

## Overcoming Some Of Life's Problems

(Part 5)

### The Problem Of Self – Mark 8:31–39

34 "And he called unto him the multitude with his disciples, and said unto them, If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."

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## The Problem Of Self

### Self-Service Is the Problem

*Self is the obstacle to serving the Lord.*

- ▶ Judges 21:25 – Every man did what was right in his own eyes.
- ▶ Matthew 23:25 – The hypocrite is selfish.
- ▶ Acts 24:25 – Must learn temperance, self-control.
- ▶ Romans 2:8 – Those who do not obey are self-seeking.
- ▶ Galatians 2:20 – No longer I (self), but Christ.
- ▶ James 3:13–14 – Those who do not follow the wisdom from above are self-seeking.

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## The Problem Of Self

### Self-Service Is the Problem

*Temptation appeals to our own desires.*

- ▶ James 1:14 – drawn away by own desires.
- ▶ 1 John 2:15–17:
  - Lust of the flesh – appeals to what I like and want.
  - Lust of the eyes – appeals to what I want to see.
  - Pride of life – appeals to my view of myself.
- ▶ 1 Corinthians 7:5 – Satan tempts us in our lack of self-control.

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## The Problem Of Self

### Self-Service Is the Problem

*Constant battle over self.*

- ▶ Self-denial deals with the reality of life.  
1 Corinthians 6:9–11; cf. 1 Corinthians 5

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## The Problem Of Self

### Self-Denial Is The Answer

*God demands it.*

- ▶ Passages that specifically mention it.
  - Mark 8:34 (Mark 16:24; Luke 9:23)
  - Acts 24:25
  - 1 Corinthians 9:25
  - 2 Peter 1:6
- ▶ Passages that deal with it in principle.  
Romans 6:12ff ; Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 5:24

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## The Problem Of Self

### Self-Denial Is The Answer

*Passages that forbid anything require self-denial.*

- ▶ Lust. 2 Timothy 2:22; Matthew 5:28
- ▶ Lying. Ephesians 4:25
- ▶ Immorality. 1 Corinthians 6:18
- ▶ Laziness. 2 Thessalonians 3:10; Lamentations 3:27
- ▶ Retaliation. Romans 12:17–21

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## The Problem Of Self

### Self-Denial Is The Answer

*Any passage that commands anything, requires it.*

- ▶ Gentleness. 2 Timothy 2:24
- ▶ Forbearing (patience). 2 Timothy 2:24
- ▶ Contentment. Hebrews 13:5
- ▶ Love. Romans 12:9-10

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## The Problem Of Self

### What is self-denial?

*Saying "No" to self.*

- "To forget oneself, lose sight of oneself and one's own interest" "Self government" (Thayer).
- "Ability to take a grip of oneself" (William Barclay).

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