



Archaeological digs uncover past civilizations





Have you ever stopped to think what archaeologists in 2000 years will come to think of us after they dig up the remnants of our society?





Consider the conclusions they might arrive at after unearthing our magazines from the last century



# LIFE



MOST DECORATED  
SOLDIER

JULY 16, 1945 **10** CENTS  
BY SUBSCRIPTION: TWO YEARS \$8.50

Hilary Duff



MY LIFE AS A SINGLE MOM

# People

April 20, 2015

**Kate's Baby  
Countdown**  
BREAKING THE  
ROYAL RULES!

**Exclusive**

**GARTH'S  
BACK!**

Why I chose  
**FAMILY  
OVER FAME**

Garth Brooks opens up about taking time off (14 years!) to be a stay-at-home dad—and finally returning to the spotlight

**Plus GARTH'S FAMILY PHOTOS**

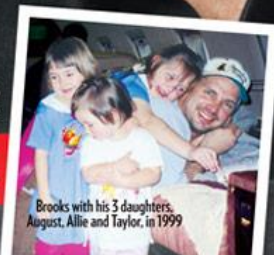
**Plus!**

**CURSE  
OF THE  
GETTYS**

Billionaire  
Family  
Tragedy

**BETHENNY  
FRANKEL**

My Dating  
Disasters



Brooks with his 3 daughters, August, Allie and Taylor, in 1999



SANDRA'S VACATION PHOTOS

WEEKLY  
**Us**

A RING  
FOR  
REESE

# Getting Engaged!

She's head over heels. Her kids adore him. Inside Reese's whirlwind romance, less than a year after she dumped Jake



With boyfriend  
Jim Toth



EXCLUSIVE



BEYONCÉ  
Her Surprise  
Pregnancy



Kendra  
Moving Out

# SELF

**1,007**  
FREEBIES  
FOR YOU  
INSIDE!

No Time to Exercise?  
**ONE EASY  
MOVE TO  
SLIM  
ALL OVER!**

**7 NEW WAYS TO  
WEAR YOUR HAIR**  
A Look for Every Day


**SKINNY  
SUMMER  
COCKTAILS**  
97 Calories. Yum!

**YOUR BEST BODY:  
GET IT AT ANY AGE!**  
Tasty Foods That Fight Fat  
and Erase Years, Too!

**5 secrets  
to more  
energy** Starting Now! p.124

**WEIGHT  
LOSS  
THAT  
STICKS!**  
Tips From  
The Biggest  
Loser Star  
Alison  
Sweeney



A black silhouette of a person is centered against a solid blue background. The person's right arm is raised with a clenched fist, and their left arm holds a large, ornate trophy cup. The text "Our society seems to be consumed with self" is written in white, sans-serif font across the person's torso.

Our society  
seems to be  
consumed  
with self





The “me”  
generation has  
aged to become  
the most  
influential  
segment of  
society





Many of the ills  
of society –  
crime, poverty,  
lack of business  
productivity,  
declining SAT  
scores, etc. – are  
often blamed on  
a poor self image



