

Death to Selfie – 2

We live in a time of instant success, fame and popularity.
Or so it seems. Our culture is all about the power of self.
We want it our way and we want it now!

- To serve Jesus and reach our fullest potential we must die to “Selfie”
- My Will – My Comfort – My identity
- When we die to self we find our identity in Him

Mark 8:34–36 (NLT)

³⁴ Then, calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross, and follow me. ³⁵ If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it. ³⁶ And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul?*

1 John 2:16 NKJV

¹⁶ For the world offers only a craving •for physical pleasure, •a craving for everything we •see, and •pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world.

We find life in Christ by dying to sin and selfishness
Losing our rights, our cravings, our wants, our obsessions

We will all die but what are we willing to die for?
That will determine how we live

In dying to live we must die to our position
God doesn't look at things the way man does

In the Kingdom many times you have to go down to go up
We have to give up our perceived rights

God Chose David – 1 Samuel 16

1 Peter 5:6 (NLT)

⁶ So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God,
and at the right time he will lift you up in honor.

We die daily to all that is within us that wants to rise up and
rule over others

It's just not cool, trendy or in style to voluntarily submit
yourself to authority in today's cultural climate

When we humble ourselves we are choosing to follow
Jesus

As Christ becomes clearer to us the desire for the
meaningless things of the world diminish

*It's not about success and failure. It's not about good days
and bad days. It's not about wealth or poverty. It's not
about health or sickness. It's not even about life or death.
It's about glorifying God in whatever circumstance you
find yourself in. Anyway. Anywhere. Anyhow. Whenever.
Wherever. Whatever. – All In, Mark Batterson*

Philippians 2:5–11 (NLT)

⁵ You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.

⁶ Though he was God,*
he did not think of equality with God
as something to cling to.

⁷ Instead, he gave up his divine privileges*;
he took the humble position of a slave*
and was born as a human being.

When he appeared in human form,*

⁸ he humbled himself in obedience to God
and died a criminal's death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest
honor and gave him the name above all other names,

¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue declare that **Jesus Christ is Lord**,
to the glory of God the Father.

This one phrase is so countercultural that most Churches don't even embrace it beyond a slogan, T-shirt or bumper sticker

Jesus is Lord!

During the time of the early church Roman emperors claimed to be directly picked by the gods to rule and reign over the people of the earth

They claimed to be divine

Inscribed on coins and their great structures were the words
“Caesar is Lord”

You were expected to recite these three words if you came face to face with a Roman official or soldier
Everyone was familiar with “Caesar is Lord”

It was common for the Caesar to throw massive parties in which they spared no expense – music, entertainers, etc. They wanted the richest, most powerful, most influential citizens to realize the glory and splendor that belonged to Caesar

The purpose of these parties was to prove that only Caesar was rich enough to meet the needs of the people

They would announce your name upon arrival giving you a sense of importance

You would approach Caesar, who was standing behind a small bronze basin filled with incense with a small fire in front guarded by the biggest, baddest soldiers they could find

You would take a pinch of incense, throw it into the fire, bow your head, lift your hands to your sides with palms open and say – “Caesar is Lord”

As part of the entertainment they would invite some Christians in hopes that they would see all of the food, entertainment and hoopla and quickly denounce Jesus

They would refuse and say instead – Jesus is Lord!
Then they would be burned alive, cut into pieces, sold as slaves and slaughtered in the coliseum

Romans 10:9 (NLT)

⁹ If you openly declare that **Jesus is Lord** and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

We might think... Surely God would understand if you said Caesar was Lord to live another day and tell many more about Jesus

They died to truly live – the more they were tortured the more they multiplied – **Exodus 1:12**

200 years later the Roman Empire was filled with followers of Christ because of these martyrs

Philippians 3:10–11 (NLT)

¹⁰ I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, ¹¹ so that **one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!**

Costly Grace says “Come and Die”

“Such grace is costly because it calls us to follow...It is costly because it costs a man his life...It is costly because it condemns sin...Above all, it is costly because it cost God the life of his Son...and what has cost God much cannot be cheap for us. Above all, it is grace because God did not reckon his Son too dear a price to pay for our life, but delivered him up for us”

“When Christ calls a man, He bids him come and die”

– Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Luke 9:23 (NLT)

²³ Then he said to the crowd, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross daily, and follow me.

