



Love is not selfish

1 Corinthians 13:5

Breaking the Ice:

Can you recall a time when you were the recipient of an unselfish act? Please share with the group.

For Reflection:

Love “seeketh not her own.” Love inquires into the motives for action; that is, it asks, “*Why* am I doing this?” Since I have been retired, I have examined my own heart as I never did before. I have searched out my own motives. Am I doing it out of love for Christ? That is so important. Love is the secret of service. --J. V. McGee

Definition: *rude* (covered in intro video)

ο ζητει τα αυτης ου zētei ta heautēs

Zetei means to seek. Used of Jesus in seeking the lost (Luke 15:8) or the Shepherd the lost sheep (Matt. 18:12) or the woman looking for the lost coin (Luke 15:8). In this context it means a concerted effort to have one's own way.

Selfish

1. concerned excessively or exclusively with oneself
2. seeking or concentrating on one's own advantage, pleasure, or well-being without regard for others
3. arising from concern with one's own welfare or advantage in disregard of others

We often face the “win at any cost” attitude in both our work and personal life. Winning or getting our own way is seen as one of the highest priorities, often sought even by dishonest or unloving means. God sets a different standard. Love allows someone else to “win.” It does not have to be “our way or the highway” -it should be to seek to allow someone else to take the position of priority. –JPW

Why is it so easy to seek to have one’s own way? Where does this trait first show itself in life?

What does this attitude do to relationships? What does unselfishness do to relationships?

Read: *Philippians 2:3-8*

How does this passage speak to you about God’s personal love for you?

How does reflecting on the unselfishness of Jesus help you adopt an attitude of selflessness with others?

Response:

Seek to replace the *win at any cost* approach to one that matches the *willing to lose for others* approach that Jesus practiced.

Bottom Line:

Give up the desire to have your own way in every situation.