

# SELF-CENTEREDNESS: THE SOURCE OF ALL GRIEF

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We've already discussed a lot of really important things in previous lessons. We've talked about the foundations of Christianity and God's unconditional love that is not based on our performance. We dealt with essential things like commitment and receiving the baptism of the Holy Ghost. In Level 2 we want to talk about how to apply these truths to everyday life. If God has already put His life inside you, and all these things are there, how do you release them? One of the things we'll talk about is that everything is already there for you. It's a matter of getting rid of the things that hinder the flow of God rather than trying to get God to give you more.

You've already received everything, and now it's a matter of releasing it. One of the most important things in releasing God's power is to understand that it is our own self-centeredness that is the source of grief in our lives. Many of our problems are self-induced. I know that is offensive to people when they first hear it, but let me share some things with you from John 14. Jesus was talking to His disciples the night before His crucifixion—just hours before they were to see Him crucified. This was a traumatic event. These people had given up everything. They had left their businesses and their families, and every goal, every hope they ever had was pinned on Jesus.

In the midst of this, He begins John 14:1 by saying, "Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me." This seems like an unreasonable request, and many people today would say, "But if you were one of Jesus' disciples and were to see Him crucified, how could you keep from being troubled and broken-hearted through that?" People who are into psychology would say you are in denial if you try to suppress these feelings and emotions, yet Jesus told His disciples not to let their hearts be troubled. He said, "You have the power; you let not your heart be troubled."

One of the keys to this is found in John 14:28. He was speaking to His disciples on that same night before His crucifixion, and He said, "Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I." It would take more time than I have to teach this fully, but this is saying that if these disciples loved Jesus more than they loved themselves, they wouldn't have been grief-stricken to see the crucifixion . . . they wouldn't have been in turmoil . . . their hearts wouldn't have been troubled. Really, the source of their grief was self-centeredness.

If you think about it, had they been more concerned about Jesus, had they loved Him more than they loved themselves, their reaction at seeing Him crucified would have been different. Certainly they wouldn't have enjoyed it. It still would have been a tragic event, but He had just told them in the previous verses that He was going to His Father. If they had really loved Him, they could have said, "Well, at least Jesus is finally rid of all this rejection, shame, and ridicule that He's been unjustly subjected to." They could have seen that now He was in the presence of God. If ever there was a righteous man, it was Jesus, and He was going to be rewarded and comforted. If their whole hearts were focused on Jesus, they could have found joy and peace even between the time of His crucifixion and resurrection.

The thing that really hurt was that they were thinking only about themselves: “What about me? If Jesus has been crucified, they’re going to be coming after me next; it could be my own life. What about my future? I’ve identified myself with this man and followed Him, and now it looks like He has failed.” It was really their self-centeredness that was the source of their grief. Without going into a long explanation, if you just think about it, self-centeredness is what causes grief in our lives. When someone we love dies, if they knew the Lord, we grieve, but if we stop and think about it, they are in the presence of God. God Himself is ministering to them, and they’re able to see Him. They have all the restrictions and limitations of this life removed. They are experiencing joy, something we should actually be envious of if we were thinking properly, but do you know why most people grieve? They’re thinking, “What’s my life going to be like without them? What’s it going to be like not to have them around?”

Self-centeredness is the source of so much of what we experience. There is a verse in Proverbs 13 you really ought to look up because you won’t believe it if you don’t read it in your own Bible: Verse 10 says, “Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom.” Many people at first would take issue with that and say, “Wait a minute. Pride can’t be the only thing that causes contention or strife. Proverbs 17:14 says that contention is the beginning of strife, so strife has to be caused by more than just pride. It’s what this person has done to me.” Others will say, “You don’t understand; this is just the type of person I am.” No, the scripture says only by pride comes contention. It’s not one of the leading causes; it’s the only cause. Some people again would take issue and say, “I’ve got all kinds of problems, but pride isn’t one of them; if anything, I’ve got such low self-esteem there’s no way anybody can accuse me of pride.”

