

SELF-EGO

- Sins of Self
- Proper Self-Traits

The lesson this morning, is entitled **SELF-EGO**.

Many of our problems have to do with SELF.

And so, We need to be alert to the dangers, and be aware of the associated sins of SELF.

The Bible says,

- “**EXAMINE YOURselves**, whether ye be in the faith; **PROVE your OWN selves**.
Know ye not your **OWN selves**, how that Jesus Christ is **IN** you, **EXCEPT** ye be reprobates?” ([2Cor.13:5](#))

Consider some of the,

I. Sins of SELF

A. Self-Complacency ...or Self-Satisfaction

Which describes the christians at Sardis.

Notice the passage in [Rev.3:1-2](#),

- “unto the angel of the church in Sardis write;
These things saith He that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars;
I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art **DEAD**.
² Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die:
for I have not found thy works perfect before God.” ([Rev.3:1-2](#))

Self-Complacency, also describes the christians at Laodicea.

- “unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write;
These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;
¹⁵ I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.
¹⁶ So then because thou art **LUKEWARM**, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.
¹⁷ Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing;
and knowest not that thou art **WRETCHED**, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:” ([Rev.3:14-17](#))

SELF-Complacency, may describe the attitude of “Preacher-Itus”, that some have toward their preacher. Brethren really do great harm, when they lift up a man upon a pedestal. Such behavior feeds and tempts him, to be Ego centric, to be SELF-engulfed.

Remember the extreme cases of “Preacher-Itus”, in our history, which shows how far, some are willing to go, for their preacher.

- The Branch Davidians, led by David Koresh of Waco, TX
- The Peoples Temple, led by Jim Jones of Jonestown, Guyana

Self-Complacency, is the opposite attitude, to the teaching of Christ.

- “Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always **OBEYED**, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **WORK out your OWN salvation, WITH fear and trembling.**” ([Phil.2:12](#))
- “Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended:
but this one thing I do, **FORGETTING** those things which are **BEHIND**,
and **REACHING FORTH** unto those things which are **BEFORE**,
¹⁴ I **PRESS TOWARD** the mark, for the prize of the high calling of God **IN** Christ Jesus.” ([Phil.3:13-14](#))
- “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable,
always ABOUNDING in the work OF the Lord, ...NOT in one’s OWN work, NOR in the Work of any MAN.
forasmuch as ye know that your **labour is not in vain IN the Lord.**” ([1Cor.15:58](#))

Some of the sins of Self...

B. Self-Conceit ...or an Exaggerated Estimate, of One's Own Abilities and or Powers

If we could BUY some for what they are worth, and then SELL some for what they THINK they are worth,
We could make a fortune! 😊

- Paul said, “through the grace given unto me, to **EVERY MAN** that is among you, **NOT to THINK of HIMSELF more HIGHLY than he ought to THINK;** but to **THINK soberly**, according as **GOD hath DEALT** to every man, the **MEASURE of FAITH.**” ([Rom.12:3](#))

I heard a preacher emphasize this phrase from Rom.12:3, “**than he ought to think**”, he said. Implying that one could think highly of themselves, just not too highly (“**not MORE highly**”, he said). That sounds akin to the **UN**-scriptural argument that some make for drinking alcoholic beverages, (you can drink, but just not too much, some say. **I DON'T BELIEVE IT**, in either case!).

SELF-Conceit leads to SELF-Promoting, and SELF-Commending.
If one starts off a statement with “**I'm not boasting, but...**”, this ought to be a huge red flag,
That such a one is **BLIND**, to their own SELF-Conceit.

The Bible says,

- “we **DARE NOT MAKE ourselves OF** the number, or **COMPARE ourselves WITH** some, that **COMMEND** (or boast) **themselves**: but they **MEASURING themselves BY themselves**, and **COMPARING themselves AMONG themselves**, are **NOT WISE.**” ([2Cor.10:12](#))

That passage closes with the same warning, as [Prov.20:1](#), concerning alcoholic beverages.

- “Wine **IS a MOCKER**, strong drink **IS RAGING**: and whosoever **IS DECEIVED** thereby, **IS NOT WISE.**” ([Prov.20:1](#))”

God resists the Conceited.

- “God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.” ([Jas.4:6](#))
- “For whosoever **EXALTETH himself**, shall be **ABASED** (or humbled); and he that **HUMBLETH himself**, shall be **EXALTED.**” ([Lk.14:11](#))

Some of the sins of Self...

