

I, Me, My

- A person who thinks people generally are kind and well-mannered probably doesn't have a driver's license. It used to be that people were courteous on the road but you probably won't survive a commute on any given day without at least one act of rude behavior from another driver. But when we, as **Christians**, are in our vehicles we need to stand out from all the others by obeying the speed limit, use the horn only in emergencies or to signal a nice "hello", not laying on it in anger. And don't forget to use that rod that sticks out from the left side of the steering column (*every vehicle has one*) when making a turn so others will know what you are about to do. Remember, **you're not alone** and need to continually be aware of your surroundings and how you would like other motorists to drive defensively and be concerned for **your** safety as well.

Mat 7:12 Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

- One time as a new **Christian** on my way to the church building I came to the intersection on **Walnut Street** where there's a flashing yellow light. I had the right of way but because I understood a yellow light meant to proceed cautiously I slowed down as I entered the intersection. At that point I had to hit the brakes because there was this woman who ran right through her flashing **red** light entering same the intersection at that moment from my right. I was instantly incensed that this woman was so unconcerned about others on the road and that she would make such a hazardous mistake. But then it seemed she was headed in the same direction I was. As I followed her, still steaming in indignation, I recognized her as another member, a beloved sister in the **Lord** that I would afterward remember as being one of the dearest saints I would ever meet. She was a member of the same congregation I was at that time. Did she think she was running late? Was her mind on something else at the time? Was she upset about something? She saw me following her. When we arrived at the parking lot of the church building she had to have known what she did and that it was me she ran out in front of. From the expression on her face I understood she had made a regrettable mistake. But would the average driver in my place have been so easily forgiving, or would they have felt that, as a representative of the church of **Christ**, all the members of that congregation must have been the same without getting to know **Penny Beecher** as the sweet **Godly** sister that I soon did?

Gal 6:1 Brethren, if a man be **overtaken in a fault**, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; **considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.** **2** Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of **Christ.** **3** For if a man think himself to be something, **when he is nothing**, he deceiveth himself.

- Anyone could have made that mistake. Another thing when driving, we need to keep a safe distance between us and the vehicle in front of us **even if** they are going **10** miles under the speed limit. Remember, the posted speed **limit** is as fast as we are **lawfully** permitted to go and anything under that is acceptable unless posted otherwise. Anything over is **breaking the law**.

Rom 13:1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of **God**: the powers that be are ordained of **God.** **2** Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of **God**: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

- Maybe the person in front of you is older or maybe you might just need to get up earlier in the morning so you won't be in such a rush all the time. (*Why is everyone in such a big hurry anyway?*) As **Christians** we need to understand that we not only represent this congregation but more importantly, we represent **Christ**. Whatever we do in public reflects on the rest of us and the church in general. I'm sure we've all met someone at one time or another who was hypocritical. As members of the **Lord's** church, professing to know the truth of **God's** word, our behavior should never cause another to **not** "ask you a reason of the hope that is in you" (*1 Pet 3:15*). Hope should be emanating from us in a positive spirit. And just because we may not always be in a good mood, are we to punish others by our behavior, would we want company for our misery, would we like a little cheese with our "whine"? Is it always supposed to be about "**I, me or my**"? How does my **excuse** for being a grump compare to the **real reason** others had, but never considered whining about, their being persecuted for the faith?

Heb 11:36 And others had trial of *cruel* mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: **37** They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; **38** (Of whom **the world was not worthy**;) they wandered in deserts, and *in* mountains, and *in* dens and caves of the earth.

- Could it be said of us today that the world is not worthy of us, of our sacrifices for the sake of others, of where we stand on the moral issues of the day? Or could we be known to be materialistic?

Luk 12:13 And one of the company said unto him, **Master**, speak to my brother, that he divide the inheritance with me. **14** And **He** said unto him, **Man, who made Me a judge or a divider over you?** **15** And **He** said unto them, **Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.**

- Is **my** life to be based on what **I** possess? Do **my** possessions define the real "**me**"? Do they make **me** feel that I'm better than the next guy or am I using my possessions to glorify **God Who** gave them to me in the first place?

Php 2:3 *Let nothing be done* through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem (*Gk.2233- consider*) other better than themselves. **4** Look not every man **on his own things**, but every man also on the things of others.

- If I have more than I need (*and most people in this country are to be considered rich compared to citizens of third world countries*) and the next person has nothing, am I not to see that they have what they need to survive or should I just let them fend for themselves? Not that we aren't first to take of our families and the needs they have either. That's not the point of this passage.

1Ti 5:8 But if any provide not for his own, and especially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

- We aren't to think of ourselves as being any better than the next guy, no matter what his status, whether rich or poor. Especially when it comes to spiritual matters.

Jas 2:5 Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not **God** chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which **He** hath promised to them that love **Him**?