We have to redefine what pride is. It’s not just thinking you’re better than somebody else, but in the simplest terms it is seeing yourself as the center of everything. Self-centeredness is really the root of all pride. In Numbers 12:2 Miriam and Aaron, Moses’ sister and brother, came against him, criticizing him because of an interracial marriage, saying, “Hath the Lord indeed spoken only to Moses? Hath he not spoken also by us?” The Scripture then says in parentheses in verse 3 that Moses was the meekest man on the face of the earth. Instead of taking offense at what they said, he began to pray and intercede for them.

When it says Moses was the meekest man on the face of the earth, stop and think about that. We don’t know how many people there were on earth, but surely there were millions, and Moses was the meekest man of all these people. What makes this a really amazing statement is that he was the one who wrote it. Most people think if you’re truly humble or meek, you won’t even know it. That’s a false impression of what arrogance really is. Pride isn’t just thinking you’re better than everybody else . . . it’s self-centeredness. It’s like having a stick with arrogance on one side and low self-esteem on the other side. Those are opposite expressions of the same thing, but they’re both on the same stick. It’s self-centeredness. It doesn’t matter if you think you’re better than everyone else or worse than everyone else, you’re absolutely self-centered. Everything gets filtered through that. A timid, shy person is very proud and self-centered, thinking only about self.

The point I'm making is that self-centeredness is really the root of all pride, and if you plug that back into Proverbs 13:10, "only by pride cometh contention," what this says is that it is our own self-centeredness that makes us angry not what people do to us. It's our self-centeredness that causes us to react to what people do. You will never be able to stop people from rubbing you the wrong way; it can't happen. Faith is not to control other people but to help you deal with yourself, and deal with the things that are inside you . . . so it doesn't matter what people do to you.

As Jesus was being crucified, He was able to turn to the very people who were crucifying Him and say, "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do." He didn't control those people but instead had control over Himself. It's self-centeredness that makes us angry. Jesus didn't come here for Himself, but He so loved the world that He came here for us. He thought of His mother as He hung on the cross and spoke to one of His disciples about taking care of her. The reason Jesus was able to forgive and operate in love—in the midst of intense agony, injustice, and everything that came his way—was because He was not self-centered.

It's our own selfishness that makes us angry, yet the Scripture says we're supposed to be dead to ourselves. If I had a corpse in front of me, I could insult it, kick it, spit on it, or ignore it, but if it's truly a corpse, it wouldn't respond. The reason you respond the way you do to the things around you is not because of those external things but because of what's on the inside of you. You will never be so strong in faith that you can remove all obstacles and everything that rubs you the wrong way, but you can deal with yourself. You can come to a place where you make Jesus Lord of your life and love Him, His kingdom, and other people more than you love yourself. You'll find that when you do that and deal with self that the strife and contention in your life will cease.

One of the great keys for applying all of these things God has done in your life is to realize that He didn't give you the kingdom for selfish purposes. He didn't do these things just so you could have every need supplied. You need to learn it's in denying yourself and losing your life that you really begin to find out what life is all about. It's in loving other people and God more than yourself that you'll begin to defuse your anger and hurt, all those things that are inside you.

I pray that today God will take these few things I've said and use them to open your heart to realize that it's our own self-centeredness that causes us grief. Instead of placing the blame somewhere else, we need to accept the responsibility, face it, humble ourselves before God, and ask Him to come in and make Himself big in our lives. That's the way for you to walk in victory.

## SELF-CENTEREDNESS: THE SOURCE OF ALL GRIEF (Outline)

One of the most important things in releasing the power of God inside you is to understand that your own self-centeredness can hinder the flow of God.

John 14:1: "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me."  
John 14:28: "Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I."

If the disciples loved Jesus more than they loved themselves, they wouldn't have been grief-stricken by the crucifixion, and their hearts would not have been troubled.

Proverbs 13:10: "Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom."  
Pride, in its simplest terms, is seeing yourself as the center of everything, whether it is thinking you are better than everyone else or worse than everyone else.

Your self-centeredness is what makes you angry and causes you to react to what people do. You cannot control what other people do, but you can use your faith to deal with the things that are on the inside of you so it doesn't matter what other people do to you.

Jesus did not come to this earth for Himself - He came for us.

The reason Jesus was able to forgive and operate in love while He was on the cross was because He was not self-centered.

