
Dying to Self

2 Timothy 2:11-13

“A clearer look”

Pete had had it. Life was just too difficult. Maybe he would just check out. Things were difficult at home. His job was falling apart, and the church was not appreciating all of his extra work. Pete's friend, Jim, saw his condition and knew that Pete needed

perspective. The two of them met at a trail-head for a hike up the mountain. Eventually, Pete began to view his situation more clearly. He had been competing with others to have his needs met. His wife and children were guarded around him. His coworkers were pulling back from him. The people at church were sensing that they didn't meet his needs adequately, but they didn't know what to do. Jim helped Pete see that he was becoming self-focused, that he had viewed others as a means for encouraging himself. He needed to die to his own needs and begin to focus on others.

Reflection

We often lose the will to live when we live only for ourselves. While it would seem logical as needy human beings to seek to have physical and emotional needs met, if we become consumed with only our own needs we begin to have tunnel vision. We miss the big picture around us. We miss the needs of others, and life becomes self-serving. The result is a sad, lonely person. The reality is that if like Christ, we can die to our own needs and wants, and focus on other, needs, we will find purpose in life.

Accountability and Application

- Do you usually seek to have primarily your own needs met?
- When you meet someone else's needs, do you feel angry later?
- Do you equally value your needs and the needs of others?
- Ask a friend to confront you when you begin to focus only on yourself. It may be hard to hear, but it will be the best thing they could do for you
- Ask God to help you become more focused on others.

Prayer: Many times I think it would be easier to die physically than to be a living sacrifice. Lord, help me to trust you enough that I will enter into the process of being formed in your image. Thank you for the fact that I don't have to do it in my own strength. I only need to desire that you transform me. and to begin to participate with you in this process.

2 Timothy 2:11-13 (New American Standard Bible)

¹¹It is a trustworthy statement:

For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him;

¹²If we endure, we will also reign with Him;

If we deny Him, He also will deny us;

¹³If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.