- Have we ever felt uncomfortable doing a Bible study with someone in their home which had a certain odor about it. Not to the point of turning on the gag reflex either. It just had that smell? And when you entered, there didn't seem to be a place to sit that was clean? Maybe you felt like at least washing your hands after greeting them. Sometimes before a person can understand the phrase "cleanliness is next to godliness" (*which, in the first place, is not a Biblical doctrine unless it has to do with the stain of sin*) they first have to understand how to **clean** what's **inside**. The world is full of those who "outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within" are "full of hypocrisy and iniquity" (*Mat 23:28*). Jesus came to save everyone and we aren't to be the ones to say otherwise through our actions of favoritism. Remember, it's not all about "I, me or my". Remember...

1Ti 1:15 This *is* a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that **Christ Jesus** came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

- Every accountable human being of every social, economic, racial or moral status has opportunity to hear and be saved by the gospel message of salvation.

Mar 2:15 And it came to pass, that, as **Jesus** sat at meat in his (*Levi the tax collector*) house, many publicans and sinners sat also together with **Jesus** and **His** disciples: for there were many, and they followed **Him**. **16** And when the scribes and Pharisees saw **Him** eat with publicans and sinners, they said unto **His** disciples, How is it that **He** eateth and drinketh with publicans and sinners? **17** When **Jesus** heard *it*, **He** saith unto them, **They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.**

- "Oh but I've done so much for the **Lord** and I've been so scorned by others for my beliefs, it's now up to someone else to take it from here." Hmm...

Heb 12:3 For consider **Him** that endured such contradiction (*Gk.485- dispute, disobedience*) of sinners against **Himself**, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. **4** Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

- "Okay, I get it. But what do I have to give up so that I don't have an 'I, me, my, attitude?'"

1Jn 2:16 For **all that is in the world**, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the **Father**, but is of the world.

- Selfishness includes more than just not wanting to share our possessions or giving up the things that we do that a worldly person does. We have to consider the spiritual benefits that result from what it is that we are willing to sacrifice.

Rom 8:5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the **Spirit** the things of the **Spirit**. **6** For to be carnally minded *is* death; but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. **7** Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against **God**: for it is not subject to the law of **God**, neither indeed can be. **8** So then they that are in the flesh cannot please **God**.

- If I want "the peace of **God**, which passeth all understanding" (*Php 4:7*) then, I need to give up that self-centered, prideful, human nature that resides in me in exchange for "the

law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus” which will make “me free from the law of sin and death” (Rom 8:2). Only then can I give up the “I, me my” attitude and only then can I begin to understand what selfless love truly is.

Rom 12:9 Let love be without dissimulation (Gk.505- sincere). Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. 10 Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour **preferring** (Gk.4285- to show deference [i.e., to regard others with esteem and courteous respect]) **one another**; 11 Not slothful in business (use our talents by performing them to the best of our ability when it comes to church business); fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; 12 Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant (Gk.4342- be earnest [serious] towards) in prayer; 13 Distributing to the necessity of saints (not just the congregation as a whole but individually when we see the need and have the means to do so); given to hospitality. 14 Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not. 15 Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. 16 Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend (Gk.4879- to take off together [Thayer: to yield or submit one’s self to lowly things, conditions, employments, -not to evade their power]) to men of low estate (We are to consider ourselves on their level.). Be not wise in your own conceits. (Thayer: one who deems himself wise) 17 Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest **in the sight** (Gk.1799- :-presence) **of all men.** (i.e., not just when around other Christians) 18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. (Obviously not always easy since there are those who have the “I, me, my” condition.) 19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is Mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. 20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. 21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

- Coals of fire on his head- “It is a metaphor meaning we cause an enemy anguish or cause him to blush with shame because our kindness makes him realize how unkindly he treated us.”
Brad Price

Mat 7:12 Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

- We understand this as “The Golden Rule”. So when I give up the “I, me, my” attitude and practice this rule over and over in my mind and in exercising what I’ve come to understand I’ll eventually and finally have “the peace of God, which passeth all understanding” (Php 4:7). Jesus fulfilled the law and the prophets when He gave His new law that encompassed all the O.T. which was to point the Jewish nation toward this ultimate goal.

Joh 13:34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. 35 By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another.

- We are to emulate the love of Christ. Life is not about “me, me, me” and what I’m to get out of it as much as it is **supposed** to be about focusing on God and our fellow man.

Mat 6:24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. 25 Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall

eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

- Can the things I possess save me? Can whatever I substitute for my faithful obedience to the word of God? Whatever we put ahead of Jesus, His church and our worship to God for sacrificing “His only begotten Son” (*Jn 3:16*), is akin to worshipping the self and fulfilling the lust of the flesh. Attending the gatherings of the saints we are encouraging one another and not being here only discourages the body. What example do we show others by doing such? Are we focused on others or are we focused on self? There is but **one time** that we are to be focused on the “**I, me and my**” though. In the context of our own personal salvation, when I humbly submit to the message of the gospel. The gospel is the good news of God’s redemptive plan to save man from his sins and a fiery, eternal separation from Him. Gospel meaning good news isn’t about Jesus’ death because death in and of itself is **not good news**. Is it then about Christ’s burial? A funeral isn’t “good news” either. Is it His resurrection then? No, it’s not in His resurrection. Lazarus was resurrected but he later died again. Then what is the gospel? It’s the good news that Jesus came **to die because of our sins**, His burial and resurrection, thus defeating Satan’s power of death. And Jesus resurrected to never die again. No person in history ever was able to do that.

