

## **ME Church: Is it All About Me**

(Selfishness)

We will have one of two mindsets in life either we will be selfish and loving it or we will be servants and love it.

### I. Introduction

A. Children in checkout line... trained on how to be selfish... never undone!

1. As adults we don't outgrow this, but we change a bit.
2. People lash out at waitresses, fast food workers... when they have to wait too long
3. Weave in and out of traffic to try to get ahead., but people off
4. Those who are always first i in buffet lines, potlucks.
5. People who have no time to help others because their life is too busy with their self-centered interests and wants.
6. Marriages which are shambles because neither one wants to die to self and wants the other person to do everything their way.
7. Parents give their kids everything and think it is good for them.
8. Parents who spend lots of money and time on themselves and neglect their children and spouse.
9. Moms and Dads who let their kids run wild in public
10. Those who cringe when the offering plate is passed
11. Manifested when there are those in need and they don't care.
12. manifested at complaints about the service
  - a) service too short, too long, sermon too harsh, not firm enough, the music, too fast or slow, too loud or I couldn't hear right, etc.
13. Maybe we aren't entirely free from the selfishness manifested as children.

### II. Scriptures on Selfishness

**A. Romans 15:1-3**, ...not to please ourselves. Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.

**B. 1 Corinthians 10:24** ...Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others.

C. Philippians 2:4 ...Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

**D. Galatians 6:2-9** ...Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ...Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

E. **1 Jo 2:15**, Do **not love** the **world** or anything in the **world**. If anyone loves the **world**, the **love** of the Father is **not** in him.

1. Today self is elevated and servanthood is deflated by our society and by some in the church

a) This person is always drawing attention to what they want or desire in life.

(1) They have no desire to help out others or even have empathy for others.

(2) Life is about "Number One 1" which is themselves.

b) Their conversation is filled with these words: I, me, mine, and myself.

(1) Their focus is: self-love, self-indulgence, self-worship, self-interest; egotism, egoism and the list could go on.

(2) Their desire is for comfort, convenience, and their enjoyment in life.

**F. 1 Sam. 25:1-11, 36-39**, Nabal

1. A Calebite - Num. 13:6,

2. 25:17 - so selfish no one could talk to him... selfish people think they know

everything... (no grace in their lives because no humility)

3. Selfish people ask - "what's in it for me?"

a) God's kingdom operates on "How can I give, how can I serve?"

**G. In the church a selfish person**

1. Thinks the church is a ME CHURCH, it should revolve around them.

2. Thinks the church owes them something

3. Thinks Jesus is their personal Santa Clause

4. Focus on receiving, not giving

5. Church is the place to be served, not where you give.

6. What is in it for me... they point the finger at others and say you are not a good Christian because you did not do this for me!"

7. Seen in Luke 10:30-36, Good Samaritan

a) Priest and Levite were consumed with their own lives and duties... Samaritan lost sight of self, it cost him but he reached out.

**H. 1 Cor. 13:5** - Love is NOT self seeking

1. Failure to show concern for others is lack of love

2. Self centered person - wants things the way they want it to be

3. Selfish person allows their personal desires override their service to God

**I. Php 2:21** - For everyone looks out for his own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.

1. These individuals will miss church a lot for selfish reasons.

2. They will not be faithful to honoring the Lord on His day.

3. These individuals will blame others for their failure to serve God.

4. It's the pastor's fault, the elders fault, the worship leader or someone else who does attend.

5. I cannot help out in the nursery because I want time for myself every week!

6. God does not mind if I miss church every other week because I love sports.

7. God does not care if I live in sin with this women He loves me any way!

8. Work more to make more money to spend on what I want.

**J. Hag 1:2-6:** ...Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin?" ... Give careful thought to your ways.

**K. Philippians 2:19 -22:** ...I have no one else like him, who takes a genuine interest in your welfare. For everyone looks out for his own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.

**L. 2 Corinthians 5:14, 15:14...** For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. 15And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

1. This great gift should propel us to serve Jesus and His kingdom for the rest of our lives.

2. Selfish people will not serve God and they will soon discover that their self-centered ways will bring little to no reward in life. In the end it will cost them the path destruction and cursing not blessing.

3. The person who is self-centered will not produce eternal fruit instead they will produce the works of the flesh.

**M. Malachi 1:8; 3:8...** The Jews in Malachi's day acted selfishly by offering blind, sickly, lame animals in sacrifice to Jehovah. They withheld the tithes and offerings which belonged to the Lord

1. Just as they robbed God, many today rob Him of money, time, the use of their energies, and their resources.

2. They will always make excuses for their self-centered ways.

3. Self-centeredness will deprive a person of joy because they will never be

satisfied trying to serve the flesh.

**N. Acts 5:1-11**

1. Ananias and Sapphira lied in an attempt to cover their selfish greed in.
2. They copied another person Barnabus, **Acts 4:36, 37**

**III. Conclusion**

- A. No one is Christlike unless he is unselfish. The Son of man "came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many" (**Matt. 20:28**).
  1. Our Master gave Himself in service and in sacrifice for us and we need to do the same.
- B. Ask yourself, what is making me so selfish?
  1. Maybe it's because you are not a Christian. The ultimate selfish act is to hear what Christ has done for you and say "I don't need you."
  2. Maybe it's the result of another sin in your life.
  3. Maybe its just you have gotten in the trap of accumulating a lot of stuff that it has its hold on you.
- C. Ask God to change your attitude
  1. "Turn my heart toward your statutes and not toward selfish gain. Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to your word." Psalm 119:36-37
- D. Look for opportunities to be unselfish
  1. "Don't be selfish; don't live to make a good impression on others. Be humble, thinking of others better than yourself. Don't think only about your own affairs, but be interested in others, too, and what they are doing." Philippians 2.3-4 (NLT)