

I have a friend who...is Self-Centered

May 23 & 24, 2009

What's the Bible say about selfishness?

- **People curse those who hoard their grain, but they bless the one who sells in time of need.** Proverbs chapter 11 verse 26 (488)
- **Whoever gives to the poor will lack nothing, but those who close their eyes to poverty will be cursed.** Proverbs 28 verse 27 (502)
- **If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion, how can God's love be in that person? Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.**
1 John chapter 3 verses 17 & 18 (942)

Love is the greatest virtue

Three things will last forever - faith, hope, and love - and the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians chapter 13 verse 13 (878)

- Love is the greatest, NOT knowledge or being right or politics or race or gender, etc.

Christ-followers are to love all people

- **Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them.** Romans chapter 12 verse 9 (866)
- **Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, and you say, "Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well," but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do?** James chapter 2 verses 15 & 16 (931)
- Love = seeing a need & meeting it

Selfishness is the opposite of love

- **Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. Love does not demand its own way.** 1 Corinthians chapter 13 verses 4 & 5 (878)
- Love & selfishness cannot co-exist!

Confronting my selfishness is a spiritual battle

Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.

You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.

Philippians chapter 2 verses 3 - 5 (900)

- Notice that God's speaking to ALL of us in these verses
- We all start life being selfish

God alone gives me the ability to live an unselfish life

- **The Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.**
Galatians chapter 5 verses 22 & 23 (893)
- **Jesus died for everyone so that those who receive His new life will no longer live for themselves.** 2 Corinthians chapter 5 verse 15 (884)

(over)

Cooperating with God to deal with my selfishness

Admit your selfishness - *If we confess our sins to God, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. 1 John chapter 1 verse 9 (941)*

- It always starts with me owning & admitting MY sin
- *If I had not confessed the sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.*
Psalm 66 verse 18 (442)

Be intentional about your spiritual growth - *I have hidden Your word in my heart, that I might not sin against You. Psalm 119 verse 11 (468)*

- I don't just drift into spiritual growth
- I don't just drift into becoming less selfish

Study God's goodness & Jesus' selflessness - *Oh Lord, You are so good, so ready to forgive, so full of unfailing love for all who ask for Your help. Psalm 86 verse 5 (453)*

Ask God to make you more selfless - *Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it. James chapter 4 verse 2 (932)*

Surround yourself with worship music - *Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.*
Romans chapter 12 verse 2 (866)

Serve, serve...then serve some more - *Christ didn't live to please Himself.*
Romans chapter 15 verse 3 (868)

Surround yourself with "servers" - *As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.*
Proverbs chapter 27 verse 17 (501)

More...

For more about selfishness & how we can cooperate with God in bringing about change in our lives, spend some time studying the following verses:

- Genesis 4:9
- Matthew 22:39
- 1 Corinthians 10:24
- 2 Corinthians 8:9
- 2 Timothy 3:2-4

Next weekend: I have a friend who...struggles with being single