

Knowing Yourself Part 3

Aiming to be pleased

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Self Caterer

- Catering to self causes us to forget the next generation. God's plan was for us to pour ourselves into Him and bless him thru the roles that he created us in. *Phil. 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.*
- When we spend our time in pursuit of happiness outside of our creation roles, we neglect our true responsibilities. *1Tim. 5:8 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.* God's plan becomes second to our desires and it robs the next generation of what they need to give them hope and esteem.
- The reason we cannot find contentment in our role is because someone did not fulfill theirs. This creates a cycle of discontentment and God's plan is no longer enough to fulfill our desires. So we seek after the will of the flesh because living God's way is not fulfilling. *Gal. 5:16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.*

Self Sacrifice

- When we are on the path to discover and fulfill self, we bypass the word and accept man's philosophies of self improvement, self discovery, and self empowerment. *1Cor. 2:13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth,*

but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

- But to be in Christ and walk out God's plan requires total self denial. What you want and desire must be denied for the sake of God's plan. But God's plan will change your desires if you truly deny self.
- When we offer ourselves as living sacrifices, we burn up our lives in exchange for His life inside. This requires us to let go totally and accept his plan. A sacrifice is painful and requires pain, but the end is rewarding because God always takes care

of those that please him. *Rom. 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*



Taskmasters

- In the process of seeking self we heap upon ourselves teachers that will cater their message to our external needs rather than our internal needs. This new age Gospel preached by Jakes, Olsteen, Warren, etc. caters to the issue oriented rather than being preventive for the next generation. *2Tim. 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;*
- In biblical times to build a false god temple, it required slaves. In order to build a monumental ministry, it requires that the people have a slave mentality. Where their emotional needs are so

great that the Gospel has to be altered to keep them bound, under the rule of their master.

- In order to build the monument, the slaves must be in bondage. Sin and bad decisions cannot be preached against because they are guilty of them, so the message must focus on feeling better in the state you are in because you can't change what has already happened. *1 Tim. 1:3 It was my desire, when I went on into Macedonia, that you might make a stop at Ephesus, to give orders to certain men not to put forward a different teaching, Or to give attention to stories and long lists of generations, from which come questionings and doubts, in place of God's ordered way of life which is in faith;*
- Well, you may not be able to change what has occurred but you can change it for the next generation. But if you heap upon yourselves teachers that will cater to your issues, then you cannot change anything for the future but you will perish in your calamity and birth a cycle in your lineage.

Summary - Paul was guilty of holding the coats while Stephen was stoned. The blood of God's prophet was on his hands and I'm sure he felt guilt and shame throughout his life because of it. Paul could not change what he had done, but he could pave the way for change by facing his sin and allowing the regret of it to fuel his desire to preach and teach truth. Instead of catering his message to suit himself, he preached against his past and accepted responsibility for it. He did not shy away from subjects that were uncomfortable for him, but he continued to preach truth, even when it pointed the finger at himself. This must be our attitude. Though we may have done things that we regret, or put ourselves in bad situations, we cannot shy away from the truth because the only way to change what has been done is to change it for our lineage through our creation roles. The mess we made should end with us and our new start is birthed in us but lived out through the next generation.

Phil. 3:13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

Phil. 3:14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Phil. 3:15 Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.

Phil. 3:16 Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.

Phil. 3:17 Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.

Phil. 3:18 (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:

Phil. 3:19 Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

Phil. 3:20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

Phil. 3:21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

**THAT WHICH
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-P.C. HODGELL**