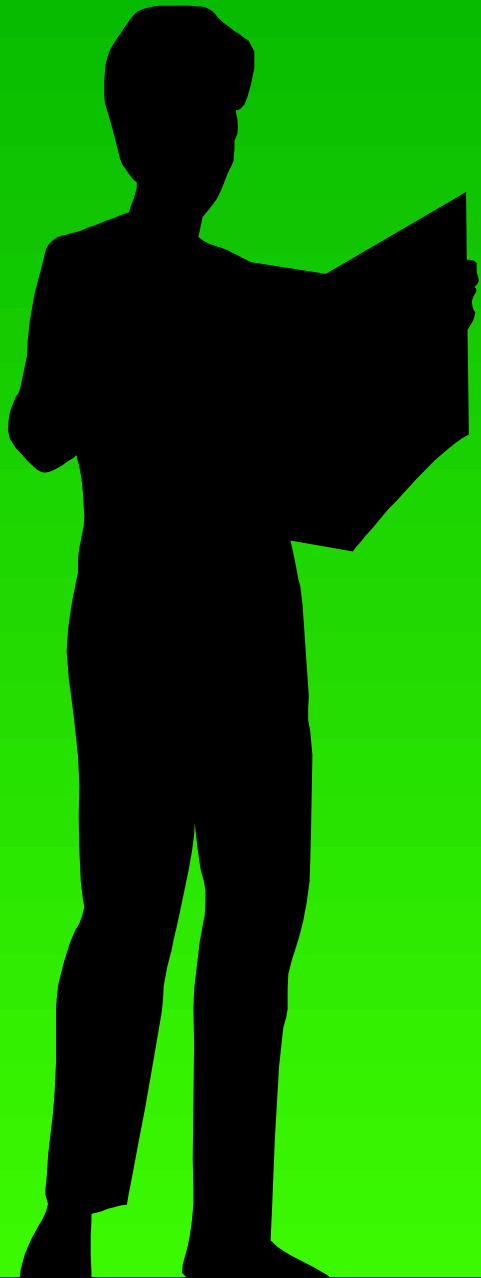


As a nation we  
have become  
obsessed with  
“rights” with  
no regard as  
to their effects  
upon others





Consider the  
“pro-choice”  
advocates who,  
while demanding  
their individual  
rights, show no  
regard for the  
child



“It wasn’t a fetus. It was like a cancer. It was, ‘OK, get this out of me and let’s get on with my life.’”

Lorraine O’Connell  
“Reconsidering Abortion,”  
*Tallahassee Democrat*,  
April 5, 1994



# Introduction



The problem of self is neither new nor peculiar to our time – nor will it go away

# Introduction



From Eden to eternity the chief cause of evildoing has been and will continue to be self and selfishness



# Introduction



Self is at the root of all sin

# Introduction



Who is your greatest enemy?

Is it not self?



# POGO



# POGO:

WE HAVE MET  
THE ENEMY  
AND HE IS US



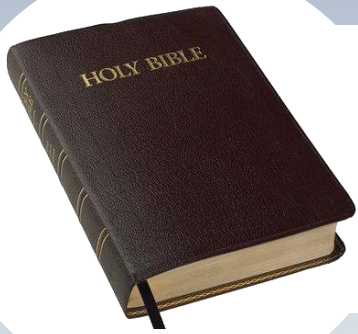
Walt Kelly



# Introduction

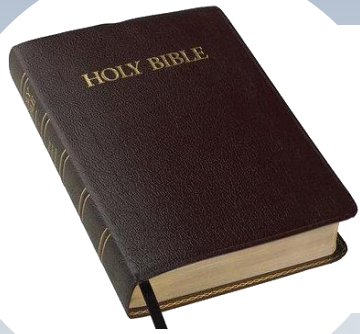


The apostle Paul agrees with Pogo  
(Rom. 7:14-24; 1 Cor. 10:13)



## Romans 7:14-24

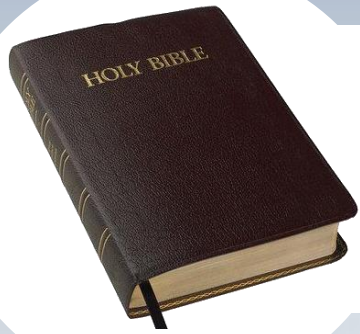
For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin. 15 For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. 16 If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good. 17 But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. ↓



## Romans 7:14-24

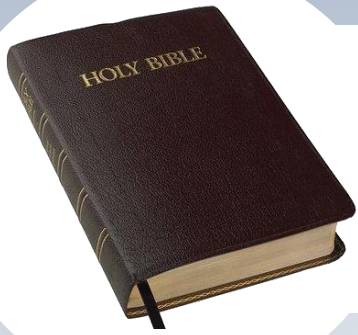
18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. 19 For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. 20 Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. ↓





## Romans 7:14-24

21 I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. 22 For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. 23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. 24 O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?



