

The Gospel VS. My Selfishness

SO THE QUESTION IS **NOT**, “AM I SELFISH?” ... **BUT RATHER**, “HOW SELFISH AM I?, AND DO I REALLY WANT TO BE SET FREE?”

THE GOSPEL - a simple message (John 3:16-17; II Corinthians 5:14-15) BUT with FAR-REACHING ramifications and results, and BENEFITS.

Part of the Gospel—“The Good News” or “Breaking News”—is that Christ not only died for our sins, but that He ALSO died for our Selfish & Sinful Self—taking NOT ONLY our SINS (the wrong things we DID/DO) to the cross, BUT ALSO our very SINFUL & SELFISH SELF (the selfishly wrong person we ARE) to the cross—IN ORDER TO BREAK THESE POWERS OVER OUR LIVES.

Selfishness - the quality or condition of being selfish.

- concerned excessively or exclusively with oneself
- seeking or concentrating on one's own advantage, pleasure, or well-being without regard for others.
- arising from a concern with one's own welfare or advantage in disregard of others.

According to thesaurus.yourdictionary.com SELFISHNESS has MANY synonyms.

- Egocentric - caring only about oneself, selfish. *Taking one's own self as the starting point in a philosophical system.*
- Self-absorbed - excessively self-involved.
- Self-Centered - engrossed in oneself and one's own affairs.
- Self-Seeking - pursuing only one's own ends or interests.
- Grabby - grasping, greedy, avaricious.
- Self-involved - absorbed primarily or only in one's own interests or activities.
- Asocial - avoiding or averse to the society or others, not sociable; showing little concern for the welfare of others.
- Self-aggrandizing - describing actions intended to make oneself seem more important. Boastful.
- Expedient - based on or offering what is of use or advantage rather than what is right or just; guided by self-interest

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- Illiberal - ungenerous, stingy
- Self-satisfaction - a feeling of fulfillment or contentment with respect to one's own accomplishments or situation.
- Narcissistic -
- Egotistic -
- Wrapped up in oneself -

More so, it says much about an exacerbated SELFISHNESS in these “Last Days” — II Timothy 3:1-2; Matthew 24:12

THE SOLUTION FOR THE BELIEVER:

FULL TRUST IN AND IDENTIFICATION WITH ... “THE CRUCIFIED LIFE”

GALATIANS 2:20 - “... who loved ME and gave Himself for ME.”

Note, further, that true faith is a personal faith, which appropriates, and, as it were, fences in as my very own, the PURPOSE and BENEFIT of Christ's giving of Himself. It is always difficult for lazy people (and most of us are lazy) to transfer into their own personal lives, and to bring into actual contact with themselves and their own experience, wide, general truths. To assent to them, when we keep them in their generality, is very easy and very profitless.

It is easy to say ‘All men are sinners.’ That never forced anyone to their knees. But when we shut out on either side of the lateral view and look straight on, on the narrow line of our own lives, up to the Throne where the Lawgiver sits, and feel ‘I am a sinful man,’ that sends us to our prayers for pardon and purity....In like manner, that great truth which we all of us say we believe, that Christ has died for the world, is utterly USELESS and PROFITLESS to us until we have translated it into Paul's world, “loved ME and gave Himself for ME.”

I do not say the essence of faith is the conversion of the general statement into the particular application, but I do say that there is no faith which does not realize one's personal possession of the benefits of the death of Christ, and that until you turn the wide word into a message of yourself alone, you have not yet got within sight of the blessedness of the Christian life. The whole river may flow past me, but only so much of it as I can bring into my own garden, and lift my own bucket, and put to my own lips, is of any use to me. The death of Christ for the world is a commonplace of superficial Christianity, which is no Christianity; the death of Christ for myself, as if He and I were the only beings in the universe, that is the death on which faith FASTENS and FEEDS. —Alexander Maclaren, Galatians 2:20

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