

Selfishness

**“For God so loved the world that He gave His
only begotten Son”**

Feb 8, 2015

St. Paul to the Romans: 14:7-10

- For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. ⁸ If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. ⁹ For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.
- ¹⁰ You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat.

The Sin of Selfishness:

- An expression that annoys the one that hears it
- It always points to (self, I, Me)
- Each one of us is selfish in his own way
- We all commit either Selfish acts/Thoughts/etc...
- Ex: Buffet, Driving,
- If giving one's self means Love,
- then selfishness means loving the self



In Arabic ??????????

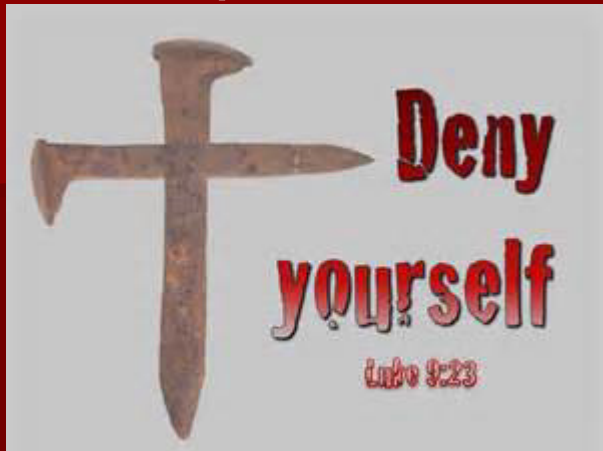
أناني

What is the opposite of Selfishness

Answer: Selflessness غير أناني



The first commandment to follow Christ is:
to deny oneself, carry your cross and follow me



In the Story of ??????,
He was perplexed, (he offered sacrifices,)
He later realized that his sin is the love of oneself

Job



Selfishness is a triple sin combined in one

1. spiritual: (Weak/Lack in Faith)

ex: 1st people on earth: Adam/Eve/Cain

2. Psychological: Only see himself, Confined in own thoughts and life.

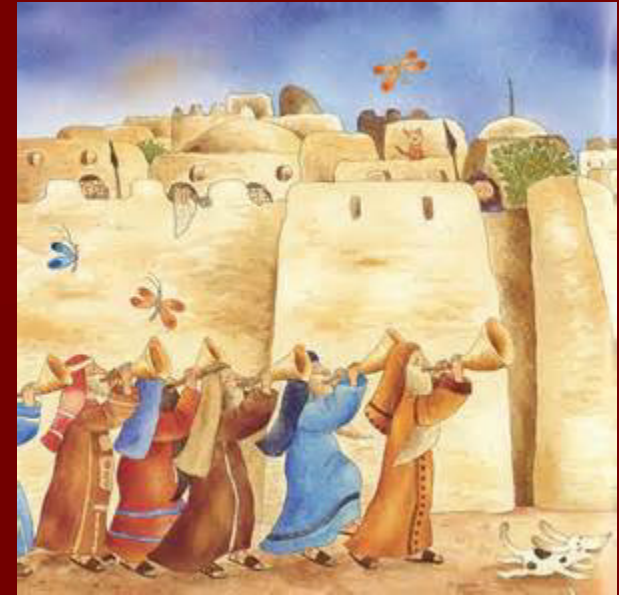
a. Turns into weakness where he can not control his desires.

The bible says: The one who controls himself is better than the one who conquers a city.

3. Social Weakness: Leads to individuality, Community disintegrated.

a. Causes social pain. (ex: the prodigal son)
elder son is selfish despite living in same home

- The Story of Jericho
- Great City fell without fighting, with no effort



- The Story of Ai
 - Small Village, They Lost, after fighting



Why:

“There is an accursed thing in your midst, O Israel”

Reason: Achan, son of Carmi who cared for himself only and stole from the accursed things”

Selfishness is like a prison that a person confines himself in.



