

St. Andrews Road VBS - July 12th, 2011
Selfish to Selfless
Phil 2:4
By Russell Earl

Thesis: We want to see what it takes to go from selfish to selfless.

- Intro:
1. Do we see selfish people in the world today? (Hollywood, Bosses, etc)
 2. Are we able to recognize when we are being selfish?
 3. What is the cure for selfishness?

I. Signs of Selfishness

A. Commons signs of selfishness

1. Ask your spouse if your behavior is selfish. **(Eph 5:28)**
2. How often do you sacrifice for your friends, family and the Church? **(Gal 2:20)**
3. Being only concerned with your desires **(Matt 6:25-34)**

B. Signs often overlooked that reveal selfishness

1. Not attending services as we should **(Lk 9:58-62, Heb 10:25)**.
2. If we are not willing to help those in need then we are selfish **(1 Jn 3:17)**

II. Problems that develop because of selfishness

A. Selfishness results in spiritual problems

1. When we are only concerned with ourselves we are not pleasing to God. If God was selfish what would have happened? We wouldn't have a way to eternal life **(Matt 6:24, John 3:16)!**
2. Those who are selfish their motivation is not hidden from God **(Matt 6:1-5)**

B. Selfishness results in relationship problems

1. Selfishness will drive a wedge between the husband and wife. **(Eph 5:28)**
2. Selfishness will cause heartache with your children **(Eph 6:4)**

III. Cure for selfishness

A. Recognizing and acknowledge selfish behavior

1. We must first recognize our selfish behavior and realize that being selfish is in fact a sin **(Titus 1:7)**. An obedient servant, such as an elder as seen in Titus, is not selfish but is selfless. Thus servants of God are to be selfless.
2. We must acknowledge our sin before God and desire to change **(Ps 51:3)**.

B. Change of lifestyle (Repentance – **Pro 23:26**).

1. Job was a man who was selfless **(Job 1:1, 4-5)**
2. A selfless life focuses on God and puts others first **(Deut 10:12)**

IV. Selflessness – is putting God and others first **(Phil 2:3-4)**.

A. The supreme selfless act of mankind is putting God in the Pilot seat.

1. When God directs our lives through His Word God is our Pilot **(Phil 1:21)**.
2. God is the director of our lives if He isn't then we are indeed selfish people, selfish people who will lose their souls **(Ps 119:105, Pro 8:17)**

B. By loving and putting God first we recognize the need to put others above ourselves.

1. If we follow God's commands we aren't number two on the list of priorities either
(Gal 5:14, Lk 6:31).

2. We must put others above ourselves, when we do so the church will benefit from such
selfless lifestyles (Jn 13:34-35, Rom 12:10, Gal 6:2).

Conc: 1. Are we living in a selfish life?

2. If so, are you willing to do what is necessary to become a selfless person?

3. Are you willing to put others and most importantly God above your own desires?