

The Self

Romans 12:3

If we wanted to study a perfect relationship between God and man; where would we go? The Holy Bible; the Word of God, is the only reliable source that we have. When we are in heaven, with our new bodies; we will enjoy the close relationship with God, that mankind has been craving for; but not enjoyed since the beginning, with Adam and Eve, before the Fall.

But, there is one other instance. That's when Our Lord Jesus Christ, came down from heaven as the Son of Man. How would His relationship with Our Heavenly Father be described?

John 5: 30 - I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.

Our Lord's resolve was tested in the wilderness, but He passed.

And the extreme test came in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Matthew 26: 39 & 42 - And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.

And what challenge does Our Lord Jesus give us? Matthew 12: 50 - For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

So how did the rest of creation, especially the angels, fare?

Isaiah 14: 12 to 15 - How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! [how] art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

So we have the good example of Our Lord Jesus Christ, compared with the bad example of the devil. How will those 5 "I wills" manifest in us?

Well, if pride and rebellion brought the devil down; we should take notice. This is usually accomplished by getting us to not rely on the Lord, and to rely on ourselves. Why don't we look at the examples in the Bible, of how the self works. One of them is self-will.

Genesis 49:6 Let not my soul enter their council; Let not my honor be united to their assembly; For in their anger they slew a man, And in their **self**-will they hamstrung an ox.

Titus 1:7 For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not **self-willed**, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money,

2 Peter 2:10 and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. *They are* presumptuous, **self-willed**. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries,

One of them is self-sufficiency. **Job 20:22** In his **self-sufficiency** he will be in distress; Every hand of misery will come against him.

One of them is self-confidence. **Proverbs 14:16** A wise *man* fears and departs from evil, But a fool rages and is **self-confident**.

One of them is self-indulgence. **Matthew 23:25** "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and **self-indulgence**.

One of them is self-control.

Acts 24:25 Now as he reasoned about righteousness, **self-control**, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, "Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you."

1 Corinthians 7:5 Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of **self-control**.

1 Corinthians 7:9 but if they cannot exercise **self-control**, let them marry. For it is better to marry than to burn *with passion*.

Galatians 5:23 gentleness, **self-control**. Against such there is no law.

1 Timothy 2:15 Nevertheless she will be saved in childbearing if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with **self-control**.

2 Timothy 3:3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without **self-control**, brutal, despisers of good,

Titus 1:8 but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, **self-controlled**,

2 Peter 1:6 to knowledge **self-control**, to **self-control** perseverance, to perseverance godliness,

One of them is self-seeking.

Romans 2:8 but to those who are **self-seeking** and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness--indignation and wrath,

James 3:14 But if you have bitter envy and **self-seeking** in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth.

James 3:16 For where envy and **self-seeking** *exist*, confusion and every evil thing *are* there.

One of them is selfish-ambitions.

2 Corinthians 12:20 For I fear lest, when I come, I shall not find you such

as I wish, and *that* I shall be found by you such as you do not wish; lest *there be* contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, backbitings, whisperings, conceits, tumults;

Galatians 5:20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,

Philippians 1:16 The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains;

Philippians 2:3 *Let nothing be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

One of them is self-religion.

Colossians 2:23 These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, *false* humility, and neglect of the body, *but are* of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.

One of them is self-condemnation.

Titus 3:11 knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned.

What are some other symptoms of the "self"?

Self-redemption,

Self-abuse,

Self-Accusation,

Self-Awareness,

Self-condemnation,

Self-delusion,

Self-deception,

Self-gratification,

Self-hatred,

Self-Hypnosis,

Self-justification,

Selfishness,

Self-Pity,

Self-Rejection,

Self-Reward,

Self-Righteousness,

Self-Seduction,

Childish Self-Will, etc.

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