

Today I am going to talk to about selfishness.

Selfishness is defined as:

“Chiefly concerned with one's own interest, advantage, etc, especially to the total exclusion of the interests of others”

We live in a society of self.

Take for example selfies, people used to take pictures of nice landscapes, family portraits etc. Now many people are just taking pictures of themselves, editing them and uploading to online social media sites such as facebook.

For all those who don't know what a selfie is, I will demonstrate:

This is a new craze which is on the rise and people love to see how many likes and comments they get on facebook of photos of themselves.

Even more crazy is people have started marrying themselves. Take for example Grace Gelder who last year in the UK proposed to herself on a park bench, bought a ring and a dress and invited all of her friends to watch her make her vows.

One of her comments to the Guardian Newspaper was: 'The day was obviously centered on me, the final event being a mirror for me to kiss.

Can you believe it, whatever next?

It's all about me, myself and I.

I have said in the past I will not share something unless I have experienced it myself. The topic of selfishness is something I am going through with my wife, I haven't conquered it but I have started the journey.

Is there anyone here who is or has been selfish in the past?

If anyone has their hand down do not deceive yourself, we are born into this world with a selfish nature. Take a baby when it cries especially in the night, do you think that baby cares that Mummy and Daddy are tired, No of course not 😊

Here are just six ways to tell if you're selfish:

1. You like being in control and find it difficult to compromise.
2. Giving and sharing do not come easily to you.
3. Putting other people's needs first — before your own.
4. You hear constructive criticism as personal attacks.
5. You become moody when others have the spotlight.
6. Forgiving others is difficult.

So I think everyone can say they have selfishness inside them. Now I just want to give you some real life scenarios of selfishness some of which may shock you. I hope you can relate to most of these:

- Have you ever got annoyed in the car when someone cuts in front of you? – **Guilty**
- Have you ever been stuck in traffic and therefore do not want to let anyone out in front of you? – **Guilty**

- Have you ever got into an argument over a parking space? – **Guilty**
- Have you ever worried about what people are thinking when your baby is crying uncontrollably in public – **Guilty**
- Have you ever spent hours getting ready putting on lots of Makeup, Jewelry and clothes – **hhmmm Not Guilty, where is my wife?**
- Have you ever let other things come in before your family such as Hobbies, Friends, the Church or Work – **Guilty**
- Have you ever left the Church service early before it had finished?
- Have you ever come to Church late? – **Guilty**
- Do you come to Church week in week out but do not get involved in serving in the Church and giving back?
- Have you ever sat down whilst your partner or family member cleans up around you? - **Guilty**
- Have you ever just changed the TV channel because you didn't like the program someone else was already watching? – **Guilty**
- Have you ever overeaten? – **Guilty**
- Do you buy clothes which you just don't need - **hhmmm where is my wife again?**

And the list goes on and on and on. How many people can relate to some if not all the points made? I am not trying to condemn anyone, but simply to awaken you to how selfish you and I can be.

My wife and I from time to time have what we call a **Relationship Checkup**. It's a bit like when you go to the Doctor to make sure everything is well with your body and health. We simply stop and take note of our relationship. Within the last few weeks we had a real open, honest conversation and we realised just how selfish we were being to each other. To be honest some of the comments we said to each other were tough to hear.

I am sure you have heard the phrase THE TRUTH HURTS. However the Bible says The Truth will set you free John 8:32 and it certainly did for us. It completely changed our relationship for the better.

You may be thinking where are the scriptures, don't worry they are coming. I will conclude with a series of scriptures.

Other than Jesus, Paul is a wonderful example to us of someone in the Bible who faced continual trials, and yet never stopped serving God and others.

(2 Corinthians 11:23-28) speaks of the many trials Paul faced. He:

1. Was put in prison over and over
2. Was flogged an uncounted number of times
3. Faced death over and over
4. Received 39 lashes from the Jews 5 times
5. Was beaten with rods 3 times
6. Was stoned one time
7. Was shipwrecked 3 times
8. Spent a day and night in the sea
9. Was in continual danger from rivers and robbers
10. Was in danger from his own countrymen, as well as the Gentiles
11. Was in danger in the city, in the country, at sea, and from false brothers

12. Was weary and in pain often, without sleep

13. Was often hungry and thirsty, cold and naked **and in verse 28 Paul says "besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches."**

The opposite of selfishness is selflessness let's see what the bible says about this:

John 15:12-14 – 12 This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.14 You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.

Colossians 3:12 – 12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;

Philippians 2:3-8 – 3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

Matthew 16:24-25

24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, —If anyone desires to come after Me, let him **deny** himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

Mark 10:45

45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.||

Let's all stand up put on our crowns and make a symbolic statement of dethroning King Self and instead crowning King Jesus.