

Abundant Life: The Love Cycle:

Righteous Self Love Pt. 2

Our love and desire for the Lord will allow righteous self-love to flow into our lives.

Desire

- DESIRE is that internal act, which, by influencing the will, makes us proceed to action. (Webster 1828)

Matthew 16:24-27 Amplified Bible

24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes (desires) to follow Me [as My disciple], he must deny himself [set aside selfish interests], and take up his cross [expressing a willingness to endure whatever may come] and follow Me [believing in Me, conforming to My example in living and, if need be, suffering or perhaps dying because of faith in Me]. 25 For whoever wishes to save his life [in this world] will [eventually] lose it [through death], but whoever loses his life [in this world] for My sake will find it [that is, life with Me for all eternity]. 26 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world [wealth, fame, success], but forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? 27 For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory and majesty of His Father with His angels, and then He will repay each one in accordance with what he has done.

- DESIRE is that internal act, which, by influencing the will, makes us proceed to action. (Webster 1828)
- 'My desire influences my will, leading me into action.'
- The 3 willful acts of a person who desires to follow Christ:
 1. Desiring willfully to deny the self-life. Godliness and selflessness replace selfishness. "I" becomes "we".
 2. Desiring willfully to accept your cross and be united with Christ on His cross, knowing that suffering and death will come, but so will resurrection power and life.

3. Desiring willfully to follow Him and lovingly obey while disregarding the love of the world you've left behind.

Revelation = You don't receive more light from God until you're tired of losing in the dark.

Within a true love for God, there is a burning desire, and within that desire is a strategy of righteous self-love. The highest form of self-love is the giving of oneself to God for the salvation of your soul. To give yourself to God is to live a life of constant worship and sacrifice for His glory and not your own. Only when we desire to follow Jesus will we obey Him in a way that brings us abundant life. Our desire to lovingly follow Him will compel us to do three things.



1. Deny to the death
2. Defer to the divine
3. Do what He does

Deny to the Death

Our flesh must be denied to death, why? Because we know that in us lives no good thing! Our sinful nature is dirty, defiant, and disobedient, it cannot be tamed, it must be destroyed.

Romans 7:18-25 Amplified Bible

18 For I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my flesh [my human nature, my worldliness—my sinful capacity]. For the willingness [to do good] is present in me, but the doing of good is not. 19 For the good that I want to do, I do

not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want. 20 But if I am doing the very thing I do not want to do, I am no longer the one doing it [that is, it is not me that acts], but the sin [nature] which lives in me. 21 So I find it to be the law [of my inner self], that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good. 22 For I joyfully delight in the law of God in my inner self [with my new nature], 23 but I see a different law and rule of action in the members of my body [in its appetites and desires], waging war against the law of my mind and subduing me and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is within my members. 24 Wretched and miserable man that I am! Who will [rescue me and] set me free from this body of death [this corrupt, mortal existence]? 25 Thanks be to God [for my deliverance] through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind serve the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh [my human nature, my worldliness, my sinful capacity—I serve] the law of sin.

- Our deliverance from the sinful nature is found in Jesus Christ.
- So we must deny ourselves not partially, but experience a total submersion into His death.

Romans 6:4-6

New Living Translation

4 For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives. 5 Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was. 6 We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin.

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.

The defense of denial is the armor of God:

Ephesians 6:10-18 New Living Translation

10 A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. 12 For we[a] are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against

evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. 14 Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. 15 For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared.[b] 16 In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil.[c] 17 Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18 Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.[d]

- How do we know when we haven't denied ourselves to death? When we're still engaging in the sinful practices of the world, the love of the Father (deny, defer, do) is not in you!
- This world has nothing to offer the dead in Christ because abundant life has been found!
- What is the evidence that He's alive in me, he's within to defer to, and I'm led!
- The offense of deference is the sword of the spirit, the word of God, we defer to truth.
- How do you keep the flesh in a state of constant denial and death? It must be crucified! By faith, our stand is that we have been crucified with Christ. It's no longer we who live, but Christ who lives in us!
- So we defer to the Christ within the hope of our glory!

