

LOVE IS NOT SELFISH

The Ingredients of Love: Part 4

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"[Love] is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs." (1 Corinthians 13:5, NIV)

"You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God." (2 Timothy 3:1–4, NLT)

Expressions of a Self-Centered Culture

- INDIVIDUALISM.

"Unfriendly people care only about themselves." (Proverbs 18:1a, NLT)

- SECULARISM.

"[The wicked] say to God, 'Go away. We want no part of you and your ways.'" (Job 21:14, NLT)

- NARCISSISM.

"[The wicked] have no fear of God. They think too much of themselves so they don't see their sin and hate it." (Psalm 36:1–2, NCV)

The Solution to Self-Centeredness

1. Build healthy RELATIONSHIPS.

"Now you are no longer strangers...but you are members of God's very own family, ...and you belong in God's household with every other Christian." (Ephesians 2:19, The Living Bible)

ACTION STEP

1st Base

2. Take a look IN THE MIRROR.

“Don’t just listen to God’s word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. For if you listen to the word and don’t obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don’t forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.” (James 1:22–25, NLT)

ACTION STEP

2nd Base

3. Inconveniently SERVE OTHERS.

“Each of you has been blessed with one of God’s many wonderful gifts to be used in the service of others. So use your gift well.” (1 Peter 4:10, CEV)

ACTION STEP

3rd Base

4. Practice SELF-DENIAL.

“Don’t look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.” (Philippians 2:4, NLT)

“Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.” (Matthew 16:24, NIV)