## 1 Corinthians 10:13

No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

# Introduction



Someone has said,  
“To conquer self is to conquer all.”



# Introduction



We are prone to blame others  
but we must look at self

# Introduction



The proper attitude toward self  
is a sign of maturity

# Introduction



The best definition of maturity  
I have ever heard:

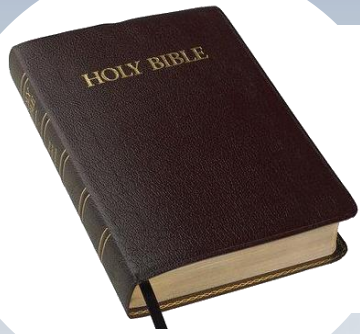
“When you arrive at and accept the  
realization that you are not the  
center of the universe”



# Introduction




We can somewhat condone selfishness in a child because he does not know any better but immaturity and ignorance are never excuses for an adult to be selfish in his attitudes and actions (Acts 17:30)



## Acts 17:30

“Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent.”

A wooden easel with a white sign attached. The sign contains text about self-attention and attitude.

This lesson will give  
attention to self so  
that we might develop  
the proper attitude  
toward self and  
self-importance

A wooden easel with a white sign attached. The sign contains text. The background is black.

We will consider...

Some examples  
from the Bible:  
both good and bad

A wooden easel with a white sign attached. The sign contains text. The background is black.

We will consider...

The problems of  
an undue emphasis  
on self



A wooden easel with a white sign attached. The sign contains text in a sans-serif font. The background is black.

We will consider...

How to really solve  
the problems  
of self



# The Problem of Self

# The Problem of Self



*Section One*

Biblical  
Examples  
Illustrating the  
Characteristics  
of  
Selfish People

# Examples of Selfish People



## Cain

- He had no concern for others
- He asked, “Am I my brother’s keeper?”

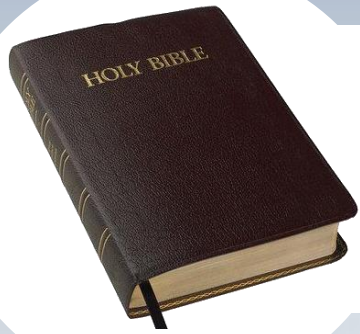
# Examples of Selfish People



## King Ahab (1 Kings 21)

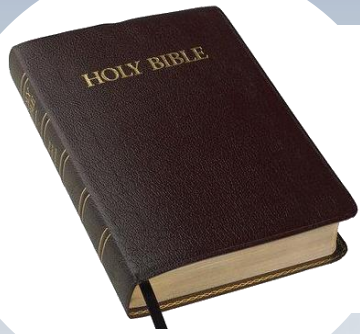
- His concern was for things
- He coveted Naboth's vineyard
- Consider also the rich "fool" of Luke 12:13-21





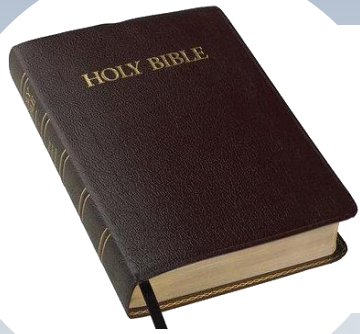
## Luke 12:13-21

Then one from the crowd said to Him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” 14 But He said to him, “Man, who made Me a judge or an arbitrator over you?” 15 And He said to them, “Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.” ↓



## Luke 12:13-21

16 Then He spoke a parable to them, saying:  
“The ground of a certain rich man yielded  
plentifully. 17 And he thought within himself,  
saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no room to  
store my crops?’ 18 So he said, ‘I will do this: I  
will pull down my barns and build greater, and  
there I will store all my crops and my goods. ↓



