

# WHAT SELFISHNESS LOOKS LIKE



*2 Timothy 3:1-9; James 3:16*



# WHAT SELFISHNESS LOOKS LIKE

- ✦ On some level we all deal with selfishness. (Luke 10:25-37)
- ✦ There's no room for selfishness in the life of the devoted Christian. (Luke 9:57-62; 14:26-27; Phil 2:1-4; Gal 5:24)
- ✦ We are called to surrender our life to Christ - (Gal 2:20)
- ✦ We need to recognize the various ways it plays itself out so we can attack and eliminate it.

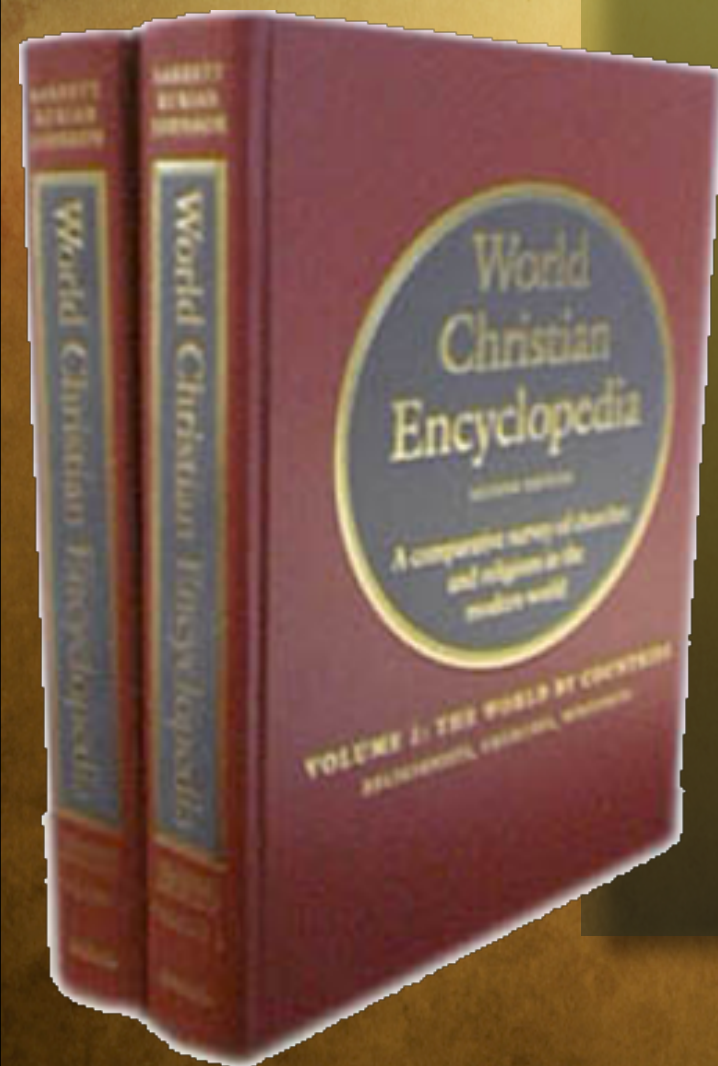




# WHAT SELFISHNESS LOOKS LIKE

**SELFISHNESS** (Self'ish\*ness) n.

1. The quality or state of being selfish; **exclusive** regard to one's own interest or happiness; that supreme self-love or **self-preference** which leads a person to direct his purposes to the **advancement of his own interest, power, or happiness, without regarding those of others.**





# WHAT SELFISHNESS LOOKS LIKE

**JAMES 3:16 (NKJV)**

For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion  
and every evil thing are there.

**THE ROOT OF SIN**



# WHAT SELFISHNESS LOOKS LIKE

## 2 TIMOTHY 3:1—9 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: <sup>2</sup> For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, <sup>3</sup> unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, <sup>4</sup> traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, <sup>5</sup> having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!



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## 2 TIMOTHY 3:1—9 (NKJV)

<sup>6</sup> For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, <sup>7</sup> always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>8</sup> Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith; <sup>9</sup> but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was.



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## MARK 7:21-22 (NKJV)

[21] For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, [22] thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness.

