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Week 4: Die to Self Daily?

Introduction:

Is it true that followers of Jesus must “die to self?”

Some believe so, based on various words of Jesus and the Apostle Paul...

Matthew 16:24-26a

John 12:24-25

1 Corinthians 15:30-32

Am I the enemy? Not according to Scripture!

If My “Self” is Not the Enemy, What Is?

1. The _____
1 John 2:15
2. The _____
Romans 12:2
3. The _____
John 8:44
1 Peter 5:8

The Big Idea:

If you've trusted in Christ, you are not the enemy. You are redeemed and as a result of God's grace, you are a new creation! You are not called to “die to self,” but to discover who you truly are in Christ and begin living from the new self...your true self! This is the essence of discipleship under the New Covenant of grace!

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS OR PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Personal Life

1. Have you ever been taught to “die to self,” “deny yourself” or “die daily?” If so, what did you take it to mean, and how successful were you at it?
2. How does understanding the truth about those expressions affect the way you look at yourself?

Ponderings:

3. Why do you think “self” is so often assumed to be a “dirty word” for the believer in Christ?
4. Why do we so easily assume our “self” is the enemy, or is an opponent of God when the Scriptures actually teach that our “old self” died and we are now the “new self?” Discuss...
5. Read Romans 6:4-6, Galatians 2:20 and Colossians 3:1-3 as a group. What do these verses tell us about our past and present nature as believers in Christ? Why do you think so many believers miss this, despite the clarity of these passages?

Promptings:

6. What do you think would happen in your life if you truly lived every day with the mind-set that your true self is your new self?

How can you wage war against the world, the flesh and the devil (your real enemies) as a new creation endowed with the power and authority of Christ?