## Luke 12:13-21

19 And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.” 20 But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’ 21 So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

# Examples of Selfish People



## David (2 Samuel 11)

- His only thought was the desire to fulfill his own pleasures
- His selfishness led to adultery and murder

# Examples of Selfish People



## James and John (Matthew 20)

- There was a desire for power and prestige for themselves
- They wanted places of honor



# Examples of Selfish People



## The Prodigal's Older Brother (Luke 15)

He had no compassion or love

# The Problem of Self



*Section Two*

The Problems  
of an Improper  
Attitude Toward  
Self

# Attitude Problems



## Self-Centeredness

- Absorbed, wrapped up in self
- No one enjoys a self-centered person
- It is easy to see it in others but hard to recognize in self

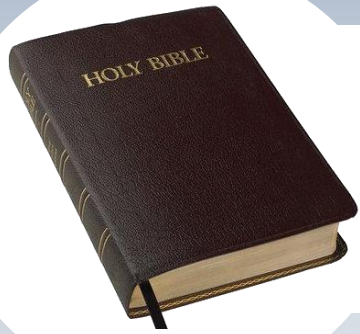
# Attitude Problems



## Self-Centeredness

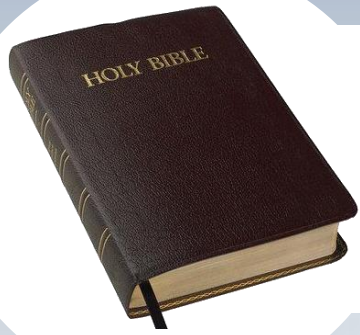
The example of the priest and the Levite  
(Luke 10:30-32)

- Among their many other sins, these men were guilty of self-centeredness and a lack of compassion



## Luke 10:30-32

Then Jesus answered and said: “A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. 31 Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ↓



## Luke 10:30-32

32 Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side.

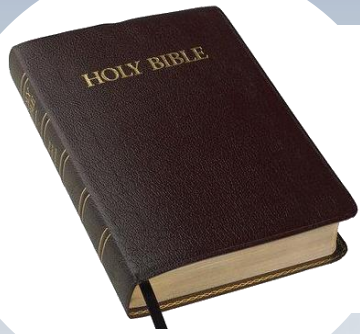


# Attitude Problems



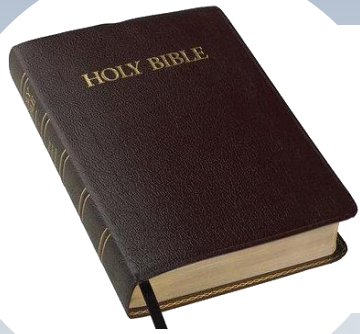
## Self-Conceit

- An exaggerated estimation of one's own ability, powers or importance
- A number of passages in Scripture show us that God hates pride



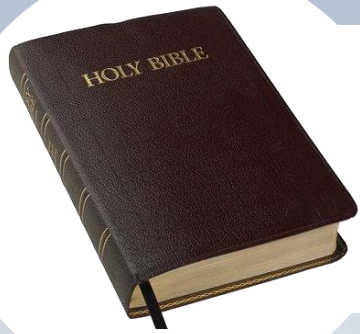
## Proverbs 16:18

Pride goes before destruction, and  
a haughty spirit before a fall.



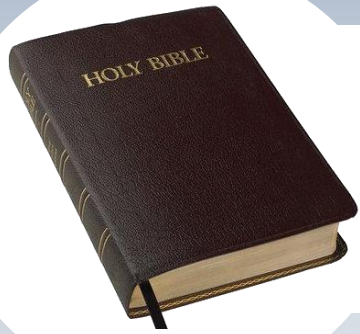
## James 4:6

“God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”



## James 4:10

Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.



