Respectable Sins

Session Eight

Selfishness

***Hook***

Since the last session, did you catch pride at work in your life? What brought it to your attention? How did you respond?

Why do you think pride may be difficult to detect in ourselves?

***Book***

1. What is selfishness?
2. What are some clear examples of our inborn selfish nature? How is it evidence in our lives?
3. How do you know if you are selfish? Here is a little quiz?
   1. The last helping of seasonal ice cream (or whatever your favorite dessert is) is in the refrigerator. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ asks you if anything is left and if they can have it. How do you respond? (And what is your attitude if you give it to them. Do you do it grudgingly or cheerfully?)
   2. You share your favorite food with\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_? Do you share it willingly and cheerfully?
   3. If something is offered to both you and a friend but only one can accept it, how do you respond?
   4. If someone gives you something or does a favor for you, do you sense a desire to repay the deed in kind?
   5. How do you respond when someone asks you for money or for a favor?
   6. Evaluate: How much do you spend on gifts for others?
   7. If you had the option, which would you chose: A friend for life or a million dollars?
   8. How much time to you spend helping, serving, and giving to others?
   9. How much time do you spend doing what GOD wants you do? How much time do you spend doing what YOU want to do?
   10. How much time do you spend getting to know God as opposed to how much time you spend doing what pleases yourself?
   11. Before helping others, do you consider ONLY how they will benefit or do you think about what you may get out of it?
4. Why is selfishness so hard to deal with?
5. What is the root of our selfishness?
   1. Genesis 3:1-6
   2. Jeremiah 17:9
   3. Hosea 6:7
   4. Galatians 5:16-17
   5. Ephesians 2:3

Four Expressions of Selfishness in a Believers Life

OUR INTERESTS

1. What does this verse mean? What does Paul mean by interests?
2. For the sake of our study this morning, let’s focus it a bit more narrowly on subjects that interest us. What are some subjects that you are interested in?
3. What happens when people get together who are not sensitive to the interests of others?
4. Which phrase in 2 Timothy 3:1-2 describes a selfish person? Why is this so convicting?

OUR TIME

1. In what ways are we are selfish with our time?
2. What does Galatians 6:2 teach us about being selfish with our time?
3. Because time is precious, its easy to be selfish with it. What do the following verses reveal about sharing our time with others?
   1. Act 9:36
   2. Rom 16
   3. Gal 5:13
   4. 1Th 5:14
   5. Heb 6:10
   6. 1Pe 4:10

OUR MONEY

1. What do the following passages reveal about the believers responsibility toward others?
   1. Romans 12:15
   2. 1 John 3:17
2. Who owns our money?

INCONSIDERATENESS

1. Our fourth area of selfishness is that of being inconsiderate. What does it mean to be inconsiderate?
2. How is inconsiderateness expressed?
3. What do the following passages of scripture reveal about what our attitude should be?
4. In contrast to someone who is inconsiderate – not thinking about how what he or she says or does affects other people – what does God say about being considerate? (Titus 3:1-2; James 3:17)

***Look***

1. If we allow sinful selfishness to take root in our lives, what consequences should we expect? (1 Corinthians 5:6) Can you think of a time when you allowed this to happen? What did you experience as a result? How do you think other people felt about you?
2. Have three participants read aloud Romans 12:1-3, Philippians 2:3; and 1 Corinthians 13:4. After each verse, indentify how God wants us to counter the sin of selfishness.

***Took***

In which particular area(s) of your life do sinful expressions of pride and selfishness tend to surface? (Home, work, school, recreation, thoughts)

Your conversations can reveal clues regarding pride and selfishness. As you converse with others, do you truly listen and empathize, or do you tend to shift the conversation to your own stories, interests, or achievements? Write down an example or two, followed by you thoughts on how God probably wanted you to behave.

What do you calendar and checkbook reveal about selfishness in your life?

Compare the sins of pride and selfishness to the fruit of the Spirit (See Galatians 5:22-23). What changes might you need to make, with the Holy Spirits help?

After you have identified areas of sinful pride and selfishness that may have taken root in your life, confess them to God in prayer. Ask Him to make you less mindful of yourself and more mindful of the needs of others.