

# Selfishness:

## Concerned excessively or exclusively with oneself



What is the number one problem in marriage? Selfishness! James 4:1 asks; “What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?” Our selfish desires cause fights and quarrels and can even lead to the break up of a couple's marriage. The culture would lead us to believe that life is about *us*; our happiness, our fulfillment—what *we* deserve. Sure, as good Christians, *we* are not like those heathen who don't know God! But really, are we *that* different? Are any of us truly selfless and giving in our marriages? Or really, in any of our relationships? Do act like Jesus when things don't go our way? We can be very thankful that Jesus did not get selfish at some point before going to the cross. What if Jesus had said, “I don't deserve to go to the cross; I'm not doing it.” We would all be lost in our sins!

Thankfully, Jesus died to self and bore *our* sins on the cross. Thankfully, He died to self every day for 33 years on the way to the cross! Jesus calls us, no He *commands* us to die to self. John 13:34-35 records Jesus saying, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." As He has loved us, we *must* love one other. In His love, He gave Himself for us; how can we not give ourselves for others? For our husband or wife? I understand that you are not Christ—neither am I and I tell you want, it used to be a huge struggle for me. While I am certainly not perfect in this area (ask my wife), it is much easier and it is not such a struggle. Why? Because I've surrendered to the Lord.

Friends, we must live surrendered lives. As long as we hold on to what's ours, life is going to be a struggle. We must have the attitude of Christ—in humility consider others better than ourselves (Philippians 2:1-8). Honestly look at your life; where are you selfish? Where are you concerned about yourself more than others? Every morning commit to the attitude of Christ—in humility dying to self in all you do. *That* is living for Christ!

**Helpful Resources:** *Fortified Marriages Resource page:* [www.fortifiedmarriages.com](http://www.fortifiedmarriages.com)

**Articles to check out:** *Defeating Selfishness in Your Marriage* by Dennis and Barbara Rainey  
[www.familylife.com](http://www.familylife.com)

*7 Signs of Selfishness in Marriage* [www.markmerrill.com](http://www.markmerrill.com)

*The 100-0 Marriage* by Chris Garner - [www.fortifiedmarriages.com](http://www.fortifiedmarriages.com)

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