

Self-centeredness

2 Tim. 3:2

Introduction:

- A. Self-centeredness is a sign of perilous times (vv. 1-2).
 - 1. Root of the other 18 or so signs of perilous times.
 - 2. Root of much of our discontent and unhappiness.
 - 3. Opposite of Christ-centeredness (cf. Gal. 2:20; Matt. 16:24).
- B. Self-centeredness produces some very grave consequences.

Discussion:

I. It Robs God of Preeminence in Our Hearts.

- A. God must occupy first place in our hearts and lives.
 - 1. Must be sanctified (set apart) in our hearts. (1 Pet. 3:15).
 - 2. Must bring every thought into obedience to Him (2 Cor. 10:5).
- B. The self-centered person pleases himself first.
 - 1. If he wants a pleasure outing, the Lord's day will not interfere.
 - 2. If he wants to do anything, the Lord's will will not get in the way.

II. It Places the Lord's Church on the Back Burner.

- A. The importance of the church to Jesus.
 - 1. He purchased it with his own blood (Acts 20:28).
 - 2. He loved it enough to give himself for it (Eph. 5:25)
- B. The kingdom/church must come before personal interests (Matt. 6:33).
 - 1. Just as Jesus put our interest before his own (Phil. 2:3-8).
 - 2. Areas where people are prone to put the church on back burner.
 - a. Scheduling their time.
 - b. Budgeting their money.
 - c. Pursuing their comfort/pleasure.
 - d. Exercising their rights (Rom. 15:1-3; 1 Cor. 9:18-22).

III. It Turns People into Spoiled Brats at Any Age.

- A. Who do their "Own Thing" Regardless of Others.
 - 1. Parents who do not consider children in divorce.
 - 2. Brethren who do not consider physical, emotional and spiritual needs of brethren.
- B. Who Demand to Be Served Rather than to Serve. (Cf. Matt. 20:28).
 - 1. At home.
 - 2. At work.
 - 3. At church.
- C. Who Resent Having to Share with Others.
 - 1. Time.
 - 2. Attention.
 - 3. Goods.

IV. It Is Self-destructive.

- A. The Rich young ruler (Matt. 19:22)
- B. The Rich fool (Luke 12:16-20 - Note the "I"'s)

Conclusion:

- A. Let's get out of ourselves and quit thinking:
 - 1. "I have *myself* to consider" – you do after God, His church/kingdom and others.
 - 2. "Lord bless me, my son, John and his wife, us four and no more"
- B. Let's rise above ourselves by obeying the Lord.