Scripture says you are to be dead unto yourself. One of the great keys in applying the things God has done in your life is to realize that God did not give you the kingdom for selfish purposes. It is in denying yourself that you truly find out what life is all about. In loving God and other people more than you love yourself, you will begin to diffuse the anger and hurt on the inside of you and walk in victory.

## SELF-CENTEREDNESS: THE SOURCE OF ALL GRIEF (Teacher's Guide)

1.    A.    What were the disciples arguing about on the road going to Capernaum?  
          Read Mark 9:33-34.  
  
          They argued about who was the greatest.
- B.    Does this reflect the selfishness in all of us?
- C.    According to Mark 9:35, if someone wants to be first he must become what?  
  
          Servant of all.
2.    Explain in detail Jesus' teaching in Luke 22:24-27.
3.    According to Proverbs 13:10, what is the only thing that causes contention?  
  
          Pride.
4.    According to Galatians 2:20, how should we live our lives?  
  
          By the faith of Christ and not centered on our own strengths or weaknesses.
5.    What is the antidote for self-centeredness according to Matthew 7:12?  
  
          Whatever you would want someone to do to you, do to them.

## SELF-CENTEREDNESS: THE SOURCE OF ALL GRIEF (Detailed Teacher's Guide)

Note: The following information may be read out loud (a numbered section at a time) with the person(s) being disciplined. After each numbered section is read, pause and ask the question(s) that correspond to the paragraph(s), and then discuss them.

<sup>1</sup> Let's look at Proverbs 13:10: "Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom." Many people would take issue with this and say, "Now wait a minute—pride can't be the only thing that causes contention or strife. In Proverbs 17:14, it says that contention is the beginning of strife. So, strife has to be caused by more than just pride. It's what this person has done to me." Some people would say, "It's my personality type—you don't understand—this is just the type of person I am." No, the scripture says ONLY by pride cometh contention. It's not one of the leading causes - it's the only cause. Some people would disagree again and say, "Now wait a minute—I have all kinds of problems, but pride isn't one of them. If anything, I have such low self-esteem that there is no way anybody could accuse me of pride."

<sup>2</sup> You have to redefine what pride is. Actually, pride is not just thinking you're better than somebody else, but pride (in its simplest terms) is seeing yourself as the center of everything. It's self-centeredness—the root of all pride.

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<sup>1</sup>According to Proverbs 13:10, how does contention start?

<sup>2</sup>Complete this sentence: Pride is seeing yourself as the center of everything.

<sup>3</sup> In Numbers 12:2 there is an instance where Miriam and Aaron come against Moses. They are Moses' brother and sister. They come against him because of an inter-racial marriage. They criticized him saying, "Are you the only one that God has spoken by?" And the scripture says in parenthesis that Moses was the meekest man on the face of the earth. He fell on his face, and instead of taking offense to what they said about him, he began to pray for them and intercede for them. When it says in parenthesis that Moses was the meekest man on the face of the earth, stop and think about what this means. That's an amazing statement. We don't know how many people were on the earth, but certainly there were millions of people. Moses was the meekest man out of all those people, and the thing that makes it really amazing is that Moses is the one who wrote that.

You know, most people think that if you are truly humble or meek, you won't even know it. That's a false impression of what arrogance is. Pride is not just thinking you are better than everybody else, but it's self-centeredness. It's like a stick with two ends—on one end is arrogance, and on the other end is low self-esteem. They are just two opposite expressions of the same thing—it's all on the same stick—it's self-centeredness. It doesn't matter if you think you are better than everybody else or if you think you are worse than everybody else. If you think this way, you are self-centered, and everything gets filtered through that.

<sup>4</sup> A timid or shy person is a very proud person—self-centered—thinking only about himself. So, the point I am making is that self-centeredness is really the root of all pride. If you will plug that back in to Proverbs 13:10, "Only by pride cometh contention," then what this is saying is that it's our own self-centeredness that makes us angry—it's not what people do to us that makes us angry—it's our self-centeredness that causes us to react to what people do. You are never going to be able to stop every person from rubbing you the wrong way; that can't happen. That's not what faith is for—to control other people. Faith is so that you can deal with yourself—so you can deal with the things that are on the inside of you so it doesn't matter what other people do to you.

