

# Victory over Sin

## Lesson 4: Sins of Selfishness

### Identifying Sins of Selfishness

In this lesson, you first define the sins of selfishness below. Read the list and write the definitions of words you don't know. Then, circle or write down the sins that you see in your life right now and in your past. Look up the scriptures beside the sins that you think will be the hardest for you to change and the hardest for you to talk about. In your journal, write about how you see these sins in your life.

#### Selfish Ambition (Galatians 5:20-26)

selfishness (Philippians 2:3-4)	living to please yourself (II Timothy 3:2)
envy (Romans 13:9)	jealousy* (Romans 2:6-8)
wanting someone's possessions, success, wealth, status, position, talents, abilities, physical features, spirituality, or situation	fearfully guarding a possession
ingratitude (Colossians 3:15-17)	fearfully guarding a relationship
	not sharing (Romans 12:9-13)
	being competitive – wanting to be better than others (James 3:14-16) <sup>1-6</sup>

\*The Lord calls himself a "jealous God." Here he uses a Hebrew word that is used only for God. This word means that God is righteously protective of his children, his name, and his commands.<sup>7</sup>

#### Arrogance (Proverbs 8:13, Galatians 5:26, II Timothy 3:4)

pride (Jeremiah 13:17)	not letting others serve you (Galatians 6:2)
not willing to seek God (Psalm 10:4)	boasting (I Corinthians 13:4)
not willing to see your own sin or need for mercy (Psalm 36:2, Luke 5:31-32)	not wanting to admit wrong (Jeremiah 6:15)
not praying in humility (Matthew 6:5-15)	not willing to suffer (I Peter 2:21-23)
impatience, interrupting (James 1:19)	not willing to be disciplined, rejected, or humbled (Philippians 2:5-8)
self-righteousness (Luke 18:9-14)	thinking we are made righteous through rules and our own obedience (Mark 7:1-8, Romans 4)
thinking that your thoughts are more important than God's Word (Luke 8:21)	wanting to look good in front of others (I Corinthians 1:18-31)
not caring about who God is (Romans 1:28)	not wanting to serve others (Mark 10:45)
wanting to be right more than loving others (II Timothy 2:23)	thinking too highly of yourself (Romans 12: 3-5)
putting yourself above other people (Luke 14:10)	not being merciful to someone who sins (Luke 6:35-36) <sup>1-3</sup>
looking down on others (Romans 12:16)	

#### Heartlessness (I Peter 1:22, 3:8)

not showing care, kindness, pity, or concern (Ephesians 4:32)	not being friendly or affectionate (Proverbs 18:1)
abortion (can also be fear or faithlessness)	not willing to apologize when we have hurt someone <sup>1-3</sup>
not caring how our actions or words hurt others	

**Deceit** (Revelation 21:8, 22:15)

lying (Colossians 3:9)	not willing to confess sin (John 3:20-21)
not sharing your true feelings (Ephesians 4:25)	hiding our faith (John 18:20, Luke 12:1-12)
not telling the whole truth about a situation (I Corinthians 13:6, Acts 5:1-11)	hiding a thought or action (I John 1:6-7)
hiding sin (Proverbs 28:13)	cheating/swindling/fraud (Luke 19:8, I Corinthians 6:7-11)
	stealing (Ephesians 4:28) <sup>1</sup>

**Greed** (I Corinthians 5:11-13, I Corinthians 6:9-11, Ephesians 5:3, 5-7)

loving money (II Timothy 3:1-2)	charging high prices or interest (Proverbs 28:8)
focusing on being rich (I Timothy 6:9)	going into debt because you are angry or not content (Romans 13:8, Philippians 4:11-12)
not sharing (Romans 12:9-13)	secretly taking money from someone by cheating them (I Corinthians 5:11)
not paying what you owe someone when you are able to pay them (James 5:1-5)	not being generous (II Corinthians 9:6-11) <sup>1-2</sup>
overspending (Luke 12:13-21)	

**Faithlessness** (Romans 1:31, Revelation 17:14)

lacking belief or trust in God (Revelation 21:8)	not being dependable (Luke 16:10-12)
breaking promises or faith with someone	faithless through suffering (Revelation 2:10, 13:10) <sup>1-3</sup>
suicide	allowing fear to control our behavior

## Going Deeper

In your journal, answer the Go Deeper questions below. Sometimes working through bad memories or tough times in our past helps us to see ways we have sinned and understand more about why we sin. Talk through these situations with a Christian friend, and talk about what love would look like instead. Pray together over these sins. Ask Jesus for his help and forgiveness.

**Sins of Selfishness**

1. Can you think of a time in your life when you worried about what others thought of you? (i.e. friends, family members, ministers, leaders, teachers, bosses, etc.)
2. Can you think of a time when you felt insecure that another person was better than you (i.e. in school, at work, at church, at home, etc.)?
3. Can you think of a time when you felt better or more righteous than another person?
4. How did you feel and act during these times? Did you sin? (see *Sins of Selfishness*)
5. How much time in your life do you spend living for yourself instead of God and others?
6. Have you ever lied to make yourself look good or to hide a sin? Are there sins in your life that you want to hide now? Why or why not?
7. Do you typically want to be the leader or teacher and struggle being a good follower or student? Do you often criticize your leaders or focus on their faults?
8. Do you seek your value in controlling or criticizing others, rather than serving and loving them?
9. Do you struggle wanting men's approval or honor more than God's? Explain.

10. Do you struggle receiving constructive criticism or being corrected? How do you respond?
11. What are your thoughts about money? Do you have any debt? Do you overspend?
12. On a scale of 1-10, how much do you need God's forgiveness for your sins? Do you see yourself as a sinner or a righteous person? The sin of pride keeps us from seeing ourselves as sinners and seeing our sin. If you are having trouble seeing your sin, then pray to the Lord to help you, and study Luke 7:36-50.
13. How has your sin of selfishness hurt God and hurt people in your life?
14. In the areas you discussed, what would loving God, others, or yourself look like?

## Making Decisions

Study II Corinthians 7:10-11 and I Corinthians 13:4-8. What does Jesus want you to do about the sins in your life? What do you want to do? Talk about any decisions that you've made from this study.

## This Week:

1. Take some time to read a few verses from two handouts: The Promises of God and My Identity in Christ. These handouts are found at <https://www.connectthenations.com/transform>.
2. Share what you wrote with your friend and ask them to share what they wrote with you as well. End the time with praying one for another.
3. Prepare for Lesson 5.