## Luke 18:14

“...everyone who exalts himself will be humbled,  
and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

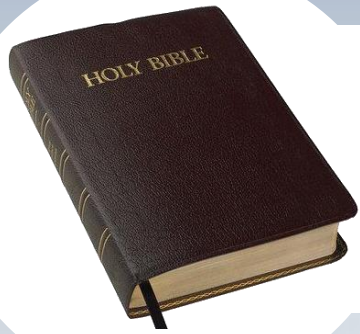
# Attitude Problems



## Self-Conceit

We are not to think too highly  
of self (Rom. 12:3)





## Romans 12:3

For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

# Attitude Problems



## Self-Willed

This is being stubborn, set on having one's own way

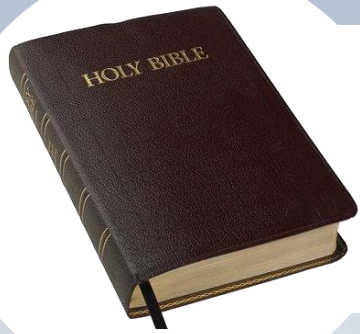
# Attitude Problems



## Self-Willed

Examples of this problem include:

- Jonah
- The rich fool (Luke 12:16)
- Those who stoned Stephen and their ancestors (Acts 7:51-53)



## Acts 7:51-53

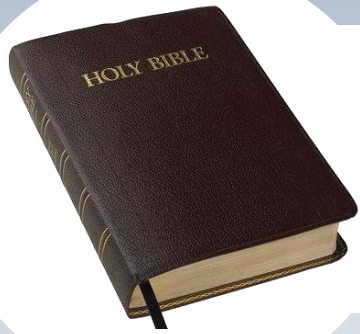
“You stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you. 52 Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers, 53 who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it.”

# Attitude Problems



## Self-Willed

God does not want the leaders of His people to be self-willed (Titus 1:7)



## Titus 1:7

For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money...



# Attitude Problems



## Self-Indulgence

- It is giving free course to one's own passions, desires and inclinations
- It is a sin which leads one from God

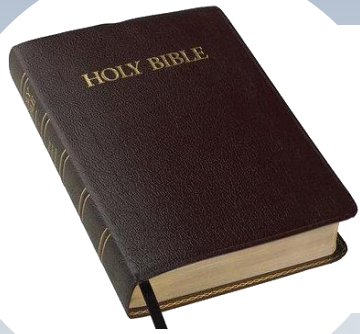
# Attitude Problems



## Self-Indulgence

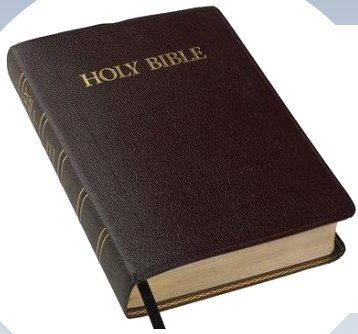
Examples of self-indulgence include:

- The Gentiles (Rom. 1:24-26)
- Demas (2 Tim. 4:9-10)



## Romans 1:24-26

Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, 25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. 26 For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.



## 2 Timothy 4:9-10

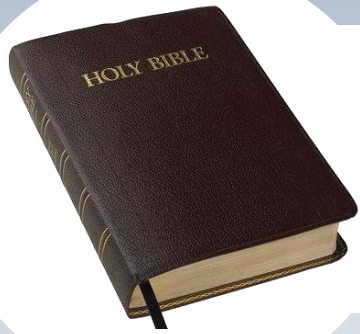
Be diligent to come to me quickly; 10 for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica...