C. Self-Indulgence ...or Full Freedom To Fulfill One's Own Desires or Inclinations.

The one who is interested, in the treasure of pleasure for self, is iden-tified by the Savior, as a fool.

- Jesus “spake a parable..., saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: ¹⁷ and he **thought within himself**, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow **MY fruits**?

¹⁸ And he said, **THIS** will I **DO**: I will pull down **MY barns**, and build greater; and **THERE** will I bestow all **MY fruits** and **MY goods**.

¹⁹ And I will say to **MY soul**, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; **TAKE** thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.

²⁰ But **God said unto him**, Thou **FOOL**, this night thy soul shall be **REQUIRED** of thee: **THEN** whose shall those things be, which **THOU** hast provided?

²¹ So is he that **layeth up treasure for HIMSELF**, and **is NOT rich TOWARD God.**” ([Lk.12:16-21](#))

We should remember, the sin of Demas.

- Paul said, “Demas hath forsaken me, **having LOVED this present world,**” ([2Tim.4:10a](#))

We should fight this sin with self-denial.

- Jesus said, “**IF** any man will **COME AFTER Me**, let him **DENY himself**, and take up his (own) cross daily, and **FOLLOW Me**.” ([Lk.9:23](#))

Some of the sins of Self...

D. Self-Righteousness ...or attitude of, Always Right In One’s OWN Eyes

Remember the Biblical record, regarding the Sin, of the praying Pharisee?

- Jesus , “spake this parable unto certain which **TRUSTED IN THEMSELVES** that they were righteous, and despised others (or had contempt for others):

¹⁰ Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican.
¹¹ The Pharisee stood and **prayed thus with himself**,
God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.
¹² I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.
¹³ And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up, so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me, **A SINNER**.

¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his house **JUSTIFIED** rather than the other: for every one that **EXALTETH HIMSELF**, shall be abased (or humbled); and he that humbleth himself, shall be exalted.” ([Lk.18:9-14](#))

Self-Righteousness is what Prompted Accusations Against our Lord.

Notice the passage in [Matt.9:10-13](#),

- “And it came to pass, as Jesus sat at meat in the house, behold, many publicans and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples.
¹¹ And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto His disciples,

WHY eateth your Master **WITH** publicans and sinners?

¹² But when Jesus heard that, He said unto them,
They that be whole, need not a physician, but they that are sick.
¹³ But go ye and **LEARN** what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.” ([Matt.9:10-13](#))

The Spirit's warning should THUNDER in our ears...

- “Wherefore let him that **THINKETH he standeth**, Take **HEED** lest he fall.” ([1Cor.10:12](#))

Some of the sins of Self...

E. Self-Willed ...or Insisting On Having One’s Own Way; Obstinate; Stubborn.

- “to those who are **SELF-SERVING** (or Self-Willed) and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, (God) will give wrath and indignation.” ([Rom.2:8](#) - NASB)

A SELF-willed one, will be Preeminent in personality, Domineering in attitudes; Persistent in demands; Dogmatic in opinions, Set in his ways; And insistent on his OWN will”.

- But “the Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and (how to) to **RESERVE** the **UNJUST**, unto the **DAY** of judgment, to be **PUNISHED**:
¹⁰ but chiefly, them that walk **AFTER** the **flesh** **IN** the **LUST** of uncleanness, and **DESPISE** government. **PRESUMPTUOUS** are they, **SELF-WILLED**, they are **NOT** afraid to speak evil of dignities.” ([2Pet.2:9-10](#))
- Our example said “I can **of mine OWN SELF do nothing**: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek **NOT mine OWN WILL** (not SELF-WILLED), but the **WILL** of the Father which hath sent Me.” ([Jn.5:30](#))

Some of the sins of Self...

F. Self-Centered ...or Absorbed in Self; Ego-Centric

The synonym is SELFISHNESS: "SELFISH – which is Concerned excessively or exclusively with oneself; Seeking or concentrating on one's own advantage, pleasure or well-being, without regard for others."

SELF-ishness seeks to excessively build up SELF, or even his own family, and TEARS DOWN anyone else, who is interested in growing and maturing spiritually, Because there is no room for anyone else, among a SELF-Centered person.

Self-Centered one's, are First in the list of sins, which cause bad times.

