleeping around, then we are doing okay.

When the Bible speaks of being self-controlled, it is within the context of a bigger picture. The goal is not self-control and mastering each and every area of our lives so that we can get a pat on the back. The reason that we need to be self-controlled, is the very same reason we came to this faith in the first place –to bring us to the realisation that our lives are not about us.

Being in control of yourself, being in true control of yourself will only come when you begin to understand that this story is not about you. We are called to greatness in Him, and therefore are in ourselves great! When that realisation sets in of who we are in Christ and where we are

going with Him, we will find a new kind of strength to draw on – one that at first feels new to us, but as it grows will help guide us through every difficult situation.

Being truly self-controlled is about living a lifestyle of saying, 'Not my will, but Yours be done' and finding that on the other side of that lies life as we never thought possible! Let's stop trying to be better, and rather be awesome as we begin to fully understand who we belong to and what it means to give ourselves over to Him. □

SELF CONTROL

By Scott Ferriera



Why then, do we not get it right?

From what it says in His word, we should be! Due to the work that Christ did on the cross, the power of sin is broken over our lives. Sin, being a broad term for anything that is not in alignment with God's will and plan for our lives, can range from the obvious (poor eating habits, chasing or misusing money and sexual immorality) to the not so obvious (which is a discussion for