

Stinginess / Selfishness

What is stinginess or selfishness?

- Concerned _____ or _____ with _____ : seeking or _____ on _____ advantage, pleasure, or well-being without _____ for _____
- Arising from concern with one's own _____ or advantage in disregard of others; a _____
- Taking care of and for one's own self while also _____

Where does this stinginess or selfishness come from? _____!

Jonathan Edwards - "Remember that _____ is the worst _____ that is in the heart, the greatest disturber of the soul's peace and sweet communion with Christ; it was the first sin that ever was, and lies lowest in the foundation of Satan's whole building, and is the most difficultly rooted out, and is the most hidden, secret and deceitful of all lusts."
C.S. Lewis - in Mere Christianity, he writes that ..." _____ is the anti-God state, the position in which the _____ and the _____ are directly opposed to God" ...

What are some ways that stinginess or selfishness are manifested/displayed?

- _____ – characterized by a lack of generosity (one who hoards for themselves)
- _____ – Lacking love
- _____ – embarrassingly insulting
- _____ - strong feelings of displeasure and hostility
- _____ - annoyance, crabby, grumpy, testiness, prickliness, cantankerous
- _____ - snappy, edgy, quick tempered
- _____ – inflated opinion of oneself
- _____ - dissatisfaction of or toward others
- _____ - of others

How does selfishness affect you/me personally?

- The burden of _____ is created
- Our _____ never has its _____ in the _____ of righteousness. It springs out of the soil of _____ and springs up fast, like the sin-weed that it is. We get irritated or easily provoked - not because God's righteousness or justice is scorned, but when something we want is being _____, _____, or _____. It works like this:
 - When I'm **weary** I want **rest**, but if it's denied/delayed/disrupted *I get irritated.*
 - When I'm **sick or in pain** I want **relief**, but if it's denied/delayed/disrupted *I get irritated.*
 - When I'm **preoccupied** I want **uninterrupted focus**, but if it's denied/delayed/disrupted *I get irritated.*
 - When I'm **running late** I want **to avoid appearing negligent**, but if it's denied/delayed/disrupted *I get irritated.*
 - When I'm **disappointed** I want **my desire fulfilled**, but if it's denied/delayed/disrupted *I get irritated.*
 - When I'm **fearful** I want **escape from a threat**, but if it's denied/delayed/disrupted *I get irritated.*
 - When I'm **uncertain** I want **certainty, preferably reassuring**, but if it's denied/delayed/disrupted *I get irritated.*
 - When I'm **enjoying something** I want **to continue until I wish to be done**, but if it's denied/delayed/disrupted *I get irritated.*

The reason irritability is unloving & unrighteous anger is that it's a selfish response to a barrier for what we desire. What we desire may not be sinful, but a selfish response to its denial, delay, or disruption is a failure to *trust God at all times* (Psalm 62:8) — and often a failure to value, love, and serve another human soul (who by the way, is created in the image of God!)

How does selfishness affect my relationships?

- With God?
 - Selfishness is a ___ against God
 - Each selfish act places a _____ between ___ and _____

- Can you ever imagine saying to God - "I know your son Jesus humbled himself, left heaven, took on human flesh, and absorbed the full weight of your wrath for my sin – **BUT** _____ that I have needs which are _____ right now!"
- Examples from the Bible –
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
- With others?
 - As my irritation is thrust onto others, it becomes a burden for them (Proverbs 15:1)
 - My sin of selfishness may cause others to sin with their words, thoughts, or actions as you play the role of the tempter for them
 - My sin of selfishness will strain relationships, drive wedges among friends, and has increasing potential to sever marriages / family unity
 - _____

What does God say about Selfishness?

- _____ the SPIRIT _____ the FLESH
 - Galatians 5:16-21 What do you notice about the relationship between Selfishness and the works of the flesh?
 - James 3:13-17 ...bitter jealousy and _____ in your heart leads to wisdom that is boastful and arrogant. That wisdom is _____, _____, and _____. For where _____ and _____ _____ exist, there is disorder and every evil thing
- On the contrary, wisdom from God is:
- _____ – moral integrity
 - _____ – promotes peace
 - _____ – kind, patient, courteous, "sweet reasonableness"
 - _____ – teachable
 - _____ – quick to forgive

- _____ – consistent in their decisions
- Walk humbly _____ above yourself
 - Philippians 2:3 _____ from _____ or _____, but with humility of mind regard one another as _____ important than yourselves
 - Philippians 2:4 Let each of you look not only to his **own interests**, but also to the **interests of others**
 - Luke 9:23 And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him **deny himself** and take up his cross daily and follow me
 - Hebrews 13:16 ...**do good** and to **share** what you have, for such **sacrifices** are _____ to God
- Be _____ by _____
 - I Corinthians 13:4-6 Love is:
 - **Patient, kind, does not envy or boast, not arrogant or rude**
 - It does **not insist** on its **own way**, is not **irritable** or **resentful**
 - It does not rejoice at **wrongdoing**, but rejoices with the truth
- Give _____
 - I Timothy 6:17-19 As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to **do good**, to **be rich in good works**, to be _____ and ready to _____, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

How do I avoid or overcome selfishness?

- S _____, _____, and _____
- T _____
- O _____
- P _____

DEATH TO SELF!