

The Self



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Seven Churches of Revelation

- **One Thing All 7 Churches Have in Common: Need to Overcome / "...I know your deeds..."**
- **Some of the churches received more criticism than others, but they all received admonishments.**



Will Jesus Christ Find Living Faith?

■ II Corinthians 13:5-6

- Test ourselves to prove that Christ lives in us.
- We will not fail the test if we draw close to Him and truly work to make the changes we need to make as individuals to take on the very nature and life of God.



“The Self”: Deterrent to Overcoming

■ What is Self-Justification?

- To justify is “to show or prove to be just, right, or reasonable. . . . to defend or uphold as warranted or well-grounded. . . . to declare innocent or guiltless; absolve; acquit.”



The Subtlety of
Self-Justification

We Cannot Overcome Sin That We Cannot Identify

- **Can a member of God's church be deceived about their true standing with God?**
 - **James 1:21-27** "Therefore, ridding yourselves of all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word ...he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror...he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was..."



“The Self”: Deterrent to Overcoming

■ What is Self-Righteousness?

- “Convinced of one’s own righteousness, especially with the actions and beliefs of others; narrow-mindedly moralistic”
- Self-righteousness is sometimes manifested in feelings of superiority towards others. “I am right, you are wrong. My way is better than your way.”



“The Self”: Deterrent to Overcoming

■ What is Self-Righteousness?

- Self-righteousness is trusting in your own righteousness (Luke 18:9). It is believing there are things you can do to make yourself right with God.
- With self-righteousness, you provide your own standard of righteousness.



Overcoming Self-Righteousness

- **How does self-righteousness compare to God's righteousness?**
 - Romans 3:19-26; 10:2-4
 - Philippians 3:8-9
 - **Self-righteousness is formal conformity to legal requirements based in one's human nature rather than in the faith of Christ.**
 - **Since God Himself is the standard of righteousness, He defines righteous action.**



Overcoming Self-Will / Self-Indulgence

“Beware of no man more than thyself; we carry our worst enemies within us.”

**- Charles Spurgeon
English Preacher**

**Although it may sound cliché,
we are truly our worst enemies.
Most of life is a mind game
and the person to control it is
no one but yourself.**



“The Self”: Deterrent to Overcoming

■ What is Self-Will / Self-Indulgence?

- The quality of obstinately doing what one wants in spite of the wishes or orders of others.**
- Self-Indulgence is the act of satisfying one’s desire, pleasures, lusts and whims, especially without restraint.**



“The Self”: Deterrent to Overcoming

■ What is Self-Pity?

- The Oxford English Dictionary defines “Self-Pity” as, “excessive, self-absorbed unhappiness over one’s own troubles.”
- When we decide that life has not treated us as “we have the right to be treated”, self-pity can be the result.



“The Self”: Deterrent to Overcoming

■ What is Self-Pity?

- Ultimately, Self-pity is a disagreement with God over how He has allowed life to treat us.
- Focusing on our woes and petty injustices is self-pity. It is rooted in selfish desires and leads to making an idol of own needs.



“The Self”: Deterrent to Overcoming

- **Harmful Affects of Self-Justification / Self-Deception / Self-Righteousness / Self-Exaltation / Self-Will / Self-Indulgence**
 - Deterioration of self control
 - Creates close-mindedness / Inflated egos
 - Cognitive distortions
 - Relationship challenges



"The Self": Deterrent to Overcoming

- "The less you believe you're affected by these "self" afflictions, the worse you suffer from it."



King Ahab and Naboth's Vineyard

■ I Kings 21:1-29

- King Ahab is one of the best examples that the Bible records about “the Self”.
- King Ahab's self image was so extreme that it lead to death.
- This episode lead to God's pronouncement of King Ahab and Jezebel's death



Why are “Self-Sins” So Difficult to Detect and Overcome?

■ Galatians 5:16, 19-20

- “But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh...Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions,..”.



Why are “Self-Sins” So Difficult to Detect and Overcome?

■ Isaiah 29:13

- And the Lord said: “Because this people draw near with their mouth and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and their fear of me is a commandment taught by men.”

■ Matthew 15:8-9

- “This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. But in vain do they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.”

Why are “Self-Sins” So Difficult to Detect and Overcome?

■ Romans 12:3

- “For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.”



Application

- **Focus God's Word on Our Life**
 - **Free Ourselves of Selfishness**
 - **Deny Ourselves**
 - **Performs Acts of Love for Others**

