

## *Selfishness (#2)*

Joe Slater

Selfishness isn't new! Scripture warns often against over-emphasizing self. Paul, for example, wrote: "*Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others*" (Philippians 2:14). Did he say, "Totally ignore your own interests"? No, he warned us not to think exclusively, or even excessively, of ourselves. If I am cold, I might adjust the thermostat to warm the room. But if someone else feels too warm, I could go put on a sweater instead. I should consider the other person's comfort, not just my own.

Of course, selfishness goes far deeper than thermostats and sweaters. Peter warned of ungodly false teachers who "*walk according to the flesh in the list of uncleanness and despise authority. They are presumptuous, self-willed*" (2 Peter 2:10). Uncleanness and lust obviously point to sexual immorality which characterizes modern society and has impacted the church negatively. Such selfish behavior ignores the boundaries God set on sexual activity, focusing instead on fleshly gratification without the commitment of marriage.

Even from a strictly worldly standpoint, pre-marital and extra-marital sexual activity bring harmful results, be they physical (disease; unwanted pregnancy) or emotional (guilt, betrayal, anger). These pale, however, in comparison to the spiritual wreckage. Unfortunately, though, selfishness often prevents the person from understanding, much less caring, how their sinful behavior affects their own relationship with God or that of others involved. The momentary pleasures of sin numb them to the eternal consequences.

More next week!

## **IMPATIENT CHRISTIANS**

A Christian brother and I went to a café to eat during a college lectureship. We were joking with the waitress, who seemed rather frustrated with the crowd. We inquired about her religion. She answered, "I quit attending church because I serve so many impatient Christians."

This hit me rather hard, so I observed the customers; they were rather rude and demanding. This taught me a good lesson. Nine thousand Christians had assembled to fellowship; our "giants" were there to lecture; the lectures were powerful enough to save anybody; many new programs, missions, and plans were announced. But, this lady didn't hear those sermons.

The best sermons on earth cannot touch a person who has lived ten years next to a church member who is sour, rude, and impatient. Any kind of sermon can save someone who has lived ten years next door to a sweet, thoughtful "visit the sick," "care for the children," type of Christian.

You see the lesson? It is the "little things" in life that count: the smile, the thought, the patience, the name, the handshake. Trivialities can be tragedies – the frown, the hard statement, rudeness. Christians are thoughtful, courteous, and kind. He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much, and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much (Luke 16:10).

Christian, be careful! God is watching! Children are watching! Friends are watching! And, total strangers watch.

Charles Hodge, Jr. (via Sayre OK)

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**To make a long story short, don't tell it!**

## *The Bible Is Right!*

The late brother Marshall Keeble (1878-1968) was well known and much loved for many reasons. His influence lives on even today (cf. Heb. 11:4). One phrase he uttered a countless number of times was, "The Bible is right!" It does not matter what some university professor says . . . the Bible is right. It does not matter what some scientist says . . . the Bible is right. It does not matter what some politician says. . .the Bible is right. I think you get the point.

It would serve us well to remember these words from brother Keeble today. With all the amazing discoveries being made . . . with all of the modern scientific and technological advances being revealed . . . let us remember that no discovery shall be made that will compromise, belittle, or change the authority and supremacy of the Word of God—the Bible.

Shall we fear discoveries like the Higg boson (the "God Particle")? On the contrary! We should embrace it and celebrate! Information such as this only strengthens the case for an Almighty Creator. It is further proof that this amazing world in which we live is intricately designed. And, as we all know, design demands a designer.

Enjoy once again this telling statement from the founding director of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies, Robert Jastrow: "For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance; he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls him- self over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries." (from the book God and the Astronomers)

Whatever the discovery. . .whatever the situation. . .the Bible is right. Trust it. Live it. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Bart Warren (via *Bulletin Gold*)