# THE ROOT OF SIN



WHAT SELFISHNESS LOOKS LIKE

HYPOCRISY

Adultery

DIVORCE

SLANDER

DRUNKENNESS

Drug abuse

LYING

Hatred

Fornication

STEALING

Abortion

MURDER

GREED

RAPE

REBELLION

PRIDE

SELFISHNESS

THE ROOT OF SIN



# WHAT SELFISHNESS LOOKS LIKE

## ATTITUDE OF SELFISHNESS



*Our fundamental problem is not so much ignorance of what is right. Our problem is selfishness of heart, i.e., we care more about what we want than about what is right!*



# WHAT SELFISHNESS LOOKS LIKE

## ATTITUDE OF SELFISHNESS

### *Lust*

**“I want \_\_\_\_\_”**

*Destructive vices / Sexual  
sins / Negligent of Duties*

### *Self Pity*

**“I deserve \_\_\_\_!”**

*Ungrateful / Resentful / Angry  
Bitter*

### *Strife*

**“I’ll get \_\_\_\_\_!”**

*My way / My wants! / “Try and  
stop me!” / Inconsiderate!!*

### *Pride*

**“I am \_\_\_\_!”**

*More Important / More  
knowledgeable / Self Sufficient*



# WHAT SELFISHNESS LOOKS LIKE

**Ahab & Jezebel** -- coveted the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite  
- selfishness led the forceful taking of the vineyard & Naboth's life. (1 Kings 21:1-16).

**David** -- an example of a selfish attitude which caused him to seek fulfillment of his own pleasures with no regard to the cost in getting them. (2 Sam 11).

## *Examples*



**Rejected rebuke** - (1 Kings 21:19-25; cf. 18:16,17).



**Received rebuke** - (2 Sam. 12:13; cf. Ps. 39; 51).



# WHAT SELFISHNESS LOOKS LIKE

## *What To Do About Our Selfishness?*



- ✦ We Must Realize How Prevalent Selfishness Is.
- ✦ We Must Realize How Sinful Selfishness Is.
- ✦ We Must Realize How Hurtful Selfishness Is To Others.
- ✦ We Must Realize What Selfishness Does To Us.



# WHAT SELFISHNESS LOOKS LIKE

**SELFISHNESS,**

a fantastic way to be miserable!



*"Selfishness,- a vice utterly  
at variance with the  
happiness of him who  
harbors it, and, as such,  
condemned by self-love."  
Sir J. Mackintosh.*



