

Today's Culture: Overcoming

"In the last days it's going to be very difficult to be a Christian for people will love only themselves and their money." – Prov. 2 Timothy 3:1-2

Three forms of self-expression that are found in our culture:

#1: _____.

I've got to do what's best for me.

"An unfriendly man pursues selfish ends." – Proverbs 18:1

#2: _____.

"The wicked tell God to leave them alone. They don't want to know His will for their lives." – Job 21:14

"A wicked man in his pride thinks that God doesn't matter!" – Psalm 10:4 (GNT)

"In all his thoughts there's no room for God." – Psalm 10:4 (NIV)

#3: _____.

"In his own eyes he flatters himself too much to detect or hate his own sin." – Psalm 36:2

What are the effects of this preoccupation with self in our society?

Point #1: _____.

Point #2: _____.

If you place yourself at the center of your universe, pretty soon your world becomes meaningless.

"Selfishness only causes trouble." – Proverbs 28:25

What's the antidote to overcoming self-centeredness?

Antidote #1: _____.

"In God's plan men and women need each other." – 1 Corinthians 11:11 (LB)

"Man is not independent of the woman and woman is not independent of man." – 1 Cor. 11:11 (NIV)

“You are a member of God’s very own family and you belong in God’s household with every other Christian.” – Ephesians 2:19

“Let us not give up the habit of meeting together. Instead let us encourage one another.” – Hebrews 10:24

Antidote #2: _____.

“God has given us new lives from Christ Jesus and long ago He planned that we should spend these lives in helping others.” – Ephesians 2:10 (LB)

“Jesus said only those who throw away their lives for my sake and for the sake of the Good News will ever know what it really means to live.” – Mark 8:35

Antidote #3: _____.

“Look out for each other’s interest, not just your own. The attitude you should have is the one Christ Jesus had.” – Philippians 2:4

“Jesus said, ‘If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me.’ – Matthew 16:24

Self-denial is a daily decision of small choices, often painful choices, in which I choose to put other people or God’s will ahead of my own.

“Only those who throw away their lives for my sake and the sake of the Good News will ever know what it means to really live.” – Mark 8:35

Three Counter-cultural Steps:

- 1. I’m going to start building strong relationships, I need other people to give me balance.**
- 2. I’m going to give my life away in service.**
- 3. I’m going to practice self-denial daily.**

Reflect: How will you apply this teaching? What really stood out to you in this message?