- a. Person becomes hateful not loveable.
ex: soccer player or basketball player/Tennis??



Results of being Selfish:

1. Anxiety and unstable life.

a. Feels he is only one this life despite being surrounded. Feels insecure and abused.

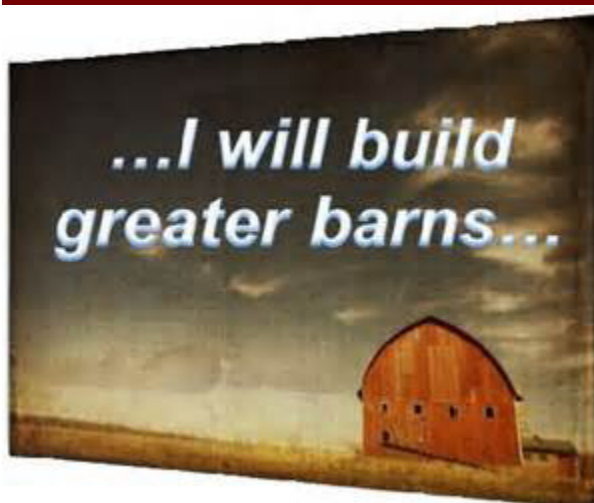


(imagine one of your SS kids has that feeling-hating all other kids in class).

Ex: Anxiety and unstable life:

The parable of the fool rich man who was thinking about himself only. God gave him plenty but he said "I will pull down my barns and build greater, and I will say to my soul, "Soul you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease"

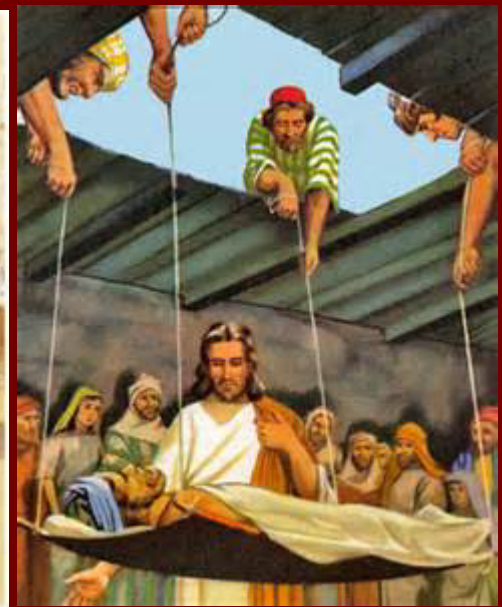
Notice: When yielded plenty, he did not help people



PARABLE
OF THE
RICH
FOOL



- Note the unselfish act of the Friends of the paralytic man. (they helped him/they loved him)
 - Love Breaks selfishness: The 4 friends were happy. (How do we know)
 - The bible says “when The Lord saw their faith”



Results of being Selfish

2. The selfish man is always afraid for he is alone:
- a. Builds a prison around himself
 - b. Isolated and afraid prevents him from succeeding and accomplishing.



Results of Selfishness

3. Busy Condemning others.

a. Always talking about others

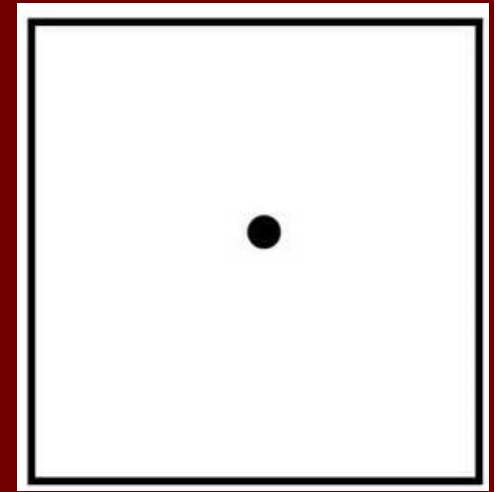
The Book of Proverbs 12:14 says “The way of a fool is right in his own eyes”

St Anthony in his sayings: “Never disgrace anyone lest God hates your prayer”.