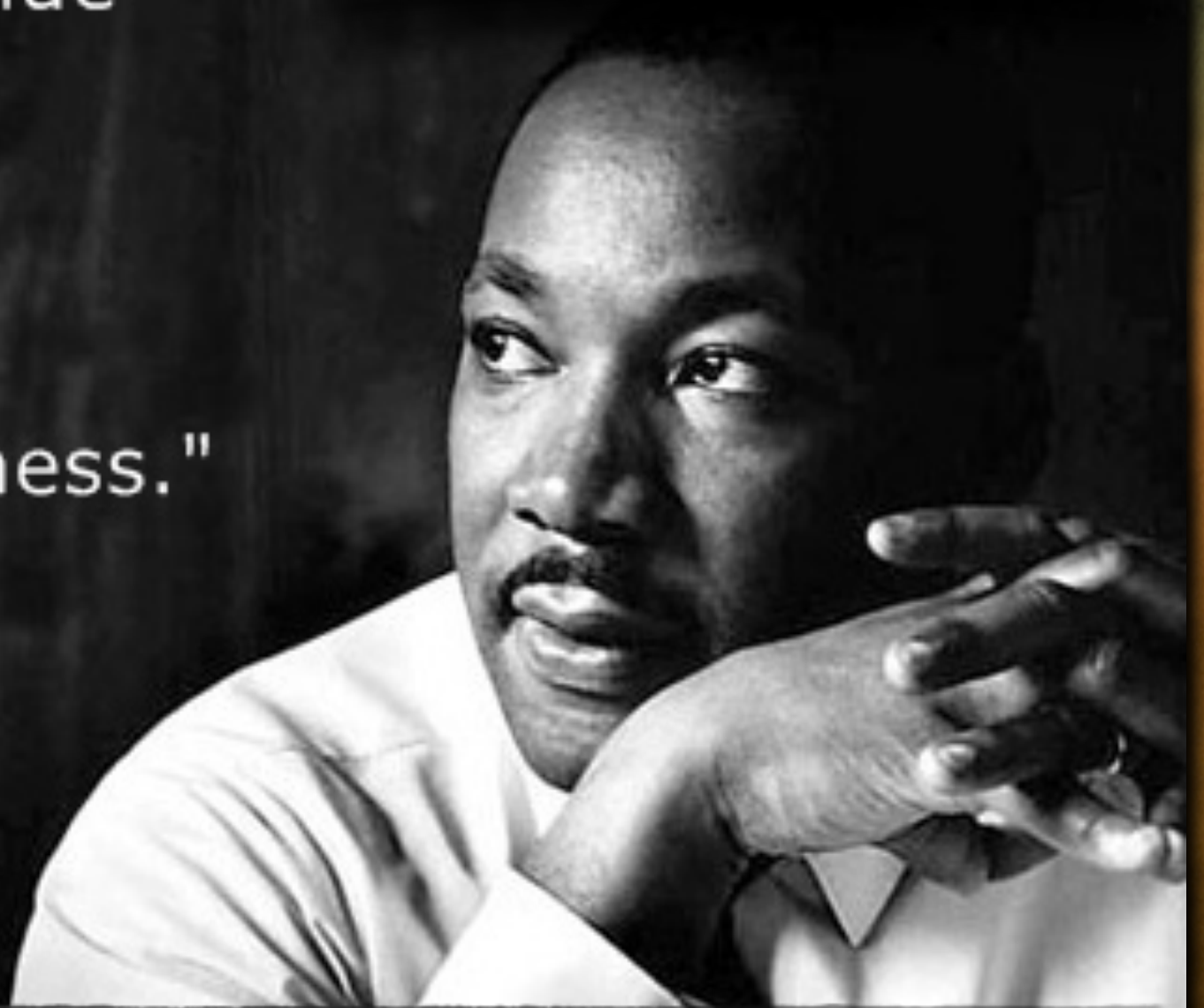
# WHAT SELFISHNESS LOOKS LIKE

**SELFISHNESS,**

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"Every man must decide whether he will walk in the light of creative altruism or in the darkness of destructive selfishness."

*Martin Luther King Jr.*





# WHAT SELFISHNESS LOOKS LIKE

**SELFISHNESS,**

a fantastic way to be miserable!

Happiness doesn't come  
through selfishness, but  
through selflessness.

Everything you do  
comes back  
around.

[WWW.FEELMYLOVE.ORG](http://WWW.FEELMYLOVE.ORG)

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*“None are so  
empty as those  
who are full of  
themselves.”  
Benjamin Whichcote*



# WHAT SELFISHNESS LOOKS LIKE

## *What To Do About Our Selfishness?*



- ✦ Put Our Priorities In The Right Order - Mat 6:33; Mark 12:29-32; Mat 16:24; Phil 2:1-4; 2 Cor. 8:1-9
- ✦ Become More Like Jesus - Phil 2:5-8;
- ✦ Learn How To Love - 1 John 4:7-11; Eph 5:25; Tit 2:4; 1 Cor. 13:1-8



# WHAT SELFISHNESS LOOKS LIKE

## *What To Do About Our Selfishness?*

Philippians 2:1–4 (NKJV)

<sup>2</sup> Therefore if *there is* any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, <sup>2</sup> fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind. <sup>3</sup> *Let* nothing *be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.



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## *What To Do About Our Selfishness?*

1 Corinthians 13:1–8 (NKJV)

<sup>4</sup> Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; <sup>5</sup> does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; <sup>6</sup> does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; <sup>7</sup> bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. <sup>8</sup> Love never fails. . . .



# WHAT SELFISHNESS LOOKS LIKE

## *What To Do About Our Selfishness?*

### **REPLACE IT WITH:**

- ✦ **SELF-DENIAL** (Matt. 16:24; Luke 9:23). One Denies Self By Esteeming Others Better Than Self (Phil. 2:3; John 13:3-17) And Humbling Oneself Before God (1 Pet. 5:6).
- ✦ **SELF-CONTROL** (Prov. 16:32; Gal. 5:23; 2 Pet. 1:6). One Who Exercises Proper Self-Control Is One Who Brings Every Thought And Action Into Conformity With The Will Of God.
- ✦ **SELF-SACRIFICE** (2 Cor. 8:5; Rom. 12:1-2). Christians Are To Be "Living Sacrifices" Unto God-Living Each Day To Accomplish The Good Works For Which They Were Created.



