

SELF-CENTERED OR SELF-DENYING

To know if you have been serious with Jesus, if you truly believe Him, if you have truly cooperated with His Spirit and have come to saving faith, examine yourself to see if you are denying yourself in order to obey Him or if you are just living the self-centered lifestyle. If you are thinking that you have an arrangement with God in which “you love to sin and God loves to forgive”, you have misunderstood the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Sin kills and God will not allow the true believer to keep destroying himself. God’s forgiveness is to relieve you from your bondage to sin. God will discipline a true son and will not leave him in his sin. A true believer will be convicted of sin by the indwelling Holy Spirit and will learn that sin is destructive. Have you asked God to forgive you, that is to relieve you from your bondage to sin? If you just want God to overlook your sin and to let you go on destroying yourself, you have missed the Gospel and you are still dead in your sins. Forgiveness is not a pat on the head.

Jesus said, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.” Luke 9:23

Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts. Romans 13:14

I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me. Galatians 2:20

Walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. Gal. 5:16

Do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Philippians 2:4

Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire and greed, which amounts to idolatry.

Colossians 3:5

Let no one seek his own good but that of his neighbor. 1 Corinthians 10:24

My son, do not take lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him, for the Lord disciplines the one He loves, and He disciplines everyone He accepts as His child. Hebrews 12:5,6

The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace. The sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. Romans 8:6-8

Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? If you are not disciplined, then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. Hebrews 12: 7,8

**God disciplines us for good, that we may share in His holiness. Hebrews 12:10b
It produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. Hebrews 12:11b**

