

Death to Selfie

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!

When we live selfish self centered lives we become the
object of our affection. We become god. There is no room
for others and certainly no room for God.

We must learn to die to our own stubborn will, childish
pursuits, shallow dreams and superficial selfishness.

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?*

- We must live a life in which we die to “Selfie”
- We must die to my will, my comfort, my identity
- We must Die completely and find our identity in Him
- We must die to live

We must invite the cross to come and do its work within us
– A.W. Tozer

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

- Death to a life wasted on the pursuit of personal pleasures that never last more than a few months
- Death to decades of attempting to please people who don't know me or love me
- Death to the nightmarish existence of working jobs just for things like houses, cars, vacations, and retirement accounts
- Death to a life filled with anxiety and stress over my finances and retirement that leads to heart disease that would kill me in my late forties
- Death to the obsession with having more things, which demands I work more and stay home less and eventually get divorced
- Death to a fast paced lifestyle that cripples all family relationships and leads to an affair, which costs me everything of real value
- Death to a childish envy and jealousy that arises when friends and colleagues live a lifestyle better than mine

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

Jesus died for what He believed in but His death alone would mean nothing if not for the way He lived.

We find meaning and purpose when we live for something bigger and greater than us!

Most people wonder how they will die but we're asking the wrong question.
The question should be how will I live until I die?

“The life a disciple is not always filled with Sunday morning worship with choirs and choruses. It's filled with sorrow and joy, celebration and lament, losses and gains, all for the sake of knowing Christ and being His own possession”– Clayton King, Dying to live

Dying to self is not sexy, trendy or cool. But it's the only way to gain life and know Jesus

“You and I can go through this process only if God does it in us; but God can do it only if He becomes man. Our attempts at this dying will succeed only if we men share in God's dying, just as our thinking can succeed only because it is a drop out of the ocean of His intelligence: but we cannot share God's dying unless God dies: and He cannot die except by being a man. That is the sense in which He pays our debt, and suffers for us what He Himself need not suffer at all”. – CS Lewis, Mere Christianity

Its time to die a good death!

“Mostly dead” won't do it – **The Princess Bride video**

John 11:4–8 (NLT)

⁴ But when Jesus heard about it he said, “Lazarus’s sickness will not end in death. No, it happened for the glory of God so that the Son of God will receive glory from this.” ⁵ So although Jesus loved Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, ⁶ he stayed where he was for the next two days. ⁷ Finally, he said to his disciples, “Let’s go back to Judea.”

⁸ But his disciples objected. “Rabbi,” they said, “only a few days ago the people* in Judea were trying to stone you. Are you going there again?”

A few days earlier

No Slide: John 10:39 (NLT)

³⁹ Once again they tried to arrest him, but he got away and left them.

Am I in a place of hesitation or indecision because of fear?

- Fear of rejection? – Again
- Fear of lack?
- Why do you want me to pray for or reach out to them?
- Buy them a meal, clothes or other needs
- Give them my car, a room or place a to live

1 John 3:17 (NLT)

¹⁷ If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister* in need but shows no compassion—how can God’s love be in that person?

Jesus hasn’t changed He’s still calling every believer to step out and trust Him – to launch into deeper and scarier waters – to lead us to places that force us to trust Him

It's better to die with Jesus than to live without Him

John 11:16 (NLT)

¹⁶ Thomas, nicknamed the Twin,* said to his fellow disciples, "Let's go, too—and die with Jesus."

- Will I be like Thomas?
- Will I go? – Will I trust? – Will I die to selfie?

Jesus is life! Therefore life apart from knowing Christ is simply existence, not really living

The truth is my life is not my own – I am not my own

1 Corinthians 6:19 NKJV

¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is in you*, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?¹

- But what about my rugged, independent individualism
- What about me? – selfie?
- He redeemed me and now He calls the shots

When I'm too tired to spend time with that person from work that needs to see Jesus – Do I?

When my wife is sick and I don't feel like putting the kids to bed – Do I?

When my father needs me to sit with Him all night after a triple bypass surgery and I have a deadline to meet – Do I?

When a brother in Christ is financially broke do to uncontrollable circumstances – do I write the check?

When the Church takes an offering or offers a special outreach do I get involved – or just let it pass?

When my son asks me to read to him before bed and I have emails to check – what do I do?

When I could fudge the monthly expense reports a little to make it more convenient, even though it could potentially bring destruction – do I chose the truth instead?

When I start to live my life out of what is easiest, safest and most convenient I am in dangerous territory

Am I quick to respond when the Holy Spirit speaks to me or have I grown accustomed to ignoring His Voice?
Have I bought into the lie – “well surely God wants me happy?”

Am I ready to give selfie a proper burial and experience a resurrection?

Galatians 2:20 NKJV

²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me²

Dying to self is not an easy thing – in fact it is something that must be done daily – it's the only way to gain life

1 Corinthians 9:23–27 (NLT)

²³ I do everything to spread the Good News and share in its blessings.

²⁴ Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win! ²⁵ All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. ²⁶ So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing. ²⁷ I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should.

Romans 12:1–2 (NLT) *A Living Sacrifice to God*

And so, dear brothers and sisters,* I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.* ² Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

When we die to selfie we start to live in Him
This is true worship!

Most of us have not found the will of God for our lives
because we are too focused on the behaviors and customs of
the world

Samson lived a life that was full of self. He wanted what he wanted when he wanted it. And he would pay any price.

Judges 14:1–2 (NLT) *Samson's Riddle*

One day when Samson was in Timnah, one of the Philistine women caught his eye. ² When he returned home, he told his father and mother, “A young Philistine woman in Timnah caught my eye. I want to marry her. **Get her for me.”**

His father pleaded with Him to find a wife from their tribe as was their custom from the Lord

Judges 14:3 (NLT)

³ His father and mother objected. “Isn’t there even one woman in our tribe or among all the Israelites you could marry?” they asked. “Why must you go to the pagan Philistines to find a wife?” But Samson told his father, “Get her for me! She looks good to me.”

*She deceives him trying to find the secret to his strength
When Samson finds out he slaughters many Philistines
Her father assumes Samson doesn't love her and gives her
to someone else
Samson burns the Philistine grain fields with 300 foxes*

- They kill his wife and he continues attacking them with great fury
- One time slaying 1000 of them with the jawbone of a donkey

Samson turns to prostitutes and then finally Delilah
She deceives him and cuts his hair

Have I fallen asleep on the lap of Delilah?

The bible says God was using Samson to slaughter the
Philistines but the greatest victory is achieved when we die
to selfie

Judges 16:23–24 (NLT) *Samson's Final Victory*

²³ The Philistine rulers held a great festival, offering
sacrifices and praising their god, Dagon. They said, “Our
god has given us victory over our enemy Samson!”

²⁴ When the people saw him, they praised their god, saying,
“Our god has delivered our enemy to us! The one who
killed so many of us is now in our power!”

- Are you trapped by the enemy?
- Are you held captive by worldly desires?
- Do you feel spiritually powerless?

Judges 16:30 (NLT)

³⁰ he prayed, “Let me die with the Philistines.” And the
temple crashed down on the Philistine rulers and all the
people. So he killed more people when he died than he had
during his entire lifetime.

When we die to selfie God is glorified
Am I willing to die so that He can live victoriously through
me?