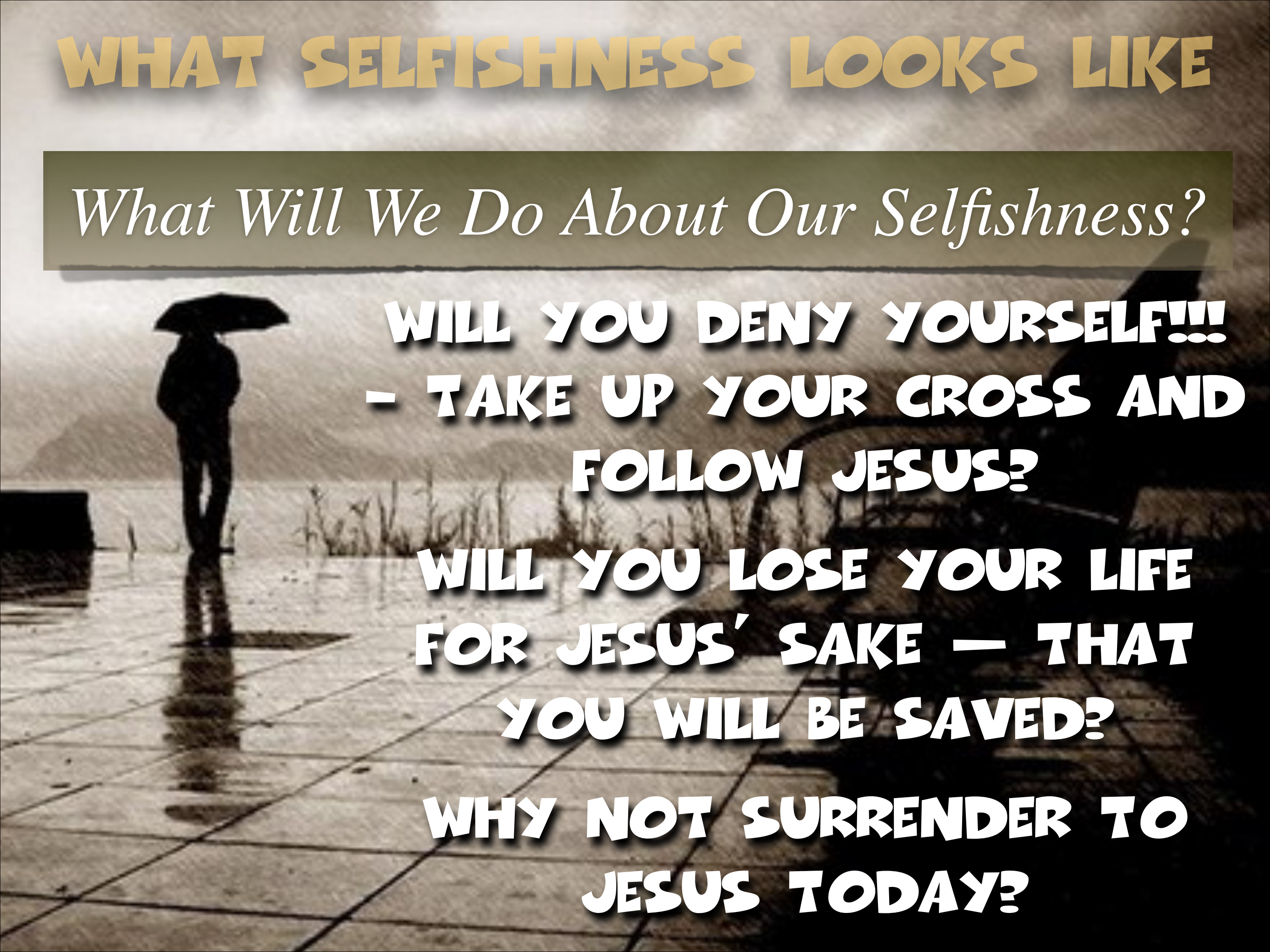
# WHAT SELFISHNESS LOOKS LIKE

*What Will We Do About Our Selfishness?*

**WILL YOU DENY YOURSELF!!!  
- TAKE UP YOUR CROSS AND  
FOLLOW JESUS?**

**WILL YOU LOSE YOUR LIFE  
FOR JESUS' SAKE — THAT  
YOU WILL BE SAVED?**

**WHY NOT SURRENDER TO  
JESUS TODAY?**









# *The Law of* UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES

## **Charts by Don McClain**

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## **PHILIPPIANS 2:1—5 (NKJV)**

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