The selfish one is always a fool. Does not like anyone.. Sees nothing good in others.

(wears black glasses)

Story of the company with the bad product



The selfish person thinks he knows everything. Wisest in the world. Understands everything. Critizing everyone.



The world of the internet allows the selfish to condemn people and insult them. No respect.

He thinks it will make him a superstar and popular
(how many likes/comments you do on Facebook/Twitter)



- God put a plan for humans to be unselfish
- That Plan is Called:

Marriage



Marriage

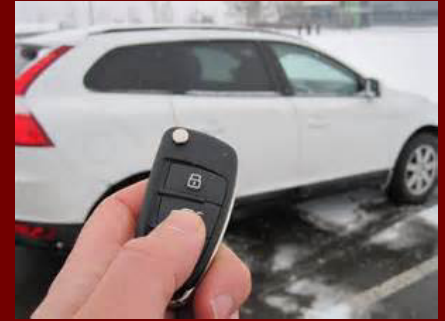


- **Marriage: Not a social arrangement but a divine partnership, So everyone would be unselfish (get out of shell and comfort zone and get connected with another.**

Learning to be unselfish with your partner and then passing the unselfishness to their children (Peter Joke)

As St. John Chrysostom says “The family is the Icon of community”

Marriage



How do we act during the engagement?????



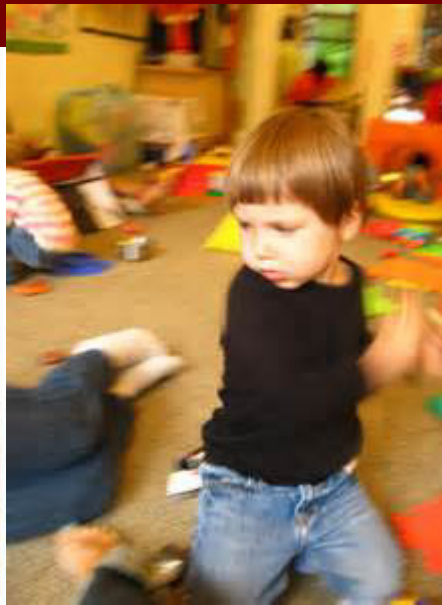
Story of the first 5 years of marriage



Getting rid of selfishness

During Childhood: Important and essential

- 1. Babies have the instinct of Selfishness.**
- 2. As the maturity increases the selfishness decreases**



Getting rid of selfishness



Getting rid of selfishness

During Childhood: Important and essential

- 1. Playing with collective games and not individual ones.**
 - a. Individual games teach selfishness (iphone, Ipad, gameboy, etc).
My game, no one touches it.**
 - b. Watch how kids act in Church. Getting blessing**



Getting rid of selfishness

■ 2. Don't be alone.

- In the morning Praises, We say: Behold how beneficent and how pleasant, it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. **United** in the true evangelic love, like the apostles.

(Then it gives the example of a harp, Each individual is like one of the strings on the harp giving a different harmony)

This can be related to a family, Church, servants, deacons, priests

- There is nothing better than belonging to a group.



Getting rid of selfishness

3. Believing and Trusting in God.

- Believing that all success comes from God
- Don't be like Lot when he choose for himself, but his choice was the wrong land.
- land he choose became Sodom and Gomorrah
 - Yet the land that Abraham choose because of his trust in God poured milk and honey



Getting rid of selfishness



■ 4. The life of Service

- The bible says about the Apostles: “they had all things in common
- Service of the needy, the disabled, those who are alone.
- Having feelings for other people

St. Augustine says “Love all when all be yours”

Steps

- **1. Childhood**
- **2. Don't be alone**
- **3. Believing and Trusting in God**
- **4. The life of service.**

Conclusion

- ¹⁰ You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat.