

SOUL LOVERS OF SELF

October 17, 2022

2 TIMOTHY 3:2 NKJV (2) For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

Paul begins an extensive list—some 19 traits in all—of attributes found in evil people. Both these behaviors, and those who persist in them, are to be avoided. Verse 2 includes the first eight attributes. First, people will be selfish, rather than serving others. I want to stop right here!

The Greek word for lovers of self is a compound word, defined by Strong's Concordance: philautos (an adjective, derived from 5384 /philos, "lover" and 846 /autós, "of self") – properly, a lover of self, describing someone preoccupied with their own selfish desires (self-interests). It is only used in **2 Timothy 3:2**.

A characteristic of the last days is that the time between Jesus' ascension and His return the world will become worse and worse. (**2 Timothy 3:13**). One of those ways the world will become worse is that people will increasingly be lovers of self. In modern psychological terms this is called narcissism, which is defined as, the pursuit of satisfaction from pride or selfish admiration of one's own qualities. That's what sinners do- they love themselves. The last days characteristic of people being lovers of self is more than that.

Narcissism is a serious social and psychological problem. The term refers to an inflated view of the self, coupled with relative indifference to others. People who are high in this trait fail to help others unless there is immediate gain or recognition to themselves for doing so; often think they are above the law and therefore violate it; and readily trample over others in their efforts to rise to the "top," which is where they think they belong. A world full of narcissists would be a sad world indeed.

As a strategy to combat the tendency to love one's self (selfishly), the Bible gives us urgings and advice. Here are a few. Humility is key. **Galatians 5:26**, **Ephesians 5:21**, **Philippians 1:17**, **Colossians 3:12** and **1 Peter 3:8**.

At the beginning we have a warning about people who love themselves, and at the end we have several of many verses advising us to be humble and loving. Humility is hard, so ask the Spirit for help. Loving others is a choice. Choose love, choose humility. This honors Jesus.

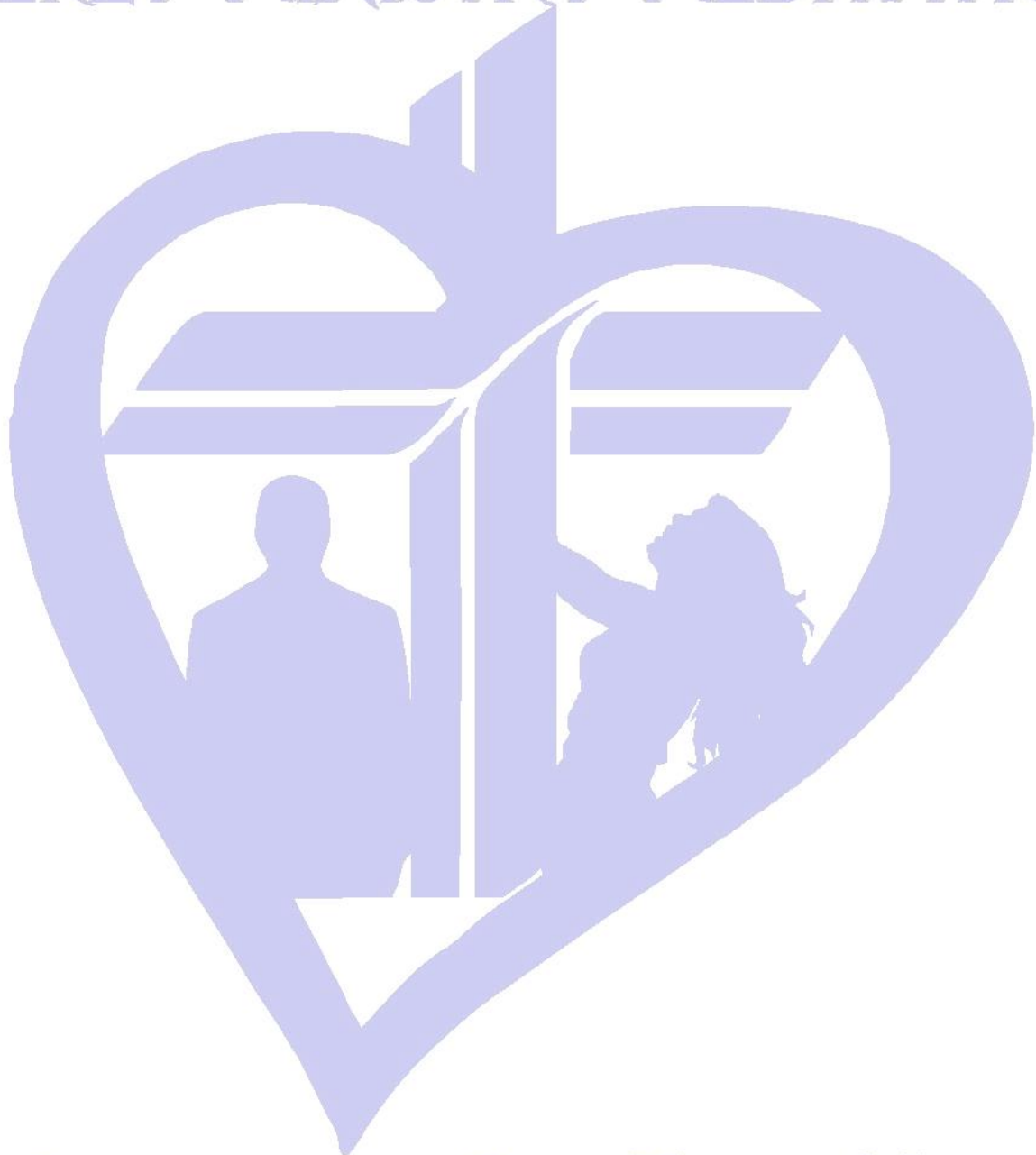
SCRIPTURE READING: ROMANS 7:5

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: "Love doesn't die a natural death. Love has to be killed, either by neglect or narcissism."

"A JOURNEY OF THE HEART"

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WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS



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