



PRAYING OUR WAY FORWARD

 We are One in Christ
PNW Conference Devotional • Day Seven

SCRIPTURE

Galatians 5:22-23, NRSV

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.

REFLECTION: SELF-CONTROL

By Rev. Mary Huycke

Love calls forth self-control. It is the management of one's power for the sake of right-relationship.

Truly caring about someone pulls us beyond our own self-absorption and self-defined reality. Truly wanting to hear what someone has to say, leads us to limit how much space we take up in a conversation. Wanting to understand the meaning behind their words, leads us to be open to and curious about how that they see and experience the world. We listen, not to formulate a response, but to hear. And, when we speak, it is to lay our understandings alongside theirs, that in our differences a fuller picture might emerge.

Self-control allows the Body of Christ to function as a unified body. It trusts that God's wholeness comes from bringing together our differences, not erasing them. When a pair or group relates in this way, it is the holiest of moments. New and undreamt of pathways emerge.

A natural outcome of following the Way of Jesus – the way of love – is self-control --mindful action and interaction with the intention of serving the life, health and the well-being of others, of self, and of creation.

Cont.

PRAYER

God, you are God and I am not. Help me trust the future you are bringing. Help me remember that its fullness requires us all – even those I would dismiss. Grant me both courage and restraint and the wisdom to know which is needed in the moment.

Amen.