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SEPTEMBER 23, 2024

PHILIPPIANS 2:3 NKJV – (3) Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

Selfishness or empty conceit is often expressed by building up oneself while tearing down someone else. It is one of the “works of the flesh” according to **Galatians 5:20**. It leads to “disorder and every evil practice” (**James 3:16**). Selfishness caused the children of Israel to “willfully put God to the test by demanding the food they craved” (**Psalms 78:18**). Selfishness caused the rich young ruler to turn his back on Jesus (**Matthew 19:21-22**). Selfishness ruins friendships (**Proverbs 18:1**), hinders prayer (**James 4:3**), and is the product of earthly wisdom (**James 3:13-14**).

The opposite of selfishness is also found in **Philippians 2**: being united with Christ, having tenderness and compassion, and “being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose” (**Philippians 2:2**).

Combating the sin of selfish ambition requires genuine humility. Unpretentious humility restores and grows relationships. Being humble involves having a true perspective about ourselves in relation to God. “Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you” (**Romans 12:3**). Another sure cure for selfishness is to know where our treasure is.

SCRIPTURE

1 CORINTHIANS 10:24

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

The greatest mistake any Christian can make is to substitute his own will for the will of God.