

SELF-LIFE IS SIN

(WHY IT MUST BE REMOVED FROM OUR HEART)

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The apostle wrote (Ephes.4:22-24) "You were taught with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness." When we are committed to 'putting of our old self to be 'made new' to be 'like God' as that passage instructs us to be, we can then become a 'peacemaker' like God. (Matt,5:9) "Blessed are the peacemakers, for it is they who will be recognized as 'sons of God'."

We were told (Genesis 1:27) "God created man in his own image; in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them" to also have the same divine love; the same peace; the same faith; and the same spiritual wisdom He has. God wants to be in our heart, and to control our life,. He is our Protector; Physician; Supplier; and Teacher, just as He was to Adam when he trusted God for everything.

(Romans 8:9) says that we are to be "controlled not by the 'sinful nature' [self], but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ." The self-nature is not to be polished up to appear okay, but it is to be removed and taken out of our heart, because self cannot serve God nor trust God for anything, and that is why self is sin. Self, and the 'nature of Jesus Christ' cannot dwell together in our heart, so with God's help we must allow Him to remove 'self' from our heart, and our mind, to be replaced with the 'mind of Christ'. (Phil.2:5) "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus."

If 'self' is in control, we cannot love our neighbor as the Bible tells us that we must, but when self is removed and the Holy Spirit takes its place, we can love our neighbor, because with the Holy Spirit within, we can love God supremely. A true 'love for God' and to sincerely hold to His Word, enables one to forgive our enemies; and to ask God to bless those who want to hurt us; also, to pray for those who want to use us for selfish and unjust reasons.

If self is removed from our heart, 'peace' will be restored in our home. The Bible teaches and admonishes all family members to put aside that 'get even nature' of self. (1 Peter 3:1-2) "Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear of God."

(And then 1 Peter 3:7) "Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers." [That Bible verse should inspire all of us to search our heart, and be open-minded to being shown the hindrance to our prayers,]

Children are also reminded by God's Word to be obedient (Ephes.6:1-4) "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right." "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise:" "that it may be well with you, and you may live long on the earth. And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord."

It is a wonderful thing to be a 'child of God', just by obeying the Word of God. Forsaking the ways of 'self' and treating others in God's way will bring many blessings from Him. The apostle Paul understood that 'principle of Truth', so, he appealed to all of Jesus Christ's true 'followers, (Phil.2;1-4) "If then I can appeal to you as the followers of Christ, if there is any persuasive power in love and any common sharing of the Spirit, or if you have any tender-heartedness and compassion, make my joy complete by being of one mind, united by mutual love, with harmony of feeling giving your minds to one and the same object. Do nothing in a spirit of factiousness or of vainglory, but, with true humility, let every one regard the rest as being of more account than himself; each fixing his attention, not simply on his own interests, but on those of others also."

It is a true blessing to have a heart that really loves God, so we can pray for enemies and forgive everyone (with all malice, bitterness, strife, resentment, and hypocrisy taken out). (Matt.5:6) "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled." We will become filled with God's Spirit here on earth, which gives us the same love, mercy, and spirit of forgiveness that God has, (and that he so much wants us to have within ourselves, for He tells us in His Word that He wants no soul to perish, but for all to REPENT. (2 Pet.3:9) "The Lord is not slow in fulfilling His promise, in the sense in which some men speak of slowness. But He bears patiently with you, His desire being that no one should perish but that all should come to Repentance."

Our responsibility is to give our life to God. (Romans 12:1)

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." We are to decide and choose to place our every attitude and turn every decision over to God for His guidance, and for His will to be shown and done without compromising, whether it pleases us or not. God always has the last Word.

That is generally not taught in churches, but we must have our sins forgiven, and make a total surrender of our life to God. His divine will must replace our self will because self cannot be in control if we expect to enter heaven. Our life is to be holy and pleasing to God."

When we give our life to God, His Holy Spirit takes control of our heart. The rebellious self-nature is replaced with a submissive divine-nature. The life of Christ is then in our heart. (1 Cor.1:30) "Of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption."

To have God's peace and righteousness is a blessed privilege indeed. Consecrating our life to God, enables us to believe what God accomplished for us on the cross. Replacing self with God's Spirit, means we are willing to meet every detail of life according to God's

Word. This brings about the 'death of self'. When self is out, Christ is in our heart.

At that point, there is nothing that God would not give us, (all the spiritual blessings; inner peace; good health, healing, and protection needed). It seems un-realistic to the carnal mind, but it is God's Truth to the spiritual mind. (Psalm 91:5-7) "You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, Nor of the arrow that flies by day, Nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, Nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday. A thousand may fall at your side, And ten thousand at your right hand; But it shall not come near you." [When self is gone a divine shield is around us.]

The 'death of self' will enable us to have all the finances we need and more; good health and healing restored if we are oppressed; peace and cooperation in our home (if strife has entered); to have a divine control of employment issues; and enjoy God's protection from harm. If we are not seeing those results, then self is still in control (and that wicked nature can reside deep in our heart), and we do not realize it.

All things are possible with God, however, and we just need to make our choice to believe that they are possible. When self is gone, our troubles will come to an end. We cannot resent wrongs done to us (God does not permit us to resent them), and we are not to be upset by what is said to us at work, in the home, or anywhere else. Self does resent wrong treatment, but the Spirit inspires forgiveness in our heart, and it enables us to place everything before God in prayer and in faith. Our 'hope of Heaven' is to allow God to fight our battles.

