

A Christian Perspective on Self

2 Corinthians 5:14-21



1. We must not trust self. “That we should not trust in ourselves but in God” (*2 Cor. 1:9*). “Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD.... Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD” (*Jer. 17:5,7*). Self will always disappoint you and let you down! We are not sufficient of ourselves (*2 Cor. 3:5*).

2. We must not promote self. “For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord” (*2 Cor. 4:5*). The message of our life and lips ought to point to Christ, not to ourselves. We are to promote Him, not self. “He must increase, but I must decrease” (*John 3:30*).

3. We must not live for self. “He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them, and rose again” (*2 Cor. 5:15*). Now that I am saved I no longer live for myself, but I live for my Saviour. My slogan used to be, “For to me to live is SELF,” **but now**, “For to me to live is Christ” (*Phil. 1:21*). We must learn to say “NO” to self and “YES” to Christ: “If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me” (*Luke 9:23*).

4. We must not please self. “We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves” (*Rom. 15:1*). Our focus was once on pleasing self, but now it is on pleasing God (*Gal. 1:10*), and helping and edifying others (*Rom. 15:2*). If we must focus at all on self, then let us focus on cleansing ourselves (*2 Cor. 7:1*), judging ourselves (*1 Cor. 11:31*), and being a vessel fit for the Master’s use (*2 Tim. 2:21*).

~George Zeller: www.middletownbiblechurch.org

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