- Paul said, "This know also, that in the last days, perilous (or bad) times shall come.
² For men shall be **LOVERS of their OWN SELVES**, covetous, **BOASTERS** (or self-commending), **PROUD**, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy," ([2Tim.3:1-2a](#))

The Bible says that those who are,

- "traitors, **heady, highminded**, lovers of pleasures, MORE than lovers of God;
⁵ having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: **from such turn away.**" ([2Tim.3:4-5](#))

Diotrephes demonstrated sins of being Self-Centered in the church.

- [3Jn.vs.9-11](#) reads, "I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who **LOVETH to have the PREEMINENCE among them**, receiveth us not.
¹⁰ Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church." (that's [3Jn.vs.9-10](#))

The Bible warns of those, who would be self-centered.

- "For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in **AMONG** you, not sparing the flock.
³⁰ Also **OF your OWN selves** shall men **ARISE**, speaking perverse things, **to DRAW away disciples AFTER them.**" ([Acts 20:29-30](#))

Paul forbids exclusive interest in self

- "Look **NOT** every man **on his own things**, but every man also **on the things of others.**" ([Phil.2:4](#))

Consider some of the,

II. Proper Self-Traits

A. Self-Denial ...which is the Opposite of Self-Indulgence

We should give up anything ,which interferes with living a pure and unspotted life

- As the Bible says, "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this,
To visit the fatherless and widows **IN** their affliction, **AND to KEEP HIMSELF** unspotted from the world."
([Jas.1:27](#))

Self-Denial is a prerequisite, of following Christ.

- Jesus said, "unto his disciples, If any man will come after Me, let him **DENY himself**, and take up his (own) cross, and follow Me." ([Matt.16:24](#))

It is far better to give up temporal things, than to **LOSE** one's soul.

- "For **WHAT** is a man **PROFITED**, if he shall **GAIN** the whole world, and **LOSE his OWN** soul? or **WHAT** shall a man **GIVE**, in **EXCHANGE** for his (own) soul?" ([Matt.16:26](#))

Some of the Proper Self-Traits...

B. Self-Control ...which is the Ability to Rule Self

...and is a mark of superior greatness.

- “He that is **SLOW to anger**, is **BETTER** than the mighty; and he that **RULETH his (own) spirit** (or has Self-Control) than he that taketh a city.” ([Prov.16:32](#))

Self-Control is a vital trait, so we should work on it!

- “And beside this, **giving all diligence**, **ADD** to your **faith VIRTUE**; and to **virtue KNOWLEDGE**; and to **knowledge TEMPERANCE**; and to **temperance PATIENCE**; and to **patience GODLINESS**,” ([2Pet.1:5-6](#))
...which takes great Self-Control.
- “But **he that LACKETH** these things, is **BLIND**, and cannot **SEE** afar off, and hath **FORGOTTEN** that he was purged from his old sins.
¹⁰ Wherefore the rather, brethren, **give diligence to MAKE** your calling and election **SURE**: for **IF ye DO** these things, ye shall **NEVER** fall:
¹¹ for so an **ENTRANCE** shall be **ministered** unto you **ABUNDANTLY** **INTO** the **EVERLASTING** kingdom, **OF** our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.” ([2Pet.1:9-11](#))

Some of the Proper Self-Traits...

C. Self-Sacrifice ...which is the Giving of Self, to God and Others

Consider our Greatest Example.

- “God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” ([Rom.5:8](#))

• “even as **the Son of man came NOT to be ministered unto, but to MINISTER**, and to **GIVE** His life, a ransom for many.” ([Matt.20:28](#))

- “For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye **THROUGH** His poverty might be rich.” ([2Cor.8:9](#))

Let us concentrate on following the Biblical Examples.

- “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 (or spiritual) **SERVICE**.” ([Rom.12:1](#))

• “And this they did, not as we hoped, but **FIRST gave their OWN selves TO** the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.” ([2Cor.8:5](#))

- “whosoever will be **GREAT** among you, let him be your **MINISTER**;
²⁷ and **whosoever will be CHIEF among you, let him be your SERVANT**:
²⁸ even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many.” ([Matt.20:26-28](#))

- “Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but **in LOWLINESS of mind**, let each **ESTEEM other, BETTER than THEMSELVES**.
⁴ Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

⁵ **LET** this **MIND** be **IN** you, which was also **IN** Christ Jesus:

⁶ who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, and **TOOK** upon Him the form of a **SERVANT**,

and was made in the likeness of men: ⁸ and being found in fashion as a man,

He humbled Himself, and **became Obedient unto death**, even the death of the cross.” ([Phil.2:3-8](#))

D. True Humility

- “Humble individuals who recognize their own weakness and allow the power of God to work in them THROUGH the Word, are the ones who are truly spiritually STRONG.” [Sewell Hall]

True humility replaces, SELF-Seeking, with...

