

Solid Rock Christian Church Manassas, Virginia

Bible Study - June 30, 2022

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Title: Esteeming Others Better Than Yourself

Subtitle: Getting Past Self-Centeredness/Selfishness

Scripture Reference: Philippians 2:3

"Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves."

I. Introduction

A. Self-centeredness is a behavior that is very prevalent and yes, it exists within the church. It is a selfish act that says to others, everything is all about me. Selfishness is a consuming and destructive sin. The first and inevitable casualty is the person who manifests it, even if no one else is harmed.

B. Because this sin, like every other, begins in a sinful heart, anyone can commit it - regardless of whether there is an opportunity for it to be outwardly expressed.

C. People who display this type of behavior are often irritated when someone else is getting attention and not them. Even when not outwardly expressed, selfishness breeds anger, resentment, and jealousy.

D. This behavior exists also within the family unit, and it manifests itself outside of the confines of the home. If the self-centered person sees or senses that another family member is being recognized and not them, the result can be sarcasm, ridicule, or even hostility towards the person being recognized.

E. The model and example of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ was one of humility, not self-centeredness or selfishness.

Therefore, we who are called Christians must follow the premier example of Him who has done and will do all things well.

II. Discussion [Part I] - Do You Esteem Others Better Than Yourself?

A. The word "Esteem" translates a participial form of the Greek word huperecho, which incorporates the Greek word from which the English word hyper is taken. It intensifies and elevates what is in view, so it means "to excel, surpass, or be superior to." In Philippians 2:3 it means to view others as **more important** than yourself.

Note: To view others as more important than yourself requires genuine humility and this means not thinking too highly of yourself.

B. The Word of God commands us as Christians to esteem others better than ourselves, so how are we to do this? Consider the following:

- The president of a large company was looking very favorably on a person and lifting up this individual who was working on the company assembly line. The president let this person know that they were just as important as the president of the company. Can you imagine how this must have made the assembly line worker feel?
- How about a Federal Government official in a high management position being more concerned with the comfort and happiness of the workers who were not in management, more than his or her own comfort.

C. In this day and time in which we live, vanity, competition and greed are running rampant, and it is so difficult to imagine any of the above situations taking place. When they do occur, it is a rare exception.

D. Satan has bombarded our society with a spirit of hardness, indifference, and self-importance, to the point that we sometimes

automatically think of ourselves, without concern for others. We want the chief (best) seats in a room, the top honors, and the best advantages, all of which speaks of selfishness and self-centeredness.

E. What was Paul's point in writing - "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves."? This verse has to do with being lowly in mind, abasing and humbling oneself in preference to others.

F. It means putting the interests, cares, and comforts of our fellowman above our own - which involves service and sometimes sacrifice(s).

G. In Romans 12:10 Paul says - "**Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another.**" Romans 12:16 says - "**Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.**"

Comment: If you notice, these two verses are not "self-centered.

H. Esteeming others above ourselves describes the attitude God wants Christians to develop as a basic approach to life. This can only come through dying to one's self, taking on God's nature, and being filled with His love.

III. Discussion [Part II] - Self-Centeredness (Think on these things)

A. Don't be self-centered but think of others. Consider 1 Corinthians 10:24 - "Let not man seek his own, but every man another's wealth."

B. Jesus calls us to self-denial. "And he said to them all, **If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it. For what is a man advantaged, if he gain**

the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away?" (Luke 9:23-25)

C. The new disposition that God wants us to acquire is a complete reversal of our former self. He wants the believers in Jesus Christ to empty themselves of vanity and self-centeredness. As we yield to the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit within us, a wonderful change will occur in our lives. We will take on a new heart, a new nature, and a new outlook.

D. We will become kinder, more thoughtful, and more compassionate.

IV. Discussion - [Part III] - Putting the Word of God into Action

A. Here are some practical ways that we can put the Word of God into action with regards to esteeming others better than ourselves.

- Care for the fatherless and widows (James 1:27)
- Donate food and clothing to the poor and destitute. (1 John 3:17-18)
- Don't be ashamed or embarrassed to do the most menial tasks in serving other brothers and sisters in the Lord, and even the unsaved. Jesus demonstrated that He was the supreme servant by setting the example for us to follow. (John 13:2-5)

Thought Questions:

- 1) Is it too much to ask for us to clean the home of someone who is sick?
- 2) Would you be willing to give a bath or provide transportation for a disabled person or clean up after a church function?

B. Esteeming others better than ourselves is simply a matter of expressing love and humility and thinking of them first. This is the essence of true Christianity and sums up the meaning of genuine godly love.

It is once again interactive time. Please complete the biblical passages below by filling in the blank spaces. Each passage was taken from the King James Version (KJV) of the Holy Bible.

"And Jesus called a _____ unto him, and set him in the _____ of them. And said, **Verily I say unto you, _____ ye be converted, and become as little _____, ye shall not enter into the _____ of _____. Whosoever therefore shall _____ himself as this little child, the same is _____ in the kingdom of _____.** [Matthew 18:2-4]

"Sing _____ to the Lord, which dwelleth in _____: declare among the people his _____. When he maketh _____ for blood, he remembereth them: he _____ not the cry of the _____. [Psalm 9:11-12]

"And we _____ you brethren, to _____ them which labor among you, and are _____ you in the Lord, and _____ you; And to _____ them very _____ for their work's sake. And be at _____ among yourselves."

[1 Thessalonians 5:12,13]

"For I say, through the _____ given unto me, to every man that is _____ you, not to _____ of himself more _____ than he ought to _____; but to think _____, according as God hath _____ to every man the _____ of faith."

[Romans 12:3]

"Will the Lord be _____ with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of _____ of oil? Shall I give my first-born for my transgression, the _____ of my body for the sin of my _____? He hath showed thee, O man, what is _____; and what doth the Lord _____ of thee, but to do _____, and to love _____, and to walk _____ with thy God."

[Micah 6:7,8]

"Blessed are the _____ in spirit: for theirs is the _____ of heaven. Blessed are they that _____: for they shall be _____. Blessed are the _____; for they shall _____ the earth."

[Matthew 5:3-5]

"Let this _____ be in you, which is also in _____: Who, being in the form of _____, _____ it not robbery to be _____ with God. But made himself of no _____, and took upon him the form of a _____, and was made in the _____ of men: And being _____ in _____ as a man, he _____ himself, and became _____ unto death, even the death of the _____." Wherefore God also hath highly _____ him, and given him a name which is _____ every name. That at the name of _____ every _____ should bow, of things in _____, and things in _____, and things under the _____."

[Philippians 2:5-10]

Note: Philippians 2:7-8 is known as the **Kenosis Passage**. The Greek word **Kenosis** means "**to empty out**." Applied to Philippians 2:7-8, Jesus "emptied" or veiled His divinity and willingly submitted to death on the cross, to pay our sin debt.

Once again, I pray that this study session has been and will continue to be a blessing to you. Please feel free to share with others what you have gleaned from this study.

Jude 3
Pastor Austin