

Series: **Rising Above**

Title: **“Selfishness”**



When looking for that which threatens our soul, we need look no further than our own selves. It is self that keeps us from trusting Christ for salvation; it is self that keeps us from sanctification; it is self that keeps us from service. We are our own worst enemies, and Satan is quick to use this love for self to prohibit us from being all that God intended.

Text: **2 Timothy 3:1-5**

### Scripture Passages

**Philippians 2:21** *“For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ’s.”*

**Matthew 22:36–40** *“36 Master, which is the great commandment in the law? 37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”* (The greatest commandments are about loving God and others, has nothing about ourselves)

**1 Corinthians 13:4** *Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; **charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,***

**Galatians 2:20** *“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”*

**Philippians 2:3–4** *“3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; **but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.** 4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.”*

## **Practical Ways to Rise Above Selfishness**

### **1. Have a proper perspective of who \_\_\_\_\_ really are.**

Selfishness is often manifested in one of two ways. Both self-admiration and self-loathing are forms of selfishness and should be corrected.

#### **1. Self-admiration (Pride)**

- Pride is an overinflated sense of one’s own status of accomplishments.
- It is thinking more highly of yourself than you ought to think.

**Romans 12:3:** *“For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.”*

**Galatians 6:3:** *“For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.”*

#### **2. Self-loathing**

- Self-loathing refers to an intense dislike or hatred of oneself. It goes beyond mere self-criticism or lack of self-esteem; it encompasses feelings of worthlessness, inadequacy, and often a deep sense of shame. People experiencing self-loathing may harshly criticize themselves for their perceived faults and failures and may believe they are fundamentally flawed or unlovable.

**Ephesians 2:10:** *“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”*

**2 Corinthians 12:9-10:** *“And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”*

The proper view of one's self is a combination of **humility** because of your flaws/sin but **confidence** in God as your Creator and Savior.

The correct view of self says, **"I am an imperfect sinner who is perfectly loved by God."**

## 2. Shift your focus from \_\_\_\_\_ to the things of \_\_\_\_\_

- The greatest key to overcoming selfishness is to shift focus from self to God.
- The world does not revolve around you. The life of a Christian revolves around God!

*Colossians 3:2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.*

*2 Corinthians 5:15 And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.*

- Where is your focus?
- Satan gains victory in your life if he gets your focus off of Christ.

## 3. \_\_\_\_\_ to self

- We must die to self.
- **If we allow self to live, we allow self to rule.**
- Romans 12:1 calls for a "living sacrifice" which is odd considering that in the Old Testament sacrifices, the sacrificed animal was required to die. Whether a lamb, or heifer, or goat, or bullock, or grain, -all were to be killed and then placed on the altar as a sacrifice. Jesus Christ ended that requirement when He became the final and complete sacrifice for sin on the cross.
- Now, His command to us is to live for Him. But both Christ and self cannot share the authority in our lives.

*Matthew 6:24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon*

- We must die to self so that Christ can live through us.

*Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

## 4. Remember that you \_\_\_\_\_ to God

*1 Corinthians 6:19–20 19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*

- **You do not belong to yourself. You belong to God.**

## 5. Focus on God's \_\_\_\_\_ for you

*Psalms 32:8 I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.*

- Scrap your plans, follow God's plan.
- Illustration: Lot chose his own plan instead of following God's plan. Destroyed his life and his family's life.
- Following God's plan for your life will help cure your selfishness.

## 6. Focus on the \_\_\_\_\_ of others

*Philippians 2:4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.*

*Matthew 22:36-40 (the greatest commandments are about loving God and others.)*

- One of the cures of selfishness is to focus on others.

## 7. Eat your own \_\_\_\_\_

*2 Thessalonians 3:10-12*

- One of the cures of selfishness is to get off mommy and daddy's paycheck and provide for yourself.