# Attitude Problems



## Self-Righteousness

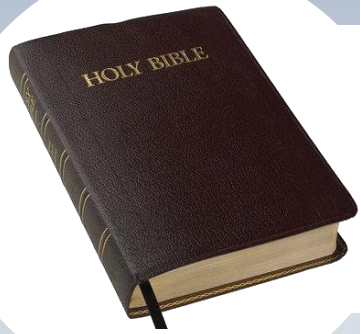
- This is when one is righteous in his own eyes, by his own standard
- It was a trait of the Pharisees that was condemned (Luke 18:9-14; Rom. 10:1-3)



## Luke 18:9-14

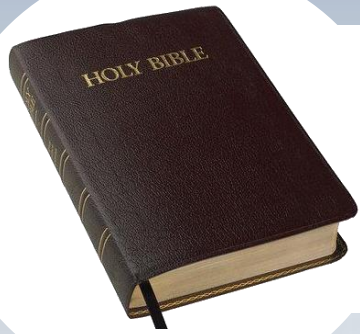
Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: 10 “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men – extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. ↓





## Luke 18:9-14

12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' 13 And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat 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 everyone who exalts him-self will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."



## Romans 10:1-3

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. 2 For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. 3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.

# Attitude Problems



## Self-Satisfaction

This is being pleased with  
who and what one is

# Attitude Problems



## Self-Satisfaction

The satisfied person has already reached his goal

- He has no other worlds to conquer, no loftier heights to scale, no greater work to do
- His journey can only be downward

# Attitude Problems



## Self-Satisfaction

On the other hand, it is not possible to establish bounds for the person who is not satisfied with himself or his accomplishments

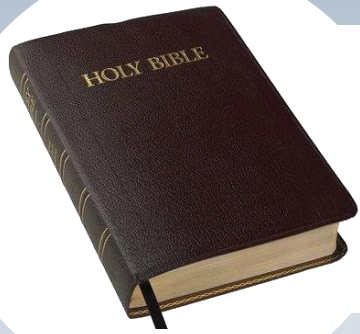
# Attitude Problems



## Self-Satisfaction

How sad it is that many are guilty of the “ministry of mediocrity”

- Complacent churches are rebuked for indifference (Rev. 3:1)



## Revelation 3:1

“And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, ‘These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: “I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.”””



# The Problem of Self



*Section Three*

How to Solve  
the Problems  
of Self

# Solving the Problems



## Follow the Examples of Selflessness Given in the Bible

Abraham (Genesis 13)

- He gave Lot his choice of land

# Solving the Problems



## Follow the Examples of Selflessness Given in the Bible

Joseph (Genesis 45)

- He forgave and then helped his brothers

# Solving the Problems



## Follow the Examples of Selflessness Given in the Bible

### Good Samaritan (Luke 10)

- Unlike those who were outwardly pious, he took the time to help a person in need

# Solving the Problems



## Follow the Examples of Selflessness Given in the Bible

### Barnabbas (Acts 4)

- He sold his land and gave all the money to the Lord's cause

# Solving the Problems



## Follow the Examples of Selflessness Given in the Bible

The Apostle Paul (Galatians 2:20)

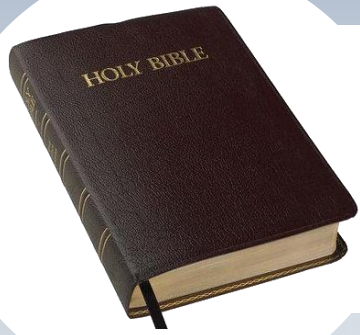
- He gave himself to the Lord

# Solving the Problems



## Put Self to Death

Exercise self-denial (Matt. 16:24)



## Matthew 16:24

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.”

