

3. **My way does not pay -- it costs:**  
King David allow his lust for a woman to lead him to adultery -- his cover-up methods did not work. David later repented of this sin--but it was ever before him. (Psa. 51). the effect of his sin spread to his children, and the whole nation was effected.
4. **My way gets in God's way:**  
"It is not in many who walks to direct his steps." (Jer. 10:23; Psa.. 37;23) Often when I think my way is great it is a stumbling block in God's view. (Prov. 14:12)
5. **My Way dissipates me, destroys me:**  
King Saul continually rejected God's mercy and moved on -- headstrong, resulting in insanity and madness. (I Sam 18).
6. **My way allows no freedom... I am a slave to myself and sin.** (John 8:32-34)  
My way is undisciplined, it is a long line of urges, wants and desires. Selfishness is not found around freedom. Freedom comes through self denial. No person is free from sin who walks in his selfishness. (I I Tim. 1:7; Rom. 6:16-18)
7. **My way causes dissension and separates me from God.**  
Self-seekers are just that -- seekers. Their attitude is me first. The Corinthian Church was a quarreling church. (I Cor. 1:4; 12:14)

#### V. **Drawing On The Power God Gives:**

Selfishness and immaturity can destroy a home. (Matt 7:4,5)

##### **Six steps will help us:**

1. **Be humble** enough to admit that self-centeredness is sin. (Gal. 2:20)
2. **Rely on faith in God** to help me live beyond my self-interest. (John 8:34)
3. **Turn my life** from serving self to **servng others**.
4. **Confirm to myself and others that I am willing to KILL the old life** and be resurrected to a new life in Christ. (Gal. 2:20 -- Rom. 6)
5. **Restore the peace destroyed by my selfishness.** Make apologies, repair the damage, accept forgiveness if I cannot replay the damage. (Matt 5:23-26)
6. **Enjoy the gifts of God in Christ.** He has promised the gift of the Holy Spirit in our lives, (Acts 5:32; Eph. 5:18)

## The Trouble Is With ME!

### Introduction:

**Selfishness is the greatest single enemy of a happy marriage. Selfishness is the root of all other sins.**

1. When I am at the **center** of my world, I am out of place and my world is out of balance. I will eventually destroy my marriage, my job, my sanity, my family.
2. **Selfishness is easy to spot...** it reveals itself in my anger and impatience, and it is really evident when I raise my voice or "*cloud up and storm.*" I operate on pure self-concern when I ignore the feelings of those who live with me. . . we hurt one another too readily.
3. **Selfishness is a natural sin.** It comes easy. We are not willing to admit that we are a part of the problem. We deny it and quickly place blame on someone else instead of honestly evaluating what we are doing and saying.
4. **It is horrible selfishness when I lie, cheat, steal, or risk another individual to cover up my mistakes.**
5. **We try our best to hide our self-interest.** In 50 years of ministry I don't think I have ever heard anyone confess blatant selfishness.

### I. **We Hold On To Our "Rights":**

1. **Sometimes I hide my personal selfish interests behind my rights.** That's like the man who came to Jesus upset he felt his rights had been violated. Often people are only interested in their own rights.
2. **Jesus made a simple statement to end the conversation** (Lk. 12:15) and then proceeded to address the root problem -- selfish materialist.
3. **Then Jesus gave us the parable of the rich farmer --** wealthy, so selfish -- note (Luke 12:20) Consumed by self-interest.
4. **Satan's first attempt at temptation was successful.** He tempted Eve in the garden, and she believed that if

she would eat of the forbidden fruit she would “*be like God -- knowing good and evil.*” (Gen. 3:1-16) She elected in her selfishness to disobey God’s clear directive. Satan tempts us the same way -- (I John 2:15-16) They are Satan’s effective tools.

## **II. We Have Rejected or Neglected the Death Principle:** In Romans 6:1-17 Paul mentions some form of the word *death* 15 times.

1. **In Baptism there is seen the death-burial-resurrection picture.** we are to die to self -- living in newness of life. We were are to die to what we were... raise in newness of life. (Rom. 6:1-5; Gal. 2:20)
2. **We are to understand that in Christ death -- we died to self.** (6:6) I am to allow God to dethrone self; and by faith, I allow Christ to become the center of my life.
3. **Then we must reckon ourselves dead unto sin and alive unto Christ.** (Rom. 6:11)
4. **In so doing we are to yield our members, our bodies unto Him.** (Rom. 6:13, 14)
5. **The outcome is to be what is seen in 6:16-17.**

I realize that I have nothing to brag about, **I am bankrupt.** I can’t any longer boast of anything but Christ. (Gal. 6:14; Phil. 3: There must be absolute helplessness and surrender in the face of absolute love. Pride is just the opposite, it brags and struts in a hundred subtle ways and not so subtle ways.

## **III. We Must Surrender Our Rights:**

**This a paradox, but true: I must die to live.** As Christ died to fulfill God’s purposes, I must die to fulfill Christ’s purposes in me. (II Cor. 5:14-17)

1. This death is not my loss -- **it is my gain**, it is my victory.
2. God has **replaced** my self-interest with His Spirit’s control. (Acts 5:32; Eph. 5:18; Gal. 5:22-23)
3. His **power enables me to triumph** over desires of the flesh. I am no longer enslaved; I am free, alive, and victorious.

**What about surrendered rights:** As I commit sin, I become a slave to Satan (John 8:34). Slaves do not have rights; they cannot free themselves. Like flies caught on sticky paper,

they will die unless an outsider frees them. The only outsider capable of saving me from my sin is Jesus. When I accept His blood to cover my sin, I am free.

1. **We can’t serve 2 masters** (Matt 6:24) I must choose one.
2. **The concept of absolute freedom is a satanic trick,** Satan allows to think we are “*absolutely free,*” but we are **slaves to self and to sin.** (Rom. 6:17-18)
3. **A dead man has no resentments.** My resentments die as my rights died because resentments are caused when rights are violated. (Heb. 10:30)

**How does this apply to us? How Can We Wash Family Feet?** One would think the disciples would never forget the death principle, but they did. Jesus later gave them an example and final charge they were never to forget.

1. As the 12 came up stairs -- upper room, Passover meal -- custom a slave would wash the feet of the arriving guests. None doing it. (John 13)
2. **To be a husband or wife according to God’s plan means servant hood.** (Eph. 5:21-33)

When I see my wife behind in her work -- the dishes need washing, the tub needs cleaning, etc., I do it. It wasn’t Jesus job to wash feet, but it was not humiliating to him. Jesus modeled what He called his disciples to do.

## **IV. Why “My Way” Will NOT Work:**

1. **My way clouds my judgment:** (I Sam. 15) **King Saul used** his own judgment, spared King Agag, huge surplus of loot. (15:13) Self dominated his mind, clouded his judgment.
2. **My way is never satisfied:** (King Solomon’s way) **King Solomon** was never satisfied. Selfishness never is, the more it gets the more it wants. How did he view life? empty, full of vanity, as he had fulfilled every physical appetite, but it was all in vain. Self as a master is a tyrant - selfishness is never satisfied until it totally consumes.