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<sup>3</sup>Pride is self-centeredness.

<sup>4</sup>When we are self-centered, it is easy for us to become angry.

<sup>5</sup> Jesus, as He was being crucified, was able to turn to the very people who were crucifying Him and say, “Father forgive them, for they know not what they do.” He didn’t control those people. Instead, He had control over Himself. It’s self-centeredness that makes us angry. Jesus did not come to this earth for Himself, but He so loved the world that He came here for us. He turned around and forgave the very people crucifying Him. He thought of His mother as He was hanging on the cross and spoke to one of the disciples about taking care of her. The reason Jesus was able to forgive and operate in love (even in the midst of intense agony, injustice, and everything that came His way) was because He was not self-centered.

It’s our own selfishness that really makes us angry, yet the Scripture says that we are supposed to be “dead unto ourselves.” If I had a corpse lying in front of me today, I could insult the corpse, I could kick the corpse, I could spit on the corpse, or I could ignore the corpse. If it’s truly a corpse, it’s not going to respond. The reason that you respond the way you do to the things around you is because of what’s on the inside of you. You are never going to be able to control everything externally. You are never going to get so strong in faith that you can remove all obstacles and everything that rubs you the wrong way. But you can deal with yourself.

You can come to a place where you make Jesus Lord over your life and you love Him, love His kingdom, and love other people more than you love yourself. You will find that when you do that and you deal with self, that this strife—this contention—will cease in your life.

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<sup>5</sup>(a) According to Mark 10:44, what did Jesus say the mark of becoming great was?  
(b) What should be our rule of life according to Matthew 7:12?  
(c) What can we learn from 1 John 3:16-18?



## SELF-CENTEREDNESS: THE SOURCE OF ALL GRIEF (Discipleship Questions)

Read Mark 9:33-35

1. What was the dispute the disciples were having while on the road?
2. Why do you think they were silent when Jesus asked them the question?
3. "If anyone desires to be \_\_\_\_\_, he shall be \_\_\_\_\_ of all, and \_\_\_\_\_ of all."

Definition Serve: to minister, to wait upon, to attend to.

Read John 13:5-17

4. What was Jesus doing for the disciples (v5)?
5. Did Peter want Jesus to wash his feet at first?
6. In verse 13, what two titles did the disciples call Jesus?  
A. \_\_\_\_\_  
B. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Since Christ washed our feet, what must we also do for one another?
8. According to verse 15, what is the example that Christ showed us?
9. Is a servant greater than his master?
10. According to verse 17, what are you if you know and do these things?

Read Luke 22:24-27

11. What did the kings of the Gentiles exercise over them?
12. Was this action to be the same among the disciples?
13. What does it say the greatest among you should be?
14. What does it say about the one who governs?
15. Christ said in verse 27 that the one who sits at the table is the greater, BUT...what did Christ say about Himself?
16. If Jesus is the greatest among us, and yet serves us, how is it we should be toward our fellow brethren?

Read Philippians 2:5-8

17. Did Jesus consider it robbery to consider Himself equal to God?
18. What did Jesus “make” Himself?
19. What did He take the form of?
20. What did He come into the likeness of?
21. What was He found in the appearance of?
22. What two things did He do in the middle of verse 8?
  - A. \_\_\_\_\_
  - B. \_\_\_\_\_
23. If Jesus, who considered Himself equal with God humbled Himself before God and us, is it fair to say that we, who are not equal with God, should also humble ourselves before one another?

Read Galatians 6:2

24. What are we to do with one another’s burdens?

Bear: to support, to take up, to carry, to endure, to have compassion

Read Galatians 6:3

25. “For if anyone thinks himself to be \_\_\_\_\_, when he is \_\_\_\_\_, he \_\_\_\_\_ himself.”

Read James 1:26

26. Who is James talking about in this verse?
27. If the religious don’t bridle their \_\_\_\_\_, what does he deceive?
28. What becomes useless?

Definition

Pride: boasting, vain glory, haughtiness, puffed up, high-minded, appearing above others, superior in attitude.