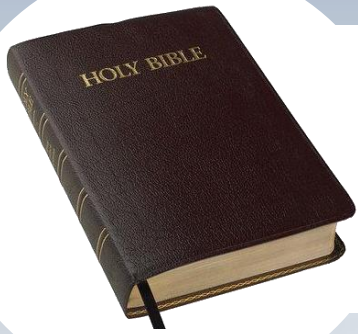


# Solving the Problems



## Put Self to Death

Esteem others better than self (Phil. 2:3-4)



## Philippians 2:3-4

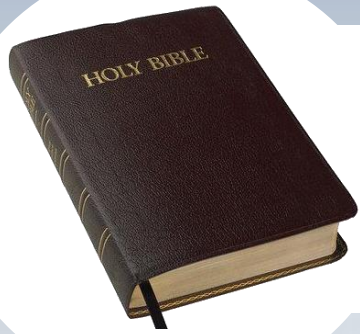
Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

# Solving the Problems



## Put Self to Death

Humble yourself before God (1 Pet. 5:6)



## 1 Peter 5:6

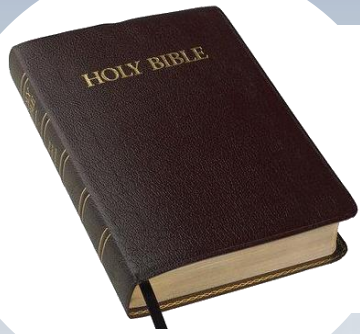
Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time...

# Solving the Problems



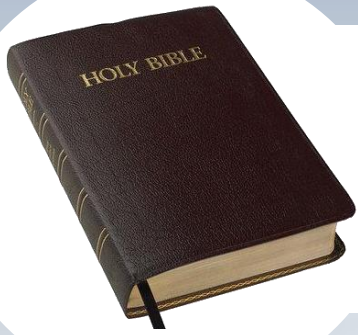
**Put Self to Death**

Exercise self-control



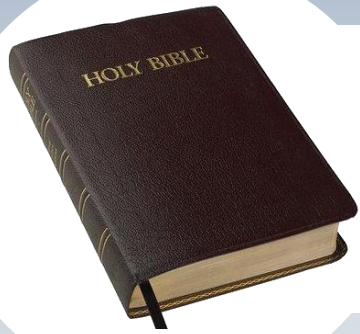
## Proverbs 16:32

He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty,  
and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.



## Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control...



## 2 Peter 1:5-8

But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. 8 For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

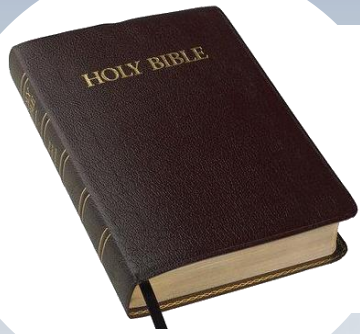


# Solving the Problems



## Put Self to Death

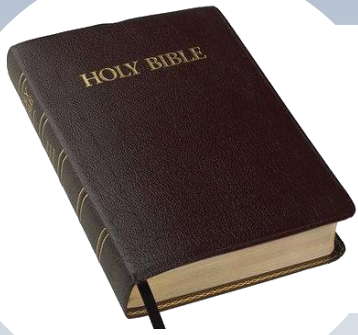
Practice self-sacrifice (2 Cor. 8:1-5;  
Rom. 12:1)



## 2 Corinthians 8:1-5

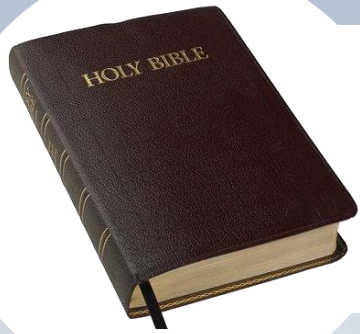
Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia: 2 that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality. 3 For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing,





## 2 Corinthians 8:1-5

4 imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. 5 And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God.



## Romans 12:1

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

# The Problem of Self



*Section Four*

Conclusion

# Conclusion



The religion of Christ is one of service,  
surrender and sacrifice

# Conclusion



Someone has suggested that, for all practical purposes, the one great question in judgment will be, “Did you win the battle over self?”

# Conclusion



God wants self relegated  
to the background



# Conclusion



Christians are to:

- Put off self and put on Christ,
- Glorify God, not self, by their lives