

Perfected By Love: This Life I Now Live

To truly love ourselves is to lose ourselves, and be made new by the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Poor in Self-Love

Mark 10:17-27

New Living Translation

17 As Jesus was starting out on his way to Jerusalem, a man came running up to him, knelt down, and asked, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

18 “Why do you call me good?” Jesus asked. “Only God is truly good. 19 But to answer your question, you know the commandments: ‘You must not murder. You must not commit adultery. You must not steal. You must not testify falsely. You must not cheat anyone. Honor your father and mother.’[a]”

20 “Teacher,” the man replied, “I’ve obeyed all these commandments since I was young.”

21 Looking at the man, Jesus felt genuine love for him. “There is still one thing you haven’t done,” he told him. “Go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

22 At this the man’s face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions.

23 Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God!” 24 This amazed them. But Jesus said again, “Dear children, it is very hard[b] to enter the Kingdom of God. 25 In fact, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!”

26 The disciples were astounded. “Then who in the world can be saved?” they asked.

27 Jesus looked at them intently and said, “Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But not with God. Everything is possible with God.”

- Rich young ruled loved the wrong version of himself

- How you spend your time and money will show you which version of yourself you love the most
- Refused to be perfected in love

21 Looking at the man, Jesus felt genuine love for him. “There is still one thing you haven’t done,” he told him.

- In order for it to be love there MUST be SACRIFICE & OBEDIENCE

What is love?

John 3:16

New Living Translation

16 “For this is how God loved the world: He gave[a] his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

- God’s love for the world = the **sacrifice** of His Son + the **obedience** of Jesus
- Since love came to save us, the redemption of that love is accepting salvation
- True self-love is to receive and redeem the love of God, and all of His promises.

Introducing, the new you!

2 Corinthians 5:17

New Living Translation

17 This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

- The old you wants to live for the sinful pleasure it can have now, the new you wants to live forever.

2 Corinthians 5:21

New Living Translation

21 For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin,[a] so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

- If you loved yourself you give up more of yourself to Jesus

Which you do you love?

Acts 5:1-11

New Living Translation

Ananias and Sapphira

5 But there was a certain man named Ananias who, with his wife, Sapphira, sold some property. 2 He brought part of the money to the apostles, claiming it was the full amount. With his wife's consent, he kept the rest.

3 Then Peter said, "Ananias, why have you let Satan fill your heart? You lied to the Holy Spirit, and you kept some of the money for yourself. 4 The property was yours to sell or not sell, as you wished. And after selling it, the money was also yours to give away. How could you do a thing like this? You weren't lying to us but to God!"

5 As soon as Ananias heard these words, he fell to the floor and died. Everyone who heard about it was terrified. 6 Then some young men got up, wrapped him in a sheet, and took him out and buried him.

7 About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. 8 Peter asked her, "Was this the price you and your husband received for your land?"

"Yes," she replied, "that was the price."

9 And Peter said, "How could the two of you even think of conspiring to test the Spirit of the Lord like this? The young men who buried your husband are just outside the door, and they will carry you out, too."

10 Instantly, she fell to the floor and died. When the young men came in and saw that she was dead, they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. 11 Great fear gripped the entire church and everyone else who heard what had happened.

- They loved the wrong versions of themselves and it cost them their lives.
- Matthew 16:24-26 New Living Translation
24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. 25 If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. 26 And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul?[a] Is anything worth more than your soul?"

Which version of yourself are you right now?

Which version of you did Jesus come to die for and are they dead?
Which version are you now?

Galatians 2:20

New King James Version

20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

- If you love yourself you've sacrificed the sinful and dying version of yourself.
- If you love yourself you are owned and operated by Jesus.
- If you love yourself you live only by faith in Jesus alone now. I love me by faith!
- If you love yourself you recognize Jesus as the one who loves you and gave Himself for you.

The Sound of Redemption

Psalms 107:2

New Living Translation

2 Has the Lord redeemed you? Then speak out!
Tell others he has redeemed you from your enemies.

Romans 8:35-39

New Living Translation

35 Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? 36 (As the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.") [a] 37 No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

38 And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, [b] neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. 39 No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- What does redeemed life sound like, I am convinced....

I Love the New Me!

To get a peek at the new you look at the life of Jesus

- Son of God
- Full of the Holy Spirit
- Power over darkness
- Sin has no control
- Live to please the Father
- Willing to sacrifice Himself
- Did not live by bread alone
- Prayed without ceasing
- Had eternal life
- Light of the world
- A friend of sinners

Recognizing the Savior

Loving yourself requires you to recognize the Savior.

2 Corinthians 4:4

New Living Translation

4 Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.

Luke 23:35-43

New Living Translation

35 The crowd watched and the leaders scoffed. "He saved others," they said, "let him save himself if he is really God's Messiah, the Chosen One." 36 The soldiers mocked him, too, by offering him a drink of sour wine. 37 They called out to him, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" 38 A sign was fastened above him with these words: "This is the King of the Jews."

39 One of the criminals hanging beside him scoffed, "So you're the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself—and us, too, while you're at it!"

40 But the other criminal protested, “Don’t you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die? 41 We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn’t done anything wrong.” 42 Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.”

43 And Jesus replied, “I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

- Thief on the Cross loved himself enough to redeem the love of God

Perfected in Self-Love

It's impossible for the new version of you IN Christ to go to hell.

Romans 8:1-2

New Living Translation

8 So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. 2 And because you belong to him, the power[a] of the life-giving Spirit has freed you[b] from the power of sin that leads to death.