- “seek ye **FIRST** the kingdom of God, and His righteousness;” ([Matt.6:33](#))

...Not SELF righteousness, but **HIS righteousness**.

True humility replaces, SELF-Will, with **Doing the WILL OF God**.

- “Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for He that hath suffered in the flesh, hath ceased from sin; ² that he no longer should **LIVE** the rest of his time in the flesh, to the lusts of men, but **to the WILL of God**.” ([1Pet.4:1-2](#)) ...NOT live to self-will.
- “the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that **DOETH the WILL of God** abideth for ever.” ([1Jn.2:17](#))
- “If any man **will, DO His WILL**, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.” ([Jn.7:17](#))

Some need to remember that an

- “**OVERSEER** must be beyond reproach, as God’s steward, **NOT Self-Willed**” ([Titus 1:7](#))
- A conceited man serving as an “overseer” will only further accentuate his Self-Ego.

True humility replaces, SELF-Confidence, with **Confidence IN God**.

- “Cast **NOT** away therefore, your **CONFIDENCE** (in God), which hath great recompense of **REWARD**. ³⁶ For ye have **NEED** of **patience**, that, after ye have **DONE the WILL OF GOD**, ye might **RECEIVE** the **PROMISE**.” ([Heb.10:35-36](#)) ...This speaks of our confidence IN God, not in SELF!
- “whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles. ¹² For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am **NOT ashamed**: for **I KNOW** whom I have **BELIEVED**, and am **PERSUADED** (or am confident) that **HE** is **ABLE**, to **KEEP** that, which I have **COMMITTED** unto HIM, against that day.” ([2Tim.1:11-12](#)) ...This speaks of confidence in God, not in SELF!

True humility replaces, SELF-Sufficiency or self-reliance, with **Reliance UPON God**.

- “such **TRUST** have we, **THROUGH** Christ to God-ward: ⁵ **NOT** that we are sufficient **OF ourselves**, to **think any thing as OF ourselves**; **BUT** our **SUFFICIENCY is OF GOD**;” ([2Cor.3:4-5](#))
- “Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: ¹⁴ whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. ¹⁵ For that ye **ought to say, If the Lord WILL**, we shall live, and do this, or that. ¹⁷ But now ye Rejoice in your **BOASTINGS**: **all such Rejoicing is EVIL**.” ([Jms.4:13-16](#)) ...Self-Sufficiency, or Self-Boasting is EVIL.

True humility replaces, **SELF-Honor**, SELF-boasting, and SELF-glory, **with Glorifying God**

- We should never forget that SELF-honor, or SELF -glory, is what turned King Nebuchadnezzar into a beast of the field. (Read [Daniel 4:25-35](#) ASV)
- “**NO** flesh should **GLORY** in his presence.³⁰ But **OF HIM**, are ye **IN** Christ Jesus, who **OF GOD** is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:³¹ that, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him **GLORY IN the Lord.**” ([1Cor.1:29-31](#); [2Cor.10:17](#); [Jer.9:23](#); [Eph.2:8-9](#))
- “Let another praise you, and **NOT** your **OWN** mouth; a stranger, and **NOT** your **OWN** lips.” ([Prov.27:2](#))

Some need to be reminded that the Bible says,

- “if any man **MINISTER**, let him do it **AS** of the **ABILITY** which **GOD GIVETH**: that **God** in **ALL** things may be **GLORIFIED** through Jesus Christ...” ([1Pet.4:11b](#))

Sadly, some men act like, any ability they have, comes from their **OWN self**, to their **OWN glory**.

