

Selfish

God warned of a terrible time when self would rule - 2 Tim 3:1-2 - **But mark this:** There will be terrible times in the last days. 2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy,

God warned when self would distort how we receive Him - 2 Tim 4:3-3 For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.

Selfishness has always been a characteristic of the world that God abhors - Ezek 16:49-50 - 49 "Now this was the sin of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy. 50 They were haughty and did detestable things before me. **THEREFORE** I did away with them as you have seen.

"Self-seeking" is a product of living in the flesh - Gal 5:19-20 - 19 The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions

Selfishness is a dangerous quality that distorts a man's life - Luke 12:15-21 - 15 Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." 16 And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. 17 He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' 18 "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.' 19 And I'll say to myself, 'You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.'" 20 "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' 21 **"This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God."**

There is an extreme danger with those who live to please self - James 5:1-5 - **Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming upon you**. 2 Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. 3 Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. **YOU HAVE HOARDED WEALTH IN THE LAST DAYS**. 4 Look! The wages you failed to pay the workmen who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. 5 **YOU HAVE LIVED ON EARTH IN LUXURY AND SELF-INDULGENCE**. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter.

A selfish person is also an unfriendly person- Prov 18:1 - An unfriendly man pursues selfish ends; he defies all sound judgment.

Be careful what you accept from a greedy person - Prov 23:6-8 - 6 Do not eat the food of a stingy man, do not crave his delicacies; 7 for he is the kind of man who is always thinking about the cost. "Eat and drink," he says to you, but his heart is not with you. 8 You will vomit up the little you have eaten and will have wasted your compliments.

Self-purpose is one of the characteristics to the path of evil - James 3:14-16 - 14 But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. 15 Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. 16 For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

Selfishness endangers the family - Prov 15:27 -A greedy man brings trouble to his family, but he who hates bribes will live.

Selfishness causes conflicts - Prov 28:25 - A greedy man stirs up dissension, but he who trusts in the Lord will prosper.

Selfishness causes arguments, distorts our desires and what we receive from God - James 4:1-3 - What causes fight and quarrels among you? Don't they come from YOUR DESIRES that battle within you? 2 You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. 3 When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

Greed is a major characteristic of false teachers - Matt 23:25-26 - 25 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. 26 Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean.

Another characteristic of false teachers is "self-confidence" - 2 Peter 2:10-12 - **Bold and arrogant**, these men are not afraid to slander celestial beings; 11 yet even angels, although they are stronger and more powerful, do not bring slanderous accusations against such beings in the presence of the Lord. 12 But these men blaspheme in matters they do not understand. They are like brute beasts, creatures of instinct, born only to be caught and destroyed, and like beasts they too will perish.

What we see in the world can be a big cause to us becoming self-centered - Ps 73:1-12 - Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart. 2 But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold. 3 For **I envied the arrogant** when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. 4 They have no struggles; their bodies are healthy and strong. 5 They are free from the burdens common to man; they are not plagued by human ills. 6 Therefore pride is their necklace; they clothe themselves with violence. 7 From their callous hearts comes iniquity; the evil conceits of their minds know no limits. 8 They scoff, and speak with malice; in their arrogance they threaten oppression. 9 Their mouths lay claim to heaven, and their tongues take possession of the earth. 10 **Therefore** their people turn to them and drink up waters in abundance. 11 They say, "How can God know? Does the Most High have knowledge?" 12 **This is what the wicked are like** — always carefree, they increase in wealth.

Without faith Selfishness will make sense - Ps 73:13-16 - 13 Surely in vain have I kept my heart pure; in vain have I washed my hands in innocence. 14 All day long I have been plagued; I have been punished every morning. 15 If I had said, "I will speak thus," I would have betrayed your children. 16 **When I TRIED TO UNDERSTAND all this, it was oppressive to me**

It takes True faith to clearly see what's going on - Ps 73 :17-27 **TILL I ENTERED THE SANCTUARY OF GOD; THEN I UNDERSTOOD THEIR FINAL DESTINY.** 18 Surely you place them on slippery ground; you cast them down to ruin. 19 How suddenly are they destroyed, completely swept away by terrors! 20 As a dream when one awakes, so when you arise, O Lord, you will despise them as fantasies. 21 **When my heart was grieved and my spirit embittered,** 22 I was senseless and ignorant; I was a brute beast before you. 23 Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand. 24 You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory. 25 Whom have I in heaven but you? And **EARTH HAS NOTHING I DESIRE BESIDES YOU.** 26 My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. 27 Those who are far from you will perish; you destroy all who are unfaithful to you. 28 But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign Lord my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds.

How to remove selfishness from our lives

Anything that was valuable to me becomes worthless compared to Christ and the things of Christ – Phil 3:7-9 - 7 But **whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.** 8 What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ — the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.

Revaluing the people in our lives we most value

This is what all must do before becoming Christians - Luke 14:26 "If anyone comes to me and **does not hate** his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters — yes, even his own life — **HE CANNOT BE MY DISCIPLE.**

This is what all Christians must do while we are Christians - Matt 10:37 "**Anyone who loves** his father or mother *more than me* is **not worthy of me**; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is **not worthy of me**;

Our main investment in life must be heavenly NOT earthly - Matt 6:19-21 - 19 "**Do not store up for yourselves** treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Selflessness must be a major part of our ministry - Matt 5:38-48 - 38 "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' 39 But I tell you, **Do not resist an evil person.** If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. 40 And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. 41 If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. 42 Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you. 43 "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? 47 And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? 48 **Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.**

A Christian way of life (God seeking) will be easily distinguished between an unbelievers way of life (self-seeking) - Rom 2:6-11 - 6 God "will give to each person according to what he has done." 7 To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. 8 But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. 9 **There will be trouble and distress for every human being who DOES EVIL:** first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; 10 but **glory, honor and peace for everyone who DOES GOOD:** first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. 11 For God does not show favoritism.

We need to pray our Focus is on the Will of God not our desires - Ps 119:36 Turn my heart toward your statutes and not toward selfish gain.

A characteristic of true love is not seeking for self - 1 Cor 13:5 It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

My desires take a back seat to the winning of others to Christ - 1 Cor 9:19 Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave TO EVERYONE, to win as many as possible.

Being uncomfortable for the sake of Christ - 2 Cor 12:9-10 - 9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. 10 That is why, for Christ's sake, **I DELIGHT IN** weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For **when I am weak, then I am strong.**

Very clear instruction on how we are to live - Phil 2:3-4 - 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. 4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.