



“Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow cold.” *Matthew 24:12*

“This is my **command**: Love each other.” *John 15:17*

Selfish people.

Don’t look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in **others**, too. *Philippians 2:4*

How do we love selfish people better?

Remember that you are selfish too.

“And why worry about a speck in your friend’s eye when you have a log in **your own**?” *Luke 6:41*

...I give each of you this **warning**: Don’t think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us. *Romans 12:3*

Unselfish living is a learned behavior.

Gently confront the selfishness.

“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.” *Matthew 18:15*

Model unselfishness.

So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel he had around him. *John 13:4-5*

“I have given you an **example** to follow. Do as I have done to you.” *John 13:15*

Who are the selfish people in your life that you need to love better?

But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us **while we were still sinners**. *Romans 5:8*

Group Prep

In preparation for group, listen to the weekend service message, then answer the following discussion questions.

Introduction

Do you switch lanes on the highway without checking your blind spots? Most of us probably check. Why? Because we know if we don’t check those blind spots, it could cause serious damage to ourselves and others. Blind spots can kill, both on the highway and in relationships. Selfishness is a sneaky blind spot, and most people don’t realize when they are behaving selfishly. This blind spot makes some people not only hard to deal with but hard to love. How do we love people who don’t check the rearview mirror of selfishness?

Discussion Questions

1. What is selfishness? Describe one way you’ve either thought or behaved in a selfish manner recently. How did you validate your moment of selfishness?

2. In your life, who do you find hard to love because of selfish behavior? Read Matthew 22:36-40. Why would Jesus make this a command and not a suggestion?

In spite of how others may act selfishly, we can make it easier to love them by engaging in the following:

- **Remember that you are selfish too.** Read Luke 6:37-42. What do you find significant from this teaching? When have you found yourself getting upset with others about something selfish they’ve done but you know you’ve done the same thing? In a moment of frustration, what could we do or say to remind ourselves that we can (and have been) selfish too?

- **Unselfish living is a learned behavior.** How does this thought process help us replace frustration with love when dealing with others’ selfishness?

- **Gently confront the selfishness.** Read Matthew 18:15. What keeps you from confronting others? Read 2 Timothy 4:2, Ephesians 4:15, Colossians 4:6, Colossians 3:12, Matthew 5:7, James 1:19, and Proverbs 18:2. How should these passages change our approach when confronting others’ selfishness?

- **Model unselfishness.** Read John 13:12-17. Can you think of any ways the twelve disciples acted selfishly? Even though Jesus’ disciples acted selfishly at times, He continued serving them, even to the point of dying on the cross for them. What selfish behavior frustrates you about that person who is hard to love? In light of Jesus example, how could you model unselfish behavior for them?

3. If these actions are done well, what effect could this have both in the lives of those who are hard to love as well as your own?

Action Step

4. Which of the above actions do you feel you need to focus on the most? This coming week, what steps will you take to love the selfish people in your life?

My action step is

I will encourage and pray for to follow through, and their action step is

My memory verse is

This coming week, I’m praying for

Outreach: Groups in Action

Throughout the month of February, we will be collecting specific clothing items to provide school uniforms for students at the Rosa Parks Kindergarten Academy.

Specific sizes needed are 4T-10. Please donate solid colored polo shirts, navy/khaki/black pants, navy/khaki/black shorts or skirts, and new underwear and socks. Items can be dropped off to the metal bins in the lobby of each campus, or purchases can be made via an Amazon Wishlist at eclife.org.

For more information, please contact Emmanuel’s Outreach Director, Kerry Carmichael at kcarmichael@eclife.org.