Rom 6:9 Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over Him. **10** For in that He died, He died unto sin once: but in that He liveth, He liveth unto God.

- Those who are born once die twice but those who are born twice die only once. To be born a second time, to “be born again” “of water and the Spirit” we “enter into the kingdom of God” (*Jn 3:3-5*). Therefore we emulate that death, burial and resurrection of Christ through our obedience in submitting to baptism.

Rom 6:3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death? **4** Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. **5** For if we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, we shall be also *in the likeness* of His resurrection: **6** Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

- Notice what will happen at the judgement.

Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the **first** resurrection (*i.e., coming up out of that watery grave*): on such the **second** death (*spiritual*) hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

- Some will ask about the thief on the cross next to Jesus and comment how he wasn’t baptized yet Jesus told him “Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with Me in paradise” (*Lk 23:43*). Was he saved. Well he certainly was if Jesus said he would be with Him in paradise. Remember **Rom 6:3**? Jesus had to die first in order for anyone to be baptized into His death and He hadn’t done that at that point. Also, didn’t Jesus have the power to forgive sins? Remember the paralytic?

Mat 9:5 For whether is easier, to say, *Thy sins be forgiven thee*; or to say, *Arise, and walk*? 6 But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith He to the sick of the palsy,) *Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house.*

- Also, the thief lived and died under the Old Covenant and since the New Covenant wasn't established until after Jesus died it was still in effect. The thief, being a Jew, was under the laws of the Old Testament.

Heb 9:16 For where a testament *is*, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. 17 For a testament *is* of force **after** men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth.

- The New Testament was established, it came into effect, after Jesus' death. Now, considering the "**me**" part of the "I, me, my". After I've submitted to the gospel plan of salvation, Jesus then and only then can and will save **me**.

1Ti 1:12 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; 13 Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did *it* ignorantly in unbelief. 14 And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. 15 This *is* a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

- Nobody is without sin! Even Paul, who claimed to be the chief of sinners because of the havoc he made on the church at that time, was saved when he submitted to Jesus' instruction to go to Damascus to learn what he had to do to make things right with God.

Act 9:3 And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: 4 And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, *why persecutest thou Me?* 5 And he said, Who art Thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus Whom thou persecutest: *it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.* 6 And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do? And the Lord *said* unto him, *Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.*

- After Ananias was instructed to go to Paul, notice what Paul was told in accordance to what Jesus said he would be told to do.

Act 22:16 And now why tarriest thou? arise, and **be baptized**, and **wash away thy sins**, calling on the name of the Lord.

- "How can plain old ordinary water wash my sins away?" Consider this. Water being the activating agent when doing your laundry and whatever you use as a detergent being the cleansing agent. The water alone won't make your clothes clean just as the detergent by itself won't either. It takes both. The water in baptism is the activating agent and, when we obey His command, Christ's blood is the cleansing agent. Christ's blood alone can't cleanse our sins outside our obedience to His command in the great commission, just as detergent can't clean our laundry by itself alone. It takes both!

Mat 28:19 Go ye therefore, and **teach** all nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 **Teaching** them to observe all things

whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

- So what about the “**my**” of the “**I, me, my**”? Once **my** sins are washed away **I**’m given a down payment on **my** home that awaits **me** in Heaven.

Eph 1:12 That we should be to the praise of **His** glory, who first trusted in **Christ**. 13 In **Whom** ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in **Whom** also **after** that ye believed (*a synecdoche for obedient faith*), ye were **sealed** with that holy **Spirit** of promise, 14 **Who** is the **earnest** (*Gk.728- security*) **of our inheritance until** the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of **His** glory.

- When **Jesus** returns if **I** have that down payment, “the earnest of the **Spirit** in” **my** heart (*2 Cor 1:22*) **I** will receive **my** home in Heaven that awaits **me**. Notice how **Jesus** uses the “**I, Me, My**”. And not in a selfish way either.

Joh 14:2 In **My** Father's house are many mansions: if *it were not so*, **I** would have told you. **I** go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if **I** go and prepare a place for you, **I** will come again, and receive you unto **Myself** (*Me*); that where **I** am, *there* ye may be also.

- But before any of that can happen, we **must** give up the selfishness of “**I, me and my**”.

Luk 9:23 And He said to *them* all, If any man will come after Me, let him **deny himself**, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. 24 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for My sake, the same shall save it. 25 For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away? 26 For whosoever shall be ashamed of Me and of My words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when He shall come in His own glory, and *in His* Father's, and of the holy angels.

- Are you ready and willing to deny your self-centered “**I, me, my**” condition? Are you ready to be “born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God” (*1 Pet 1:23*), what the Bible says about what you need to do to be saved?

Mar 16:16 He that **believeth** and is **baptized** shall be **saved**; but he that believeth not shall be condemned.

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