

Tree of Life "Self-Control"

June 17-18, 2017

Community:

1. With Father's Day being this past weekend, what fatherly figures (father, grandfather, uncles, brothers, etc.) have made the biggest impact on your life?
2. What is the biggest lesson you have learned from your father or father figure?

Core:

1. Jim said we may not be experiencing spiritual growth because we are either, (1) not connected to Jesus (in spite of what we claim) or (2) our life with Jesus is being choked out by the worries of this world and the deceitfulness of wealth. Do either of these possibilities resonate with you? Are you now (or have you ever) experienced these in your life?
2. **Read Galatians 5:22-23.** "Self-Control" comes from the Greek word *egdratia*; meaning temperate, self-controlled, or continence. Consider the five areas of life we have been looking at (1) Sexuality (2) Relationships (3) Health (4) Emotions and (5) Finances. Run them through the following filter: "Do I have these under self-control, or am I an addicted victim, enslaved by someone or something else and can't control it?"
3. When looking at our financial lives, does the way you earn, and choose to spend, your money line up with a life that claims to belong to Christ Jesus? Have you seen a change in the way you handle money as you become more rooted in Jesus? Where do you want to see change and more self-control?
4. **Read Matthew 6:21 and 24.** Where is your treasure? What does your bank statement reveal? Have you ever found yourself trying to serve two masters? Why do you think it's impossible to serve both God and money?
5. **Read Matthew 6:31-34.** What are some steps you can take to worry less about things beyond your control? How can you better "seek first" the kingdom of God; making that a priority in your life and your finances?
6. Think about these two statements: "Trust God first, use money" and "Trust money, use God." Which one of these statements more accurately describes your financial life? Do you seek to use your money to serve your own purposes or God's purposes? What is one thing you could do to move closer to being rooted in Jesus financially?

Challenge:

Take time this week to work through this: (1) What do you think Jesus would tell you to do differently with your money? (2) Where you have been off in your financial life, according to what God says is best for your money? (3) Commit to "trust God and use money" through the end of July.