

How To Be Useless And Miserable

1. Be self-centered, bestow all of your affection and care upon yourself; seek your own happiness and well-being to the point of unconcern for the needs of others. “Do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others” (Phil. 2:4).

2. Be demanding of others, tell yourself that others are obligated to you, that it is their duty to be concerned about and look after your best interest, and make no allowance for the least failure on their part to discharge this duty. “Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not just please ourselves” (Rom. 15:1).

3. Feel neglected and become absorbed in self-sympathy, convince yourself completely that others do not fulfill their obligations to you, and never allow the least doubt that you are a subject of misfortune and pity to enter your thoughts. “[Love] does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered” (1Cor. 13:5).

4. See only good in yourself and faults in others, for every attitude and act of unrighteousness on your part find an excuse to salve your conscience while demanding absolute perfection of others. “You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye” (Matt. 7:5)

5. Look for the ways to place others in a bad light and go around with a chip on your shoulder. Act like everyone else is out of step except you. “He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, But he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion” (Prov. 28:13).

6. Never smile and ignore others. When asked what is wrong just say “nothing.” “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness” (Gal. 5:22).

7. Look for the worst possible spin on every situation and place a seed of doubt in others about the actions of those to whom you are jealous. “A worthless man digs up evil, While his words are like scorching fire” (Prov. 16:27).

8. Never talk to the person you have the problem with—always tell others how terrible this person is behaving. “A perverse man spreads strife, and a slanderer separates intimate friends” (Prov. 16:28).

9. Observe these rules and you will attain to complete uselessness -- and perfect misery forever. If, however, your aim is usefulness and happiness (as I trust that it is), then you must do the exact opposite. “It is more blessed to give than to receive,” and selfishness is among man’s most soul-condemning blunders. Selfishness has no place in the heart or actions of God’s people. God’s commandments aren’t prefaced with, “If you’re in the mood.” “For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith” (Rom. 12:3).

“The human being who lives only for himself finally reaps nothing but unhappiness. Selfishness corrodes. Unselfishness ennobles, satisfies. Don’t put off the joy derivable from doing helpful, kindly things for others” (B.C. Forbes). (Author Unknown)

Some Hot Advice For Cold Christians

A story is told of a man making his way across a mountain in a terrible blizzard. He became colder and weaker with each step. His body ached and became numb. He staggered and almost fell, but he plunged on in a daze. Again, he stumbled, and failing to stop his fall this time, he said, "This is the end." But in falling, his hand struck the prostrate form of another man who had fallen in the storm. He arose to his knees and began to chafe the hands of the unconscious man and rub his face until he revived.

He saved another's life, but in doing so, he saved his own. The exercise kept life in his own body and both survived. How many Christians are there who are freezing to death spiritually? How many who could save themselves by saving others?

We are indeed saved to save others, and in doing that we save ourselves, or keep ourselves saved. We are ministered to that we might minister to others, and in ministering to others we are benefited as much as they —perhaps more so. Unless we have a desire to share the joy of salvation with others, it is doubtful that we have truly received that joy. Unless we are truly concerned about the lost and want them to have forgiveness, peace and hope, there is every reason to question our own condition.

As Christians, we should be sowers who sow the Word of God in the hearts of men and women. As Christians, we should go out into the "streets and lanes of the city", out into the "highways and hedges", and constrain lost souls to come to the feast of God's kingdom. Christians are those who come to Christ, learn of Him and who then go, and tell others of the Lamb of God.

Jesus said to Peter, "When thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren" (Luke 22:32). Paul told Timothy, "Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you" (1Tim. 4:16).
(Author Unknown)

How Do I Feel About Personal Evangelism?

By Brent Hunter

1. How many people have I helped lead to Christ? _____
2. How many people do I NOW have my heart set on to win to Christ? _____
3. To what extent have I gone to try to win these people? _____
4. Approximately how many hours (or minutes) per week do I average talking to people about the Lord? _____
5. How often do I pray for certain individuals to obey the Lord, or to be restored to faithful Christian duty? _____
6. Do I every pray FERVENTLY that I might become a better soul winner? _____
7. Do I SINCERELY TRY to help that prayer be answered? _____
8. Am I generally embarrassed to converse with people about Christ? _____
9. Do I know enough Scripture to help one become a Christian? _____
10. Do I honestly feel that I am my brother's keeper, and that his salvation may depend LARGELY upon me? _____
11. Have I offered the excuse, I DON'T KNOW HOW," for not doing personal work?

12. Do I think I can every really learn how until I try? _____

13. When do I plan to begin? _____

14. Has it ever occurred to me that many will die and go to God unprepared while I'm wasting time thinking I don't know how? _____

15. Am I interested enough in Heaven, and does it mean enough to me that I earnestly desire others to go with me? _____

16. Does a checkup list like this help me to do better? _____

Remember:

God knows what I really CAN or CAN'T do.

I can't deceive God.

I will be held responsible for not making some attempt.