

East Jackson Church of Christ – Midweek Bible Class

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THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

Is A Life Of Self-Denial

A. The Demand For Self-Denial

Food for thought:

1. All in the crowd are not committed. What does commitment to Jesus require?
2. Why would Christ demand “self-denial”?

1. Mark 8:34-38; Luke 9:23-26

- a. A crowd of people had been _____ Jesus but not all of them were _____ disciples, v. 34
- b. Jesus said that the true follower or disciple would have to
 - (1) _____ himself
 - (2) take up his _____ (Luke adds the word _____.)
 - (3) and _____ Him

B. The Example Of Self-Denial

Food for thought:

1. Was self-denial involved in Jesus coming to this world?
2. Is there a difference between the level or extent of Jesus’ self-denial and ours? If so, what is the difference?

2. To understand what Jesus is asking of us, we must understand what He, Himself did according to Philippians 2:5-11

- a. V. 6 _____ coming in the flesh, Jesus was in the _____ of _____ and _____ with God (cf. John 1:1-3; John 10:30-33; 17:5)
- b. v. 7 the phrase *made Himself of no reputation* (nkjv) is from a phrase in the Greek that literally means that He _____ Himself
 - (1) He took on the form of a _____
 - (2) He came in the likeness of man (from the form of _____ _____ (John 4:24) to the form of _____.
 - (3) V. 8a He _____ Himself

(4) v. 8b He became _____ to the point of _____ on a cross

c. The extent of Christ’s self-denial can be described this way:

“The _____ of that _____ of Himself is mind-boggling and mind-blowing. We can empty ourselves, but compared to the emptying of Christ, what we do is just a drop in the bucket. Our emptying is like pouring water out of a _____, compared to Christ’s which is like draining all the _____ dry. Our emptying is like giving up a _____, compared to Christ’s emptying which is like giving up _____ the gold and silver and jewels and _____ in all the earth at once.”

C. What Do We Mean By Self-Denial?

Food for thought:

1. What is the meaning of “self” to you?
2. What is the meaning of “self-denial”?

3. “Self” can be defined as the _____ of man (inner and outer man, 2 Corinthians 4:16) with all of its contributing “_____” (see 1 Thessalonians 5:23).

a. Note these passages of Scripture. Luke 2:52; Matthew 26:37-38; Matthew 22:37

b. From these passages, this writer suggest that “self” includes

- (1) the _____ or _____ self
- (2) the _____ self
- (3) the _____ self
- (4) the _____ self
- (5) the _____ self

4. Here is what some writers have said about self-denial

a. “Self-denial for the Christian means _____ oneself as the _____ of existence (which goes against the natural inclination of the human will) and _____ Jesus Christ as one’s new and true center. It means acknowledging that the old self is _____ and the new _____ is now hidden with Christ in God ([Colossians 3:3–5](#))”. (www.gotquestions.org/deny-yourself.html)

- b. “The Lord’s point was that those who wished to follow Him must be willing to _____ themselves and _____ everything for His sake (cf. [Matt. 13:44-46](#)). They must _____ both their _____ and their sin, submitting all their _____ and _____ to Him”.
(*MacArthur New Testament Commentary, The - MacArthur New Testament Commentary – Mark 1-8.*)
- c. “Negatively, one **must deny himself** _____ (“deny” is an aorist imper.) saying no to _____ interests and earthly _____. Self-denial is not to deny one’s _____, to die as a martyr, or to deny “_____” (as in asceticism). Rather it is the denial of “self,” turning away from the idolatry of _____ and every attempt to orient one’s life by the _____ of _____”.
(*The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty*).
- d. “A restraint or _____ of one’s own _____ or interests.”
“a _____ to _____ one’s own desires”. (Merriam Webster Dictionary)
5. Components of these definitions are illustrated in what Paul taught the Philippians (2:3-4) prior to giving the example of Christ.
- do _____ out of selfish _____ or conceit (cf. Romans 12:16)
 - have a _____ which is _____ (meek; free from self-assertive pride)
 - esteem others _____ than self
 - ample _____ to the interests or _____ of _____
6. Self-denial is _____ just the giving up of some _____, although the giving up of things may be _____. There is a difference between “_____” and “denying self”.
- In Luke 18:9-14, the Pharisee had given up some things by _____ twice a week. However, it is evident that he had not _____ given _____ in self-denial.
 - In Philippians 3:7-12, Paul gave up some “things” (v. 4-6), but this was a _____ of him having _____ gave himself (or denied himself, Galatians 2:20; Acts 20:24).

