

Selfishness

by Wayne Goff with excerpts from Dee Bowman

The following comes from Dee Bowman:

- “Selfishness is seen in man’s preference for satisfying his own self with ends that are lower than God intended.”
- “Selfishness, which is at the base of nearly all sin and which is the result of inordinate self-esteem, is a problem with which all of us must deal from time to time.” (*Christianity Magazine*, 3(5), 2)
- “Selfishness likes unbridled independence (2 Peter 2:17–20). ‘Let me do my own thing,’ it cries out. It has regard for others only when they can be used to re-varnish an already too great opinion of itself. Selfishness is pride, but with a mission. It seeks expression in pleasure, recognition, gratification. It is at the root of all sin.” (True Love — Considerate and Selfless. *Christianity Magazine*, 8(4), 2.)

Selfishness is a greater problem today than it was when brother Bowman’s statements were stated or written. But it has always been a great problem for Christians and the Lord’s church. The frightening thing is that it is so difficult to discern in our own lives. We may **think** that we are spiritual, selfless, and generous, and all the while be just the opposite! True character reveals itself during the *fiery trials of life*, 1 Corinthians 3:12-15. While some may be **viewed** as “*gold, silver, precious stones*,” once the fiery trial begins and they falter, then they are known to be “*wood, hay, straw*”! I never cease to be amazed at who stands and who falls in such times as that. But it’s all a matter of **faith** and **character**. *True faith* trusts in God and thus seeks out His Word and Will in the trials of life. *True faith* will sacrifice self for the well-being of God’s church. Character is what a person **is** when nobody is looking. But it is always seen to be present or lacking when the fires get hot!

Dear brother or sister, do not be deceived. A good tree brings forth good fruit — **period**.

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