

# **Respectable Sins**

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Session 4: Selfishness

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# Selfishness

## I. Selfish by Nature

"It is the most destructive disease of the human soul. Absolutely nobody on this planet except for Jesus escapes the disease of selfishness." - **John Piper**

"Selfishness, is as foreign to Christianity as darkness to light." - **Charles Spurgeon**

*Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.* - **John 12:26-26**

Being consumed with our own kingdom is like drinking salt water. The more you drink, the thirstier you become. Until eventually you die from dehydration.

Let us seek daily to kill the sin of selfishness, being reminded we were bought with a price so that we would glorify Christ in every aspect of our life.

## II. Selfish in our Interests

*Let each of you look not only to his interests, but also to the interests of others.* - **Philippians 2:4**

"A good test of the degree of selfishness in our interests would be to reflect on the conversation after you have been with someone (or another couple) and ask yourself how much time you spent talking about your interests compared to the other person." - **Jerry Bridges**

When someone else is talking are we listening? Or are we thinking about how we are going to respond and turn the conversation back to ourselves.

If our thoughts and goals are mainly about building our own kingdom we leave little to nothing left for the kingdom of God.

### III. Selfish with our Time

*Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.* - **Galatians 6:2**

How often do we send the message, "My time is more important than your time."

"Start with one day at a time, realizing that time is not your time. It begins with your relationship with God. We redeem our time as we gather before our bibles. One of the greatest ways to redeem time is a prayerful meditation upon scripture and communion with God. You don't want to get to Heaven, and not know the King of the Universe". -

**Walt Alexander**

### IV. Selfish with our Money

*He says, Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.* - **Matthew 6:19-21**

The Lord doesn't need our money, He wants our hearts: **Acts 17:25** says *Nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.*

"If you are looking about for where to be rich, focus on God. He is your great reward. He is your riches. Therefore, laying up for yourselves treasures in heaven would be living in such a way as to maximize God as your treasure. Handle your money in such a way as to show that God, and not money, is your treasure." - **John Piper**

### V. Inconsiderate of Others

The inconsiderate Christian drinks alcohol in front of other believers who are recovering alcoholics. The inconsiderate Christian interrupts someone who is timid and rarely speaks up. They are lighthearted and cracking jokes when someone is suffering or hurting. They brag about their latest vacation or their most recent Amazon purchase in front of someone who is barely scraping by, living paycheck to paycheck. Or they never seem to really listen or genuinely care about your life and your troubles.

*A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion.*" - **Proverbs 18:2**

There are those who take pride in speaking their mind, but there are many times when it is necessary to hold our tongue.

*But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.* - **James 3:17-18**

## **VI. Putting Selfishness to Death through Jesus Christ**

We often approach our sin by recognizing it and simply trying harder next time not to commit that sin. However, we are sure to fail this way.

“The best way to fight selfishness is not to think about selfishness, but to think about Christ. If our lives, our minds, our hearts are overflowing with wonder at the greatness and the beauty and the worth of Christ, and the immeasurable value of what he’s done for us, it is not likely that we will be perceived as selfish. Selfish people are preoccupied with themselves and not with Christ.” - **John Piper**

When our hearts are centered on the truth that while we were still selfish sinners, Jesus died the death that we deserved to redeem us, it is difficult to be continue to be focused on ourselves.

As Christians we reciprocate what Christ has done for us. We love because he first loved us. We forgive because He forgave us. We serve because he served us. We are selfless because He was selfless for us. This is what it looks like to preach the gospel to ourselves daily.

Jesus tells his disciples. *But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.* - **Mark 10:43-45**

When we are planted by the ever flowing mountain stream of justification, we think and care more about the purposes of God for the glory of God, and in the process become less self-centered.