

# sermon notes

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Pastor Tony Caffey, VBVF | Fearing Deity & Defying Stupidity  
Oct 20, 2024 | “Self-Control as a Way of Life” | **Proverbs 25:1–28**

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- 1) Self-control resists \_\_\_\_\_  
(25:1–7)
  
- 2) Self-control harnesses \_\_\_\_\_  
(25:8–15)
  
- 3) Self-control overcomes \_\_\_\_\_  
(25:16–28)

## Questions for further application of God’s Word:

### GO DEEPER

What are the different collections of Proverbs (see 1:1; 10:1; 22:17; 24:23; 25:1; 30:1; 31:1)? How is Collection V (25:1–29:27) similar to and different from the other collections? What role did King Hezekiah’s men play in gathering/collating this collection?

Read Proverbs 25:1–28. This section of Proverbs emphasizes self-control. Why is self-control important for a believer? How does the NT reinforce the concept of self-control that is found in the OT? Is it possible for a person to demonstrate self-control without the Lord’s help? How does the Holy Spirit cultivate self-control in a Christian’s life? See the following article entitled, “10 Key Bible Verses on Self-Control” to help you with these questions:

<https://www.crossway.org/articles/10-key-bible-verses-on-self-control/>

### GET PERSONAL

What does self-promotion look like in today’s world? Is it wrong for a Christian to be ambitious? Is it wrong for a Christian to seek a promotion at work? What about advanced degrees? How do we avoid the trap of sinful self-promotion that is found in Proverbs 25:6–7 and Luke 14:7–11?

Consider Solomon’s words in 25:21–22: “If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat, and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink, for you will heap burning coals on his head, and the Lord will reward you.” Is this a universal principle for every situation, or is this a truism that is situational? How would a Christian go about applying this verse? Who are some “enemies” of yours that you could express kindness towards?

### PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

God told Cain that sin was crouching over him and that he must master it (Gen 4:7). Was it possible for Cain to “master” sin? Is it possible for us to master sin? How can you leverage the church community to help you with your battle against sin? If Christ was able to master sin for us, why do we even need to pursue self-control as a Christian?

### ADVANCED QUESTION

Solomon writes, “It is the glory of God to conceal things, but the glory of kings is to search things out” (25:2). What does God conceal? Are kings or other people of prominence the only people that can search out the secret things of the Lord? Should we seek after the things that God conceals?