

Put the Success of Others above Your Own

Heart Attitudes - part 1

September 4, 2022

This week we'll look at three relational enemies, two relational friends and one divine example.

DAY 1: Relational enemy #1: Selfish ambition/aim: "I want to feel good more than anything else"

1. We have a hard time seeing the self-firstness in our hearts. It plays havoc with others and with our self.

Philippians 2:3-4 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your interests, but also to the interests of others.

Philippians 2:3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition...

2. "Selfishness" –How would you define selfishness?

3. "Ambition" – We usually associate ambition with "getting ahead" in work and money. But ambition is broader than just work and finances. Here, Paul is exposing ambition relationally. How would you define ambition?

Paul is telling us a life revolving around self naturally leads to futility and emptiness.

4. What's difficult is that we usually don't see our self-centeredness.

Psalms 36:2 For in his own eyes he flatters himself too much to detect or hate his sin.

5. How do you know when self-centeredness is a problem? You get anxious or angry!

6. I wrongly assume anxiety and anger is due to someone not doing what they should do. Instead, I am anxious or angry because my "self" is not getting what it thinks it needs or deserves.

7. David was angry at the end of Psalm 139. He was perplexed and bothered by his anger. Notice his prayer!

Psalms 139:23-24 Search me, O God, and know my thoughts. Test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me...

8. What strikes you about today's devotional?

DAY 2: Relationship enemy #2: Personal Prestige: “I want to look good”

Philippians 2:3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit...

1. Paul puts his finger on another relationship killer: “Vain conceit.”
 - a. What do you think Paul means by “vain?”

 - b. What do you think Paul means by “conceit?”

2. We usually think vain means proud, or vanity. The usage of that word is true, but it also means “empty,” or “fruitless.”

3. The phrase “vain conceit” means “empty glory.”
 - a. “Conceit,” is similar to seeking glory for ourselves.
 - b. Can you think of a recent example where you sought your own “glory” relationally?

 - c. We are pursuing that will lead us to emptiness!
 - d. Can you think of a recent example where you sought your own glory and ended up empty?

4. There is nothing wrong with wanting to be admired or respected, to be thought a good mom, a faithful husband, to be considered someone successful, or someone with something to say.

5. Our mistake is needing to be admired or respected, to be thought a good mom, a faithful husband, to be considered someone successful, or someone with something to say.

6. Problems in relationships are driven by vain conceit, human pride.
Proverbs 13:10 Pride only breeds quarrels but wisdom is found in those who take advice.

7. What’s your biggest takeaway from today’s devotional?

DAY 3: Relationship enemy #3: Concentration on self, (first me, then you).

Philippians 2:4 Each of you should look not only to your interests but also to the interests of others.

1. At least seven times Jesus prophesied, in detail about his coming arrest, scourging, crucifixion and resurrection. His words seemed to generally fall on deaf ears.
2. Immediately after one of these occasions, James and John asked Jesus if they could sit at his right hand and left hand in his kingdom.
3. The other ten disciples were indignant, probably because they didn't get their requests in first!

Matthew 20:24 When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers.

²⁵ Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them.

²⁶ Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant,

²⁷ and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—

²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

4. Jesus points us in a completely different direction than "self."

a. Put verse 26 in your own words:

b. Put verse 27 in your own words:

c. Put verse 28 in your own words:

5. The Son of Man is an Old Testament reference to the Messiah. He is now referring to Himself!

6. What Jesus says about His own purpose in verse 28 is good advice for us regarding our own purpose! Real life is found in giving it away, not grasping for it!

7. What strikes you from today's devotional?

2 Relationship Friends

DAY 4. Relationship friend #1: Humility: A new assessment: vs. “vain conceit”

1. After describing three relational enemies, Paul points us to two relational friends. The first is humility.

*Philippians 2:3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, **but in humility** consider others better than yourselves.*

2. What is humility? Put a check next the items below that you believe reflect humility:

We should think less of ourselves.

Its good for the ego to beat yourself up.

Remember that “I’m a failure. I really blew it.”

Walk around with a mopey face.

3. All of these masquerade as “humility” but they all have one thing in common: the focus is on me. My thoughts are centered on me. That’s not humility, that’s conceit. False humility.

4. Humility is simply thinking of yourself *less*.

5. Humility necessitates a new mindset!

*Philippians 2:3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility **consider** others better than yourselves.*

6. Paul is **not** advocating that we tear ourselves down so that we think others *are* better.

7. What does humility look like? To “**consider**” others better than yourselves means to honor someone else more than you honor yourself. This can be our aim in every interaction we have!

8. Humility is thinking of yourself less. Self doesn’t have to be noticed, coddled, appreciated or treated respectfully. I’m more aware of my faults and less aware of your faults. I can make favorable allowances for you.

Situation:

A disagreement

Conflict

Pride:

Get you to see my point of view, 1st

I’m angry because you’re wrong

Humility:

1st see it from their point of view

See your part. “Please forgive me.”

9. What’s your biggest takeaway from today’s devotional?

DAY 5: Relational friend #2: Other-centered: A New Aim.

Philippians 2:4 Each of you should look not only to your interests but also to the interests of others.

1. My **ATTITUDE** is affected by my **ASSESSMENT** and my **AIM**. I need to change aim from self to others.

2. Before, I was preoccupied with self. “How do I look? How’s my hair? Did I say something stupid?” Now, I’m more caught up with you than me. How can I be an encouragement to you? How can I brighten your day? I’m not wrapped up with telling you about my day, but hearing about your day.

*Philippians 2:19 I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. ²⁰ I have no one else like him, who takes a **genuine interest in your welfare**.*

²¹ For **everyone** looks out for his **own interests**, not those of Jesus Christ.

3. We’ve looked at 3 relational enemies and 2 relational friends. It’s one thing to know these elements but it’s entirely different to actually do them! What empowers us to do them?

1 Relationship Attitude and Example

4. The mind-set of Christ.

Phil. 2:5 Have this mind among you that was in Christ Jesus.

*Philippians 2:6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷ but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he **humbled** himself and became **obedient to death**-- even death on a cross!*

5. Jesus lived to please God, to reflect the character and love of God to people no matter what the cost to him! This is what God is working to build into His people every day!

6. Years ago a man in our church asked me, “Hey, Seth, do we have a **cosmetic surgeon** in the church?”

“I don’t think so. Why?”

“I feel like I’ve got a big tattoo that says, “Center of the World” tattooed on my butt. I need it removed!” “What’s in it for me? What am I going to get out of this?” pervades my thinking. Not until you realize with breath-taking realization that Christ died **for you**, will you ever have power to pull off this first heart attitude. He bore your sins in his body on the cross. He endured your punishment. He earned your forgiveness. He took on your judgment for your sins. He substituted himself in your place.

7. What strikes you from today’s devotional?