True humility replaces, **SELF-Exaltation**, with **Exaltation of God**

- “We have **HEARD** of the **PRIDE** of Moab—he is **VERY PROUD**—**Of his HAUGHTINESS**, his **PRIDE**, his **ARROGANCE**, and his **SELF-EXALTATION.**” ([Jer.48:29](#) - NASB)
- “Be **STILL**, and **KNOW** that **I AM God**; **I will be EXALTED** among the nations, **I will be EXALTED** in the earth.” (reads [Psalm 46:10](#))

“Spiritual endeavors that are **DONE** from a spirit of **SELF-exaltation**, **SELF** -righteousness and pride, will **NEVER** be effective, in accomplishing **God's Purpose.**” [Sewell Hall]

- “the **SERVANT** of the Lord must **NOT** strive (or quarrel); **BUT** be **GENTLE** unto all men, **APT** to teach, patient,²⁵ in **MEEKNESS** instructing those that **OPPOSE** themselves; **IF** God peradventure will **GIVE** them repentance, to the **ACKNOWLEDGING** of the Truth;” ([2Tim.2:24-25](#)).

True Humility demands,

- that we “Do nothing from **SELF-ISHNESS** or empty **CONCEIT**, but with **HUMILITY**, consider one another as more important (or **BETTER**) than yourselves; ([Phil.2:3](#) - NASB)”

One man pointed out that,

- “Jesus went to the cross for US ([Rom.5:8](#)), **NOT** for Himself!”

True Humility provides Strength In Weakness

Notice what our LORD said to the apostle Paul concerning becoming strong.

- Jesus said, “...**My STRENGTH** is made perfect **IN WEAKNESS**” ([2Cor.12:9](#)),

...causing Paul to respond,

- “...**WHEN** I am **WEAK**, then I am **STRONG**” ([2Cor.12:10](#)).
- “We then that are **STRONG** ought to **BEAR** the infirmities of the **WEAK**, and **NOT** to **PLEASE** ourselves.” ([Rom.15:1](#)),
...in rivalry, **CONCEIT** ([Phil.2:3](#) - NASB), or in **CONTEMPT** ([Lk.18:9-14](#) - NASB).

I suggest, that one can NOT truly love anyone else, while they are **Ego centric**, or full of **Self-Love**.

- We should "...rather **BY Love, SERVE one another.**" ([Gal.5:13b](#)) ...NOT Self.
- It is "**BY THIS, shall ALL men KNOW that ye ARE My disciples** (Jesus said),
IF you have SELF-LOVE? **NO!**
IF ye have LOVE one TO another." ([Jn.13:35](#))

III. IN-CONCLUSION

Becoming a christian includes,

- Denying **SELF** ([Matt.16:24-25](#); [Lk.9:23](#))
- Crucifying **SELF**, and Loosing **SELF**, to **GAIN** Christ ([Gal.2:20](#); [Phil.3:7-11](#))
- **NOT about any form of SELF.**

To serve as an illustration, we sometimes sing a song written in 1875 by Theodore Mo-nod, entitled

- "**NONE of Self and ALL of THEE**"

The first stanza starts out with

- "Oh, the bitter pain and sorrow, That a time could ever be,
When I **PROUDLY said** to Jesus, **ALL of SELF**, and **NONE of Thee.**"

The last stanza of that song says,

- "Higher than the highest heaven, Deeper than the deepest sea,
Lord, **Thy LOVE at last has conquered: NONE of SELF**, and **ALL of Thee.**"

In reference to Christ Jesus, John said,

- "**HE MUST INCREASE, but I MUST DECREASE.**" ([Jn.3:30](#))
- "He that loveth his life, shall lose it;" ([Jn.12:25](#))

We CAN Stop our infant crawling of a Self-Ego life, and WALK onto maturity, spiritually leading others.

- "...Christ **IN** (us), the **HOPE** of glory: whom we **PREACH, WARNING** every man, and **TEACHING** every man in **ALL WISDOM**; that we may **PRESENT** every man, perfect **IN** Christ Jesus:
²⁹ whereunto I also labour, **STRIVING according to His Working**, (NOT our OWN working)
STRIVING according to His Working, which worketh in me **MIGHTILY.**" (Paul said, in [Col.1:27-29](#))

So, we need to FULLY Commit SELF, to Christ, not to any man.

- "**IF** ye then be **RISEN** with Christ, **SEEK those things which are ABOVE**, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.
² **SET your AFFECTION on things ABOVE**, not on things on the earth.
³ For ye are dead, and your **LIFE** is hid **WITH** Christ **IN** God.
⁴ **WHEN** Christ, Who **IS** our **LIFE**, shall **APPEAR, THEN** shall ye also **appear WITH** Him **IN** glory." ([Col.3:1-4](#))

If you have NEED,

Please **COME** (believing, Repenting, Confessing, and Be Baptized INTO Christ) while Together, we stand and sing.