

Pt 5: **SELFISHNESS**

“It’s not all about me!”

We are generally consumed with ourselves and our own desires.

The Bible says our natural inclinations are the exact opposite of what God wants us to do.

*Romans 8:8 (njb) Those who live by their **natural inclinations** can never be pleasing to God.*

*James 1:14-15a (njb) Temptation comes from our **own desires**, which entice us and drag us away.*

*¹⁵ These **desires** give birth to sinful actions...*

The truth is we are all naturally self-centred.

*“True humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less.” - **C.S Lewis***

What is the antidote to self-centredness and selfishness? **GIVING!**

Selfishness damages relationships but giving enriches relationships!

*James 4:1-2 (pt) What is the cause of your conflicts and quarrels with each other? **Doesn’t the battle begin inside of you as you fight to have your own way and fulfill your own desires?** ² You jealously*

*want what others have so you begin to see yourself as better than others. You scheme with envy and harm others **to selfishly obtain** what you crave - that's why you quarrel and fight...*

The root cause of most relational difficulties is selfishness and self-centredness.

2 Peter 1:7 (tlb) Learn to put aside your own desires so that you will become patient and Godly. This will make possible the next step, which is for you to **enjoy** other people and to like them, and finally you will grow to love them deeply.

Philippians 2:3-4 (nlt) Don't be selfish; don't live to make a good impression on others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself. Don't think only about your own affairs, but be interested in others, too, and what they are doing.

We are not going to give to someone we are not interested in. Nor are we going to serve someone we don't care for.

We can give without loving, but we cannot love without giving!

True Love endeavours to pursue self-lessness.

The Bible says that God is love and because God loves He therefore gives.

Acts 20:35b (niv) ...remembering the words the Lord Jesus Himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

More marriages would survive today if there was more giving than the expectation to only receive!

It's a sacrificial giving type of love that builds real trust, commitment and acceptance in life.

*John 3:16 (niv) For God so loved the world that **He gave His one and only Son**, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

Being selfish is not how God intended for us to function.

Philippians 2:3 (njb) Nothing is to be done out of jealousy or vanity; instead, out of humility of mind everyone should give preference to others.

Showing preference to others means sacrificing what is best for the other person.

*Matthew 16:25 (msg) Self-help is no help at all. **Self-sacrifice is the way, My way, to finding yourself, your true self.***

1 Corinthians 10:24 (nlt) Don't think only of your own good. Think of other Christians and what is best for them.

Romans 12:10 (nlt) Love each other with brotherly affection and take delight in honoring each other.

(msg) Be good friends who love deeply; practice playing second fiddle.

We need to rely upon Jesus to enable us to give preference to others.

Ephesians 5:21 (niv) "...submit to one another out of reverence for Christ..."

It is out of respect and reverence for Jesus that we find the strength and the ability to put others first.

1 John 3:16 (gnt) This is how we know what love is: Christ gave His life for us. We too, then, ought to give our lives for others!

When we truly respect Jesus, it shows in our willingness to submit to others and to put them first.