



Glorifying the Self

Bible Examples Of Selfish People

- Cain - Only concerned for himself
 - Gen. 4:4-5, 9 - “Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, 5 but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell... 9 Then the LORD said to Cain, Where is Abel your brother? He said, I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?”
 - Phil 2:3-4 - “Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.”

Bible Examples Of Selfish People

- Ahab - Only concerned for things.
 - 1Kings 21:2-4 - “So Ahab spoke to Naboth, saying, Give me your vineyard, that I may have it for a vegetable garden, because it is near, next to my house; and for it I will give you a vineyard better than it. Or, if it seems good to you, I will give you its worth in money. 3 But Naboth said to Ahab, The LORD forbid that I should give the inheritance of my fathers to you! 4 So Ahab went into his house sullen and displeased because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him; for he had said, I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers. And he lay down on his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no food.”
 - Luke 12:13-21

Bible Examples Of Selfish People

- David - Only concerned with his own pleasures.
 - His selfishness led to adultery, conspiracy, and murder that impacted the lives of six people immediately, and then David's family and the whole nation in the long term
 - 2Sam. 11

Bible Examples Of Selfish People

- James and John - Only concerned for their desire for power and prestige.
 - Matt. 20:20-28

Bible Examples Of Selfish People

- Older brother of the prodigal - Only concerned for his reward
 - Luke 15:29-30 - “So he answered and said to his father, 'Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. 30 'But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.'”

Improper Attitudes Toward The Self

- Self-centeredness - absorbed, wrapped up in one's self
 - Luke 10:30-32 - “Then Jesus answered and said: A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. 31 Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. 32 Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side.”

Improper Attitudes Toward The Self

- Self-conceit - an exaggerated estimation of one's own ability or power.
 - Prov. 16:18 - "Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall."
 - Luke 18:14 - "I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."
 - Rom. 12:3 - "For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith."

Improper Attitudes Toward The Self

- James 4:6, 10 - “But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble... 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.”

Improper Attitudes Toward The Self

- Self-willed - stubborn, set on having one's own way.
 - Jonah before and after preaching to Nineveh
 - The rich fool

Improper Attitudes Toward The Self

- The Jews who stoned Stephen
 - Acts 7:51-53 - “You stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you. 52 Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers”
- God does not want it in the leaders of His people
 - Titus 1:7 - “For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed...”

Improper Attitudes Toward The Self

- Self-indulgence - giving free course to one's passions, desires, inclinations
 - 2Tim. 4:10 - “for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica”

Improper Attitudes Toward The Self

- Self-righteousness - being righteous in one's own view; assuming the self to be fully justified and capable of defining justification for others
 - Luke 18:9-14

Improper Attitudes Toward The Self

- Rom. 10:1-3 - “Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. 2 For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. 3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.”
- Matt. 9:10-12 - “Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, that behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples. And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to His disciples, Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners? When Jesus heard that, He said to them, Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.”

Improper Attitudes Toward The Self

- Self-satisfaction - being pleased or proud of who and what one is.
 - Phil 3:13-14 - “Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

Improper Attitudes Toward The Self

- 1Cor. 10:12 - “Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.”
- Rev. 3:1 - “And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, 'These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.’”

Solving The Problems Of The Self

- Follow examples of selflessness in the Bible.
 - Abraham gave Lot his choice of land - Gen. 13:9
 - Joseph forgave and helped his brothers - Gen. 45:3-11
 - The Good Samaritan took the time to help a person in need - Luke 10:29-36
 - Barnabas sold his land and gave the money for the poor - Acts 4:36-37
 - Paul gave himself to the Lord - Gal. 2:20

Solving The Problems Of The Self

- Put the “self” to death by:
- Self-denial -
 - Luke 9:23 - “Then He said to them all, If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.”

Solving The Problems Of The Self

- Put the “self” to death by:
- Esteeming others more than the self
 - John 13:14-15 - “If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.”

Solving The Problems Of The Self

- Put the “self” to death by:
- Humbling yourself before God
 - 1Peter 5:6 - “Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time”

Solving The Problems Of The Self

- Put the “self” to death by:
- Exercising self-control
 - Prov. 16:32 - “And he who rules his spirit is better than he who takes a city.”

Solving The Problems Of The Self

- Put the “self” to death by:
- Self-sacrifice
 - 2Cor. 8:5 - “...they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God.”
 - Rom. 12:1 - “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.”

Solving The Problems Of The Self

- The faith of Christ is one of service, surrender, and sacrifice.
- For all practical purposes, the one great question in judgment may be “Did you win the battle over yourself?”
- Christians are to put on Christ, put off self; glorify God, humble the self