- We are not talking about managing sin – that is what the Pharisees did
- We are talking about allowing Christ to fill me up to the point of pushing out the things that try to take His place
- The power Jesus wants to release in our lives comes from a humble and quiet authority
- Instead of wielding supreme control like the Caesar’s, Jesus came to serve humanity
- We think God is supposed to be holy, shinny, strong and regal, giving orders not taking them
- Maybe we’re wrong?

John 11:16 *Thomas*

“Let’s go, too—and die with Jesus.”

Dying to “Selfie” is where faith is released

- Faith is choosing to trust in the midst of fear and moving ahead believing that things will work out alright
- God brings peace out of panic seemingly out of nowhere – Just in time when I need it most
- The sky may be falling, the bills may be piling up and the dark clouds gathering – peace comes!
- Fear may not go away but Faith wins out!

2 Corinthians 6:8-10

⁸ by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and *yet* true; ⁹ as unknown, and *yet* well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and *yet* not killed; ¹⁰ as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and *yet* possessing all things.

Share the story of Building at Carlisle – moving to Ionia

“If you are going through a personal trial now, there is a purpose in it, and the reason is more than just to develop you into a hardier person. It’s true that God uses it to conform you to the image and character of Christ, and any trial is worth the pain for that process alone. But he aims also to show you the character of Christ in your trial”.
– Chris Tiegreen, *Why a Suffering World Makes Sense*

Philippians 1:29 (NLT)

²⁹ For you have been given not only the privilege of trusting in Christ but also the privilege of suffering for him.

When you trust someone you are willing to suffer for them
You are willing to put your life in their hands

US Navy SEALs – reading an interview USA Today

- Only 2600 on earth – according to the Pentagon
- A cross between ninjas and Jedi masters
- Like Yoda meets MacGyver

They endure some of the military's most rigorous training
The making of a SEAL sniper involves more than three years of training in which only three out of four volunteers make the cut

- They go days without sleep
 - Knowing the body will die without sleep their instructors push them right to that limit
 - They let them sleep for an hour after 48 hrs of training
 - Then wake them up to a life and death simulated attack
 - It forces them to react according to their training instead of thinking about the situation
- Have to tread water in full body armor after capsizing
 - They spend hours in freezing waters
 - After hypothermia sets in they are drilled with complicated questions about firearms and offensive maneuvers – Pulled out, warmed up – REPEAT

They have to run for miles with heavy back packs on ruff terrain, sometimes barefoot – sometimes carrying another

- Dehydrated and disoriented they would have to assemble firearms and explosive devises while blindfolded and having water shot at them through a fire hose

One man said it would be denied but he was locked up in a casket and buried alive, underground for 24 hrs

It forced his mind to exercise authority over his body by telling his muscles not to cramp and his heart rate not to jump

– They would learn to focus in the midst of adversity

2 Timothy 2:3–4 (NLT)

³ Endure suffering along with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴ Soldiers don't get tied up in the affairs of civilian life, for then they cannot please the officer who enlisted them.

Their final challenge is the recruit is thrown into the frigid water, held under by the others recruits until drowned
Then the others must resuscitate the recruit

When asked why he did it he said,
“Oh that’s an easy question. You need an emotional anchor. I just thought about all the American citizens I would have the chance to save”.

Hebrews 6:19–20 (NLT)

¹⁹ This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls. It leads us through the curtain into God's inner sanctuary. ²⁰ Jesus has already gone in there for us.

2 Corinthians 4:16–18 (NLT)

¹⁶ That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are* being renewed every day. ¹⁷ For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! ¹⁸ So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.