

Without Self-Control, Brutal, Despisers of Good? (*Really?*)

Purpose: to show that in these last days men will have no self-control, become brutal and even despise what is good, and to encourage believers not to slip into this pattern of behavior.

Are people in the world today getting better or worse? Is the behavior of mankind improving, or are we seeing more violence and more hatred? Are people losing control? Here are 3 more ways that we are told would increase in these last days:

2 Timothy 3:3

...unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, ***without self-control, brutal, despisers of good,***

Are these three linked? Let's see:

Without self-control - what does it mean? How is it manifested? (How do we see this in society?)

- Greek: akratēs from α, negative, and κρατος, power.
- Literally, "without strength;" that is, without strength to resist the solicitations of passion, or who readily yield to it. (Albert Barnes)
- Without power, which means without the strength to resist passions; no ability to control fleshly appetites.

Other translations describe it this way:

Uncontrolled; no self-control, out of control, violent, incontinent, impulsively wild, slaves to their desires.

This is the direct opposite to the fruit of the Spirit:

Galatians 5;22,23

22 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. **23** - Against such there is no law.

What happens when men have no self-control? Men become fierce/brutal.

- **Brutal** – what does this mean?
- *anēmeros* - not tame, savage, fierce (Thayer)
- Like beast of prey – applying cruelties and barbarities – particularly against believers. It is said that religion produces gentleness; the want of it makes men rough, harsh, cruel.

What happens when there is no self-control and people are fierce? They hate anything that is good!

Despisers of good – what does this mean?

- Greek: *aphilagathos* - opposed to goodness and good men (Thayer)
- This means that many will not like good works and they will not like anyone who does good.

So, men will have no self-control, become brutal and despisers of good.

Can this happen to believers? Yes! We have no self-control when we are not yielding to the Holy Spirit. This is the reason why so many believers are overcome by sin and bad behavior.

Romans 7:14-24

14 - For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin. **15** - For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. **16** - If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that *it is* good. **17** - But now, *it is* no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. **18** - For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but *how* to perform what is good I do not find. **19** - For the good that I will *to do*, I do not do; but the evil I will not *to do*, that I practice. **20** - Now if I do what I will not *to do*, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. **21** - I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. **22** - For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. **23** - But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. **24** - O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

When sin continues without true repentance two things happen:

- We become defensive and begin to behave badly.
- Sin becomes a stronghold and increases. We become multiple offenders – in other words, we continue to sin and become worse. This is why some are caught up in things like pornography and why some are angry, or can never admit to wrongdoing.

James 4:1-12

1 - Where do wars and fights *come* from among you? Do *they* not *come* from your *desires for* pleasure that war in your members? **2** - You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. **3** - You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend *it* on your pleasures. **4** - Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. **5** - Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"? **6** - But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "GOD RESISTS THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE." **7** - Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. **8** - Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *you* double-minded. **9** - Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and *your* joy to gloom. **10** - Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up. **11** - Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the

law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. **12** - There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge another?

We must be careful not to follow the pattern of the world:

Ephesians 4:17-32

17 - This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind,

18 - having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;

19 - who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

20 - But you have not so learned Christ,

21 - if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus:

22 - that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,

23 - and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,

24 - and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

25 - Therefore, putting away lying, "LET EACH ONE OF YOU SPEAK TRUTH WITH HIS NEIGHBOR," for we are members of one another.

26 - "BE ANGRY, AND DO NOT SIN": do not let the sun go down on your wrath,

27 - nor give place to the devil.

28 - Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labour, working with *his* hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.

29 - Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

30 - And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

31 - Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamour, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.

32 - And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Summary

- As the world gets further away from the true God, we are seeing more people without any control over their emotions, passions, lusts and selfish desires.
- We are also seeing more cruelty in their pursuits of their passions and in their hatred toward the things of God, even to the point of hatred toward anything that is good.
- This is the world that we are living in, but we must as the Lord to help us, so that we do not end up doing the same things that they do.