

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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Selfishness

"Selfishness is the greatest curse of the human race." – William E. Gladstone

"A man is called selfish, not for pursuing his own good, but for neglecting his neighbor's." – Richard Whately

"Selfishness is one of the more common faces of pride. 'How everything affects me' is the center of all that matters - self-conceit, self-pity, worldly self-fulfillment, self-gratification, and self-seeking." – Ezra Taft Benson

"As selfishness and complaint pervert the mind, so love with its joy clears and sharpens the vision." – Helen Keller

"Great achievement is usually born of great sacrifice, and is never the result of selfishness." – Napoleon Hill

It is regrettable that all of us, at times, have to wrestle with selfishness. And yet our society seems to promote it. "Look out for number one," "You are all that matters," or, "Have it your way."

It is very difficult to achieve the unity for which our Lord prayed if we harbor a spirit of selfishness (cf. John 17:20-21). The problem is not so much with matters of doctrine, but the opinions of individuals. There seems, at times, to be little interest in working together. "It is either my way, or the highway." Yet Paul wrote, "Let no one seek his own, but each one the other's well-being" (1 Cor. 10:24). "Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others" (Phil. 2:3-4).

The wise man stated, "A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; he rages against all wise judgment" (Prov. 18:1). Far too many are out for self-gratification regardless of what the cost. And the sad part is, as the Proverb writer noted, they won't listen to sound reasoning. They would rather fulfill "the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life" (1 John 2:16).

True Christianity is not about self, it is about others. "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ" (Gal. 6:2). "But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?" (1 John 3:17).

"Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another" (Rom. 12:9-10).

Remember, everything is not just about you.