

Selfishness: The Root Of Rebellion

Ever since the fall of man in the garden we have struggled with the inherent sin of selfishness which is rooted in man's rebelliousness toward God. Galatians 5:19-21 - The acts of the sinful nature are selfish ambitions --- I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Our only hope for deliverance from selfishness is when we recognize that Jesus Christ came in human form for the sole purpose of giving His life as a ransom so that we might be set free from the bondage of our rebellious sin nature. Romans 5:19 - For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous. In Galatians 2:20 we have been given a directive for dying to self: "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." In John 3:30 we are told: "He must become greater; I must become less." Obedience to these scriptural exhortations transition us from a life of selfishness to a life of selflessness.

We are told in I Samuel 15:22 "---To obey is better than sacrifice,---" John 14:15 states: "If you love me, you will obey what I command."

In the hundreds of marriages that we have had the privilege to counsel; the major cause of conflict is selfishness. In order for these conflicts to be resolved whether it be personal or marital we need to abide by the scriptural mandate given to us in Philippians 2:3 - "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves." Jesus Christ set an example of selflessness and humility for all of us to follow. Philippians 2:6-8 - Who being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death - even death on a cross.

Even as we understand our sin nature and God's desire for us not to be in bondage to self, but to walk in humility, it requires a conscious decision and effort on our part to become Christ-like.

We live in a world caught up with self that manifests a life of pleasing the flesh at the expense of pleasing God. Let's not be deceived into a life of selfishness when we KNOW that God desires and requires that we walk in humility. Colossians 3:12 - Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, HUMILITY, gentleness and patience.