

Characteristics Of Sin #1

Someone once said, "Sin has four characteristics: self-sufficiency instead of faith, self-will instead of submission, self-seeking instead of benevolence and self-righteousness instead of humility." Selfishness is the root and source of all sin. Since sin is an act of selfishness, let's consider how to dismiss selfishness and put away sin.

Self-Sufficiency Instead Of Faith

Many people view themselves as self-sufficient, independent and autonomous (Deuteronomy 8:11-14; Proverbs 30:8-9). However, Paul clearly recognized that we are unable to claim anything for ourselves (2 Corinthians 3:5-6; 9:8-11). Faith leads us to put our hope and confidence in God. I am weak, but He is strong. Like the Psalmist, we must learn to trust, not in self, but in God (Psalms 20:6-9; 37:1-6).

Self-Will Instead Of Submission

In the wilderness, the Israelites disregarded God's blessings and rejected His ways (Psalm 78:5-8). Those who crucified Christ carried on this lamentable tradition (Acts 7:51-53). Too many are arrogant and self-willed (Romans 1:29-30). Jesus Christ is our Lord and Master (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:36-38). Therefore, we must surrender our stubborn will and humbly submit to God (1 Peter 3:21-22; 5:6-7).

Those who live only for self will never know true happiness. Christ freely gave Himself for the sake of lost mankind. He taught us that it is more blessed to give than to receive and we must follow His example (Acts 20:35; Philippians 2:1-11).

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