7. Self-denial must _____ and _____ take place in the _____ man. (cf. 1 Timothy 1:5; 2 Timothy 2:22).
8. The components of self-denial are demonstrated in Jesus' statements after He called for the follower to deny himself.
- Mark 8:35; Luke 9:24, it means to _____ (or count as loss, Philippians 3:7) one's _____ for Christ's sake.
 - Mark 8:36-37; Luke 9:25, it means to _____ our souls and _____ the things of the _____
 - Mark 8:38; Luke 9:26, it means to _____ to Jesus, _____ for Jesus, and _____ Jesus unashamedly.
9. Self-denial involves _____ Jesus (Mark 8:34; Luke 9:23). In Luke 14:25-33, Jesus gives further _____ of what is involved in denying self and following Him.
- V. 25 Once again we see a crowd accompanying Jesus, but He challenges them to in-depth _____ to Him.
 - v. 26 denial of self is to deny who or what self _____. Including:
 - the _____ we love
 - our _____ love
 - v. 27 denial of self is to deny self's _____ [the desires, _____, wants and even _____ of the self] (_____ to self, Galatians 2:20; Romans 6:6; Ephesians 4:22)
 - v. 33 denial of self is to deny what self _____ (cf. Luke 12:15; 18:18-27)

D. Why Do We Struggle With Self-Denial?

Food for thought:

- Do you believe that self-denial is a struggle? If so, why?
- Are there some things that make self-denial more difficult for us to do?

10. Denying self and dying to self so that we can follow Jesus is _____ something all _____ to do. Like the rich young ruler, we are _____ of the _____ in self-denial and _____ or don't appreciate the _____ in self-denial. However, it is important to _____ the _____ (losses and gains) of self-denial. (cf. Luke 14:26-32).

11. Some reasons we fear or neglect self-denial are:

a. self _____ (Philippians 2:3). Human nature is to experience the self (myself) as highly _____ and _____ (Romans 12:3; 1 Peter 5:5-6).

(1) In Mark 10:35-37, James and John wanted the seats of _____.

(2) But Jesus' response in verses 38-40 shows that this comes from _____ or self-sacrifice.

(3) When the rest of the disciples got _____ over James and John's request, Jesus had to instruct them all in the _____ of self-denial (v. 41-45)

b. self _____. That is, if I deny myself, what will I _____ for myself? If I give this or that up, what will I _____? This seemed to be Peter's concern in Matthew 19:27-30.

c. self _____. All of us want to be lifted up, _____ or _____. However, when that elevation comes at the _____ of self-denial, it is _____ worth it.

(1) Going back to the Pharisee praying in the temple in Luke 18:9ff, we see him _____ involved in self promotion.

(2) Among those who sacrificed their goods and brought the money and *laid it at the apostles' feet* in Acts 4:34-37, one member in particular was _____ and elevated by name: Joses, also known as _____. It is possible that Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11) _____ their _____ "up in lights" also. They sold land and brought part of the money. Theirs was _____ a case of _____ self-denial as demonstrated by the _____ about the amount. They got their names _____, but not in a positive way (v. 11).

E. The Benefit Of Self-Denial**Food for thought:**

1. Can you see benefit in self-denial?
2. Do you trust what Jesus promises those who deny self? If so, how is that trust demonstrated?

12. As stated, we often look at the _____ of denying ourselves and don't see the _____ as _____.

- a. The rich young ruler (Luke 18:18ff) saw the loss of his _____, but ignored the “gains” that Jesus was pointing him toward:
- (1) he would inherit _____, v. 18
 - (2) he would help, _____ or be of _____ to the life of _____, v. 22b
 - (3) he would have _____ in _____, v. 22c
 - (4) he would have _____ in life by following Jesus who is the _____ of the “more _____ life (John 10:10), vs.22d

13. There is benefit in self-denial.

- a. We can _____. Without this important beginning, we _____ be a true disciple of the Lord and have _____ in His eternal kingdom (Mark 8:34ff)
- b. We will “_____”. That is:
 - (1) experience _____ life with _____ now (John 10:10) including the _____ thereof.
 - ✓ See Galatians 5:22-23
 - (2) and _____ in the afterwhile (John 3:16).
- c. We will be _____ by God as _____ (Philippians 3:8-9)
- d. We can _____ by the _____ which is life rather than by the _____ which is _____ (Colossians 3:5-11; Romans 8:1 & 5-6)
- e. We will be _____!!! (Philippians 2:9-11; 3:20-21; 2 Timothy 2:11-12)

F. The Path To Self-Denial

Food for thought:

1. How do we get there? What are the steps on the road to self-denial?

14. To get to self-denial, we must ___ - ___ - ___ for it.

- a. Self denial involves A _____ an A _____ of A _____ and A _____.
- (1) We must assess what our goal is. That is do we want to “save” or “lose”. Do we want to “_____” or end up _____?
- (2) We must acknowledge that _____ is the _____ (John 14:6; 6:68-69).

(3) We must accept Him as _____ (1 Peter 3:18) and _____ to respect Him as such.

b. Self denial involves I _____ I _____ and I _____ In I _____ self denial in my life.

(1) If one's mind is made up about who Jesus is, then one must make up their mind to _____ one's cross and _____ Him.

(2) Traveling the way of life is a _____ and so is the way of self denial (Matthew 7:13-14; Matthew 4:18-22).

(3) Having intentionally chosen to follow Jesus, we must intentionally _____ those _____ and _____ that are aligned with self denial. (Luke 6:46; John 14:15; Matthew 11:29)

c. Self denial involves M _____ M _____ toward a M _____ of M _____ on a daily basis.

(1) The more we _____ self denial, the more mature we will be in the manner of self denial.

(2) The more our Attitude is _____ on self denial and Intentionally learn to practice self denial, the more we will Mature in self denial (Philippians 3:7-14; Luke 22:31-34).