

## Spiritualized Selfishness

January 1st, 2012

Rejoice always.

Pray without ceasing.

In every thing give thanks:

for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

## The Puzzle

The Seemingly Harmless Unplugging

## ME Time

Time for Self-Benefit

## 6 Different Uses of “Me” Time

1. To Recharge
2. To Express
3. To Vent
4. To Veg
5. To Inebriate
6. To Pity

## The Invasion of Self-Coddling into Modern Christianity

O that Ishmael might live before thee!

**Genesis 17:18b**

# The Redefinition of Sin

## **Biblical Christianity**

*Sin - Self on the Throne*

## **Modern Christianity**

*Sin - The False Self on the Throne*

The Spiritual life begins with the acceptance of our wounded self.

Whatever is denied cannot be healed.

**Brennan Manning**

As quoted in *Wild at Heart*, p106

From the place of our woundedness we construct a false self.

**John Eldredge**

*Wild at Heart*, p107

When I was eight, the imposter, or false self, was born as a defense against pain. The imposter within whispered, “Brennan, don’t ever be your real self anymore because nobody likes you as you are. Invent a new self that everybody will admire and nobody will know.”

**Brennan Manning**

As quoted in *Wild at Heart*, p107

In order to take a man into his wound, so that he can heal it and begin the release of the true self, God will thwart the false self. He will take away all that you have leaned upon to bring you to life.

**John Eldredge**

*Wild at Heart*, p108

The real journey begins when the false self fails.

**John Eldredge**

*Wild at Heart*, p110

The whole false self, our “lifestyle,” is an elaborate defense against entering our wounded heart. It is a chosen blindness. “Our false self stubbornly blinds each of us to the light and the truth of our own

emptiness and hollowness,” says Manning. There are readers who even now have no idea what their wound is, or even what false self arose from it. Ah, how convenient that blindness is. Blissful ignorance. But a wound unfelt is a wound unhealed. We must go in. The door may be your anger, it may be rejection that you’ve experienced, perhaps from a girl, it may be failure, or the loss of the golden bat and the way God is thwarting your false self. It may be a simple prayer: Jesus, take me into my wound. “Behold,” he says, “I stand at the door and knock.”

**John Eldredge**

**Wild at Heart, p127**

## Is this Really All About Us?

Well, let’s ask the Johns . . .

Only when we enter our wound will we discover our true glory.

**John Eldredge**

**Wild at Heart, p147**

He came to restore the glorious creation that you are. And then set you free . . . to be yourself.

**John and Staci Eldredge**

**Captivating, p95**

Come out of the boat. Take the throne.

**John Eldredge**

**Waking the Dead, p88**

He that speaks of himself seeks his own glory: but he that seeks His glory that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him.

**The Apostle John**

**John 7:18**

He (Jesus) must increase, but I (Self) must decrease.

**John the Baptist**

## **John 3:30**

# Blending God into your Selfish Existence

It has been shown that the primary limitation imposed upon you as man, in order that you may be in the likeness of your Master and bear the image of the invisible, is that of total dependence upon God – in that your behavior, to be godly, must derive directly and exclusively from God’s activity in you and through you. Any activity, therefore, in which you may engage no matter how nobly conceived, which does not stem from this humble attitude of dependence upon God, violates the basic principles of your true humanity and the role for which you were created. By independence (or the absence of faith), you eliminate God, the source of your own “godliness.” But only God has the right to be the source of His own godliness, so that however unwittingly, you are acting as your own god!

You will still believe or pretend that you are worshiping God; but as the object of your imitation, even Christ Himself may only be an excuse for worshiping your own ability to imitate – an ability vested in yourself. And this is the basis of all self-righteousness!

It is startling to discover that even God may be used as an excuse for worshiping yourself, demonstrating again the satanic genius for distorting truth and deceiving man – for it was to this temptation that Adam and Eve fell in the Garden!

**Ian Thomas**

**The Mystery of Godliness - p 187**

My own heart let me more have pity on ; let me live to my sad self hereafter kind.

**Gerard Manley**

**As quoted in Wild at Heart, p123**

I remember William Huntingdon says in his autobiography, that one of the sharpest sensations of pain that he felt after he had been quickened by divine grace was this, "He felt such pity for God." I do not know that I ever met with the expression elsewhere, but it is a very expressive one;

although I might prefer to say sympathy with God and grief that he should be so evil entreated. Ah, my friends, there are many men that are forgotten, that are despised, and that are trampled on by their fellows; but there never was a man who was so despised as the everlasting God has been. Many a man has been slandered