



Choose Thoughtfulness over Selfishness

Colossians 3:5-7& 12-17 (NLT2) ⁵ *So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. **Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world.*** ⁶ *Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming.* ⁷ *You used to do these things when your life was still part of this world.*

¹² *Since God chose you to be the holy people He loves, you **MUST** clothe yourselves with **tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.*** ¹³ **Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you.** Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you **MUST** forgive others. ¹⁴ **Above all, clothe yourselves with love,** which binds us all together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ *And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And **ALWAYS BE THANKFUL.*** ¹⁶ *Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, **fill** your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with **thankful hearts.*** ¹⁷ *And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving **thanks** through him to God the Father.*

1. We **all** are selfish until God transforms us.
2. Human nature is **preoccupied** with selfishness.
3. Paul declares that Christians must **destroy** a selfish, greedy attitude. This is a command, not just a suggestion.
4. Paul states that we should be considerate of others.

Philippians 2:3-4 (NLT2) ³ **Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves.** ⁴ **Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.**

5. Jesus is the great example of kindness, thoughtfulness, and generosity.

2 Corinthians 8:9 (NLT2) *You know the **generous** grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though He was rich, yet for your sakes **He became poor, SO that by His poverty He could make you rich.***

What you need to know: A greedy spirit brings sorrow and frustration to life.

1. SELFISHNESS IS A COMMON (Natural) ATTITUDE

1. Greed is idolatry. It is worship of self. It focuses on what I want more than anything else.
2. Selfishness magnifies my problem and sees my problem as greater than anyone else's.
3. Selfishness demands that everyone take notice of me and serves me.
4. Selfishness minimizes everyone else's situation.
5. Selfishness uses dramatic words, especially exaggeration, to describe your situation.
6. Selfishness is never satisfied.

Ecclesiastes 5:10 (NLT2) *Those who love money will never have enough. How meaningless to think that wealth brings true happiness!*

7. Selfishness prevents gratitude.
8. Selfishness creates a spirit of entitlement.

2. THOUGHTFULNESS IS an UNUSUAL (Supernatural) ATTITUDE

1. Paul gives several words that describe what thoughtfulness looks like.
2. He says we MUST wear like a shirt:
 - a. **Tender mercies**-when we consider the problems other are facing with a desire to help lessen their burden
 - b. **kindness**-one aspect of the fruit of the Spirit. Not harsh or discounted
 - c. **humility**-(in Greek) of mind. Not thinking of oneself with pride or arrogance
 - d. **generosity**- the call to bear with (literally endure) and forgive when wronged require a generous spirit, not seeking justice for self
 - e. **contentment**-peace and recognition of Jesus as Lord results in contentment
 - f. **gratitude**-Paul tells us to be thankful in verses 15, 16, and 17

1. Life is more enjoyable and meaningful.
2. You become a blessing to others.
3. You represent Jesus well.
4. Choosing to be grateful and practicing generosity breaks the chains of greed.

What you need to do: A considerate persons brings honor to God. Contentment is practical worship. Choose to be thoughtful and grateful because God has been good to you.