

CouplesInBloom.com – Selfish Diseases

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The last of the Ten Commandments is uniquely more difficult than the first nine because it is *INTERNAL*: “You shall not covet...” ⇒ Exodus 20:17; Deuteronomy 5:21. Understand the two different ‘*covets*’ seen in both Old and New testaments: passionate ardor / the ‘heat’ of intensity is *zeal* ⇒ 1 Corinthians 12:31; 14:39; whereas, burning with desire for *selfish* gain is *lust* ⇒ Micah 2:2; Exodus 20:17; Deuteronomy 5:21. This gives us a picture of the *selfish* part of today’s title; now let’s see what the *disease* part is:

The words referring to *disease* in the Bible refer to being rubbed / worn and therefore weak, sick, afflicted or grieved. This begs some questions: *HOW* do *selfishness* and *disease* connect? *WHO*, especially what *selfish* person, would want *disease*? Take a close look: by definition, *selfishness* is foundationally a thinking process, whereas *disease* is an action process. *Selfish diseases: thoughts controlling the one who thought them.*

Some examples: independence, ownership, and depression... all of which have good and bad usages. Biblically, it is good to become independent from parents ⇒ Genesis 2:24 and live a self-sustaining life ⇒ 2 Thessalonians 3:10; to possess goods and minister them to others ⇒ Genesis 26:4; to experience temporary yet overwhelming sorrow and grow from it ⇒ Psalm 119:71. Consider these *Selfish diseases*:

- **Independence**: idolizing sufficiency.
- **Ownership**: idolizing the stuff of sufficiency or the lack of it (i.e. false humility).
- **Depression**: idolizing insufficiency / neediness.

Take time to think through these *selfish diseases*. First comes idolizing comfort, then hoarding it, then addiction to it... the endless dissatisfaction of *sycophancy of self*. Together, **independence**, **ownership** and **depression** allow infection of *selfish diseases*. Idolizing these steps silently permits them to subtly take control over their beholder.

Galatians 6:7-8 says ⇒ *whatever* we sow, we reap – good or bad, and Luke 6:38 says ⇒ *the measure* we sow is *the measure* we reap; *the measure* of *selfish disease* obviously included. In this, an important question is: how can something so bad sneak up on someone who sincerely loves God? Answer: through **unmonitored** sincere needs. Ephesians 5:15 says ⇒ walk your life out **looking all around you** (circumspectly). 2 Corinthians 10:12 says ⇒ measuring yourself *by* your own measure literally means you “are not put together”, are unwise and do not comprehend the error of doing that. Don’t do that.

Since idolizing **independence**, **ownership** and **depression** all involve self, be careful what you associate yourself with, remembering that unmonitored sincere needs create vulnerabilities. For example: be careful with independence, remembering we all need a lot of discipling. Be careful with ownership, do not say, “My doctor”, “my disease”, or make anything else *INTERNAL*, regardless of whether it *seems* like a bad thing or a good thing. Be careful with your needs; nursing them grows them into addiction monsters.

The Holy Spirit wants to be your *INTERNAL* disease preventer and your *LIFE GIVER*. Talk to the Holy Spirit often, telling Him to fill you fresh every day ⇒ Ephesians 5:18. Jesus finished His work ⇒ Acts 1:1-11. Now let God’s Holy Spirit do His work in you. ♥