Defer to the Divine

- Since we've denied ourselves to death, now what's next? Defer!
- You have to rebel against your soul instead of God.

Proverbs 3:5-6 New Living Translation

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding.
6 Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

Luke 15:16-20 New Living Translation

16 The young man became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything. 17 "When he finally

came to his senses, he said to himself, 'At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger! 18 I will go home to my father and say, "Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, 19 and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant."' 20 "So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him.

- The prodigal left abundance, was reduced to starvation, and went back to abundance.
- Listening to his own advice almost killed him.
- He deferred to the divine by repenting and going back to his father.

Matthew 3:13-17 New Living Translation The Baptism of Jesus

13 Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. 14 But John tried to talk him out of it. "I am the one who needs to be baptized by you," he said, "so why are you coming to me?" 15 But Jesus said, "It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires.[a]" So John agreed to baptize him. 16 After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened[b] and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him. 17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy."

- John deferred to the divine by agreeing to do what Jesus asked.

Luke 22:39-43 New Living Translation Jesus Prays on the Mount of Olives

39 Then, accompanied by the disciples, Jesus left the upstairs room and went as usual to the Mount of Olives. 40 There he told them, "Pray that you will not give in to temptation." 41 He walked away, about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, 42 "Father, if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine." 43 Then an angel from heaven appeared and strengthened him..

- Jesus deferred to the divine by denying His own will.

Genesis 39:6-11

New Living Translation

6 So Potiphar gave Joseph complete administrative responsibility over everything he owned. With Joseph there, he didn't worry about a thing—except what kind of food to eat! Joseph was a very handsome and well-built young man, 7 and Potiphar's wife soon began to look at him lustfully. "Come and sleep with me," she demanded. 8 But Joseph refused. "Look," he told her, "my master trusts me with everything in his entire household. 9 No one here has more authority than I do. He has held back nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How could I do such a wicked thing? It would be a great sin against God." 10 She kept putting pressure on Joseph day after day, but he refused to sleep with her, and he kept out of her way as much as possible. 11 One day, however, no one else was around when he went in to do his work.

- Joseph deferred to the divine by desiring to please God.

John 6:63-68

New Living Translation

63 The Spirit alone gives eternal life. Human effort accomplishes nothing. And the very words I have spoken to you are spirit and life. 64 But some of you do not believe me." (For Jesus knew from the beginning which ones didn't believe, and he knew who would betray him.) 65 Then he said, "That is why I said that people can't come to me unless the Father gives them to me." 66 At this point many of his disciples turned away and deserted him. 67 Then Jesus turned to the Twelve and asked, "Are you also going to leave?" 68 Simon Peter replied, "Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words that give eternal life.

- We defer to the divine by recognizing that we only find self-preservation in obedience to Jesus Christ, the life-giving Spirit.

Do What He Does

- After we have denied ourselves and deferred to the divine, there's only one thing left to do!
- Do what He does! In prayer, in the word, in godly counsel.

John 5:19 New Living Translation

19 So Jesus explained, “I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself. He does only what he sees the Father doing. Whatever the Father does, the Son also does.

Luke 6:43-49 New Living Translation

43 “A good tree can’t produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can’t produce good fruit.

44 A tree is identified by its fruit. Figs are never gathered from thornbushes, and grapes are not picked from bramble bushes.

45 A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. What you say flows from what is in your heart.

46 “So why do you keep calling me ‘Lord, Lord!’ when you don’t do what I say?

47 I will show you what it’s like when someone comes to me, listens to my teaching, and then follows it. 48 It is like a person building a house who digs deep and lays the foundation on solid rock. When the floodwaters rise and break against that house, it stands firm because it is well built. 49 But anyone who hears and doesn’t obey is like a person who builds a house right on the ground, without a foundation. When the floods sweep down against that house, it will collapse into a heap of ruins.”

John 14:15

New Living Translation

Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit

15 “If you love me, obey[a] my commandments.

