

Almost True— When Self-Love Is Selfish

Putting ourselves first is one of the most natural things we do.

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

Philippians 2:3-4 NIV

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. ²People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud ... ⁴... lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—⁵having a form of godliness but denying its power. ... 2 Timothy 3:1-5 NIV

**Maybe our problem isn't that we don't love ourselves enough.
Maybe it's that we love ourselves too much.**

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” ³¹The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.” Mark 12:30-31 NIV

Loving yourself is not a command; it's an assumption.

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

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20 NIV

In what area of your life are you loving yourself more than loving God and loving others?

What is God calling you to do about it?

Jesus Didn't Call Us To ...

- **Promote ourselves, but to humble ourselves.**
- **Pamper ourselves, but to deny ourselves.**
- **Serve ourselves, but to serve others.**
- **Put ourselves first, but to put ourselves last.**
- **Seek our pleasure, but to pursue God's purpose.**

TALK IT OVER

Read **2 Timothy 3:1-5**. How does culture define self-love? What are some of the dangers of putting ourselves first?

Read **Mark 12:30-31**. How easy or difficult is it for you to prioritize God and others before yourself? What would it look like for you to grow in how you love God and people?

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