(Rom,12:19-20) "*Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord. On the contrary: 'If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.'*" So, as we obey the Scriptures, self is taken out (removed), and the Holy Spirit comes into our heart. When we put aside self, God fights the battle for us; He rights the wrongs done to us and conquers our enemies for us. God alone knows how, and only His love and mercy can do it right.

If we tell others about someone's unjust treatment of us, self remains in control and takes hold of our life, steers us further away from a life of Christ. If self is not in control and God is working on the case, the matter will be solved. (Prov.16:7) "*When a man's ways please the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.*"

If we tried to obey the Scriptures with self in control, we would not be able to do it. Any biased treatment against us will reveal if any self is still in our heart. When we are offended by someone, we will be tempted to respond like the world responds. The control of self is not a minor thing, but a major problem that must be (and can only be) overcome by the grace of God working in our heart if we will put self aside and allow God to teach us to be an overcomer in faith.

All manner of strife, friction, fighting, hard feelings, and resentment (caused by self within us), is to be made right with God, and corrections are to be made in our life. If we will not deal with this issue of self, our wrong attitude could land us in Hell forever. We are not to be and cannot be sensitive about things, but we need to realize and see that it is 'self' before it is too late. Being sensitive is a main citadel of Satan. We should not and are not to

make light of this serious matter, and it takes real grace from God to meet things right.

Another factor in having a life of self removed is our meeting spiritual, physical, and financial battles in a 'Scriptural way'. It is vitally important to meet all those situations according to God's Word. Satan is always prowling about to hinder our blessings, spiritually and physically, and, in the way of receiving God's financial blessings.

God has promised that if we are willing to get away from the attitudes, actions, and responses of self, He will enable us to get rid of that carnal control. Satan is always prowling to keep self active within us. God says we must be aware of that and be ready to resist the devil.

(1 Peter 5:9-10) says that we are to be "*steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.*"

We must be alert every *minute* and vigilant every *hour*, in order to meet every situation according to God's plan, and always to be met as His Holy Spirit will enable us to meet them, but never trying in our own strength or ability; never even hinting to anyone that we need money; never resorting to using medication or drugs; never using human devices for protection; never hiring a lawyer to avenge wrongs against us; and never trying to make our own way of escape.

That surely sounds strange to the world; but the least thing done via *self*, is the worst thing according to God, because it is God alone Who can keep us 'spiritually alive'; He can heal our body without human help; (for He told us that He is the healer of His people), but the world does not believe that Promise from God Himself, (Exodus 15:26) "If you diligently heed the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For 'I' am the LORD who heals you."

God protects us from harm without use of devices; He supplies our every need from His unlimited resources; and He promised to right all the injustices done toward us. When we are finally done with our *last self-effort*; when we have made our last hint for money; and when all our help is from God alone, all of self-will be out of our heart.

We are *not* to worry about things, because Scripture tells us that all worry is from self and Satan. (Phil.4:6) "*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.*" Every worry we accept is against the *Word of God*, which would also be against the will of God. When we have worried our last worry, we will have put the final nail in the 'coffin of self'.

Any worry or concern we may be tempted to have, is to be placed before God in prayer and *left* in His hands. We must open our *heart* to God without reserve and tell Him everything. The moment that a worry comes to our mind we should go to God in prayer and tell Him about it.

The entire theme of the Bible, is for us to place our every concern, worry, need, or physical oppression before God in prayer. (Psalm 91:15) "*He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be*

with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him." Also (Psalm 50:15) "Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me."

For us to not tell God about our concerns, problems, and troubles, it would be like a child who had loving, faithful, and devoted parents, but when needing help, they would go to a neighbor or someone else first, before them telling their parent. However, a child goes right to a parent. (Matt.8:3) "Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."

That is also the meaning expressed for us (Phil.4:6) "Do not be over-anxious about anything, but by prayer and earnest pleading, together with thanksgiving, let your request be unreservedly made known in the presence of God." If we will do that, self will be gone (vs.7) "and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

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The First Century Gospel Church/Philadelphia

S331R SOME MAIN POINTS:

1 We were told (Genesis 1:27) "God created man in his own image;" also to have the same divine love; peace; faith; and same spiritual wisdom He has. God wants to be in our heart, and to control our life, NOT for 'self' in control of our life. God is to be our Protector; Physician; Supplier; and Teacher, just as He was for Adam when he trusted God for everything (before he fell in the 'sin of self').

2 We are told (Romans 8:9) that we are to be "controlled not by the 'sinful nature' [self], but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ." The self-nature is not to be polished up to appear okay, but it is to be removed and taken out of our heart, because self cannot serve God nor trust God for anything, and 'that is why self is sin'. Self, and the 'nature of Jesus Christ' cannot dwell together in our heart, so with God's help we must allow Him to remove 'self' from our heart, and our mind, to be replaced with the 'mind of Christ'. (Phil.2:5) "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus."

3 Our responsibility is to give our life to God. Apostle Paul appealed to all professed believers, (Romans 12:1 "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." We are to decide and choose to place our every attitude, and to turn every decision over to God for His guidance, and for His will to be shown and done without compromising, (whether it pleases us or not). God always has the last Word in our life!