Read Proverbs 13:10

- 29. What is the only thing that causes contention, or strife?
- 30. What comes with being well advised?

Read Proverbs 16:18

- 31. What comes before destruction?
- 32. What comes before a fall?

Read Proverbs 21:4

- 33. What three things are considered sin in this verse?

A. \_\_\_\_\_  
B. \_\_\_\_\_  
C. \_\_\_\_\_

Read Proverbs 28:25

- 34. What stirs up strife?
- 35. What happens to those who trust in the Lord?

Read Galatians 2:20

- 36. Since "I" have been crucified with Christ, do "I" still live?
- 37. Who now lives in me?
- 38. How do I live my life now?
- 39. Does Christ love you?
- 40. Did Christ give Himself for you?

Read Galatians 6:10

- 41. What are we to do when we have opportunity?
- 42. We are to do good toward \_\_\_\_\_, but especially toward whom?

Read Matthew 7:12

43. What is the antidote for self-centeredness?

Read 1 John 3:16-18

44. How is it that we know love?
45. What must we also do with our lives?
46. Does the love of God abide in someone who sees a brother in need and ignores him?
47. How are we not to love? \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_
48. How are we to love? \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Marriage is a selfless union between a man and a woman.

Read Ephesians 5:22

49. How are wives to submit to their husbands?

Read Ephesians 5:28

50. How is a husband to love his wife?
51. Can you see from these two verses in Ephesians that if we put each other first, it is pleasing to the Lord, and our relationships are stronger and more peaceful?
52. In your own experience, when is it you get angry or upset?
- A. When you don't get your own way
  - B. When somebody doesn't do as you want them to?
  - C. When you feel cheated
  - D. All of the above
53. Do you recognize that when we put ourselves first above others that is selfishness?
54. Again, if we want to be first, we must be

SELF-CENTEREDNESS: THE SOURCE OF ALL GRIEF  
(Discipleship Answer Key)

- |                                         |                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Who would be the greatest among them | 22. A. Humbled Himself<br>B. Became obedient                      |
| 2. Embarrassment                        | 23. Yes                                                           |
| 3. First – last – servant               | 24. Bear them                                                     |
| 4. Washing their feet                   | 25. Something – nothing – deceives                                |
| 5. No                                   | 26. Believers                                                     |
| 6. A. Teacher<br>B. Lord                | 27. Tongue – His own heart                                        |
| 7. Serve one another                    | 28. His religion                                                  |
| 8. To do as Christ has done             | 29. Pride                                                         |
| 9. No                                   | 30. Wisdom                                                        |
| 10. Blessed                             | 31. Pride                                                         |
| 11. Lordship                            | 32. A haughty spirit                                              |
| 12. No                                  | 33. A. Haughty Look<br>B. Proud heart<br>C. Plowing of the wicked |
| 13. Be as the younger                   | 34. A proud heart                                                 |
| 14. He should serve                     | 35. Prosperity                                                    |
| 15. He also serves                      | 36. No                                                            |
| 16. Servants                            | 37. Christ                                                        |
| 17. No                                  | 38. By faith                                                      |
| 18. Of no reputation                    | 39. Yes                                                           |
| 19. A bondservant                       | 40. Yes                                                           |
| 20. Men                                 | 41. Do good                                                       |
| 21. A man                               |                                                                   |

- 42. All – the household of faith
- 43. Be giving and serve others
- 44. Christ gave His life for us
- 45. Give our lives for our brethren
- 46. No
- 47. In word or tongue
- 48. In deed and truth
- 49. As to the Lord
- 50. As their own bodies
- 51. Yes
- 52. D. All of the above
- 53. Yes
- 54. Last

## SELF-CENTEREDNESS: THE SOURCE OF ALL GRIEF (Additional Material)

Romans 12:10: “Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another.”

(Romans 12:10) The dictionary defines “preferring” as “to choose as more desirable; like better.” That means this verse is admonishing us to desire the welfare of others more than our own, to like others better than ourselves. That is an awesome command that is only obtainable through God’s supernatural love.

