

The Sin Of Self

Introduction. Genesis 3:1-6 records the first sin and a lot of comments have been made about the nature of that sin. Some have discussed the fact that Satan here first showed his lying nature (John 8:44). Some have discussed the threefold nature of temptation of Eve in v. 6 (1 John 2:16).

But we will focus on the fact that the sin of Adam and Eve was selfish. At its heart, they wanted something better for themselves, and Satan convinced them that they could have it, I don't suppose it's much different now. There's four specific ways we can center on ourselves and neglect the weightier elements of godliness. This drives us farther away from God and will not perfect us in Christ.

I. Self-sufficiency Instead Of Faith

- A. The rich man thought of himself and his life only (Luke 12:16-21).
- B. God's grace is sufficient for us (2 Corinthians 12:9).
- C. Abraham demonstrated how good God's grace can be (Hebrews 11:8-10).
- D. We can do everything by the power of Christ (Philippians 4:13).

II. Self-will Instead Of Submission

- A. Saul did what he wanted in respect to God's commands (1 Samuel 15:22-23).
- B. The Israelites tempted God in the wilderness (Hebrews 3:7-12).
- C. Christ was willing to do His Father's will (Mark 14:36).
- D. Christ learned obedience by what He suffered (Hebrews 5:8).

III. Self-seeking Instead Of Benevolence

- A. Paul's enemies selfishly preached Christ (Philippians 1:16).
- B. Paul and his associates were not pleasing men but God (1 Thessalonians 2:4).
- C. Let's not grow weary while doing good (Galatians 6:9).
- D. Seek the well-being of those with which you disagree (Romans 14:13).

IV. Self-righteousness Instead Of Humility

- A. The Pharisee and publican demonstrate these two attitudes (Luke 18:9-14).
- B. Edom lived in incredible pride (Jeremiah 49:16).
- C. If we boast, we need to do so in the cross of Christ (Galatians 6:14).
- D. The one who heeds counsel is wise (Proverbs 12:15).

Conclusion. Resolve not to commit the sin of self. Don't fall into the same temptation as Adam and Eve. Paul wanted to present every man complete in Christ, and so do we (Colossians 2:10). But we do so by exhorting Christians to put God first and themselves last (Matthew 19:30; 20:16).