If this simple yet profound truth could be understood and applied, then strife would cease (Proverbs 17:14), the world would see Christianity as never before, and we would discover the true joy that comes from serving someone besides ourselves (Matthew 10:39; 16:25).

Romans 12:15: “Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.”

(Romans 12:15) A self-centered person will not rejoice at someone else’s prosperity; he will be jealous instead. Likewise, a selfish person will not weep with those that weep because he really doesn’t care about anyone but himself. The Lord is continuing the thought about preferring one another.

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

(Philippians 2:3) Humility can be defined in many ways, one of which is “absence of pride” (Webster’s New World Dictionary). Typically, pride is described as arrogance. However, that is just one dimension of pride. Timidness is also pride, because in its simplest terms, pride is self-centeredness, and a timid or shy person is very self-centered. Paul gives the antidote to self-centeredness in this verse—esteeming others better than ourselves.

How can we esteem others better than ourselves when, in truth, we really think we are better than others? Some people are better athletes than others; some are better businessmen than others; some are better speakers than others, and so forth.

First, we need to recognize that our accomplishments don’t make us better than others. There is a difference between what we do and who we are. Better performance does not make a better person. A person’s character can be severely wanting even though his performance is good. A classic example of this is found in the Pharisees of Jesus’ day. They did the right things for all the wrong reasons. Inside they were corrupt. Our evaluation of others needs to change. God judges by looking on the inside not the outside. We need to esteem others on the same basis.

Second, to esteem someone better than ourselves simply means to value him or her more than we value ourselves. To some that may seem impossible, but it isn't. That is exactly what Jesus did, and Paul uses Jesus as the model for what he is preaching in the next few verses (vv. 5-11). If Jesus, who was God in the flesh (1 Timothy 3:16), could humble Himself and value our welfare above His own welfare, then we should certainly be able to do the same. It can happen when we die to self and live to God.

(Philippians 2:4) The way we implement the instruction of the previous verse to "esteem others better than themselves" is to look at the other person's side of things instead of seeing everything through selfish eyes. If we think only about ourselves, we will be selfish. If we get out of self and think more about the benefit of others than the benefit of self, then we will be selfless. It's a matter of focus. Whichever side of things we focus on is the side we will take. Therefore, "Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others" (Philippians 2:4).

Colossians 2:23: "Which things have indeed a show of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh."

(Colossians 2:23) The self-denial that Paul was speaking against in these verses is embraced by much of "Christianity" today. Historically, self-denial has always been a big part of false religion. Most religions of the world teach an abasement of self, but they do it as penitence in order to obtain salvation. This is not the denying of self that the Bible advocates.

True self-denial, as the Scriptures promote, is not self-hatred or masochism but rather an enthroning of Christ above self. We have a new identity in Christ that replaces the "old self." This isn't done to obtain salvation but is a love response to what Christ has already done for us. He gave His all for us, and we willingly give our all back to Him.

Self-denial, when done as an attempt to earn salvation, is always motivated by guilt and characterized by rigid rules as Paul describes. True Christianity, on the other hand, is not the observance of rituals but a relationship that produces holiness as a fruit and not a root of salvation. Holiness doesn't come from the outside and work its way inside, but when we are born again we become righteous, and we work that holiness out in our physical lives.

Trying to destroy the power of self through harsh laws actually arouses and strengthens sin. Christians must not let life become a set of rules but rather a response to a loving relationship with Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 6:20: "For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

(1 Corinthians 6:20) One of the most damaging attitudes of our time is the exaltation of self over others. Personal rights have been promoted at the expense of others. This is not good for society, and it is certainly not the way God expects His body to operate.



As Christians we need to develop a continual awareness that our lives are not our own. We do not have the liberty to do as we please. We should present our bodies as living sacrifices unto God, recognizing that this is just our reasonable duty to the one who gave His life for us (Romans 12:1).

John 6:30: “They said therefore unto him, What sign showest thou then, that we may see, and believe thee? what dost thou work?”

(John 6:30) Jesus had already performed a great miracle before them in feeding the five thousand, but the people’s hearts were so set on themselves that they missed the true miracle. All they perceived was how good it felt to have their hunger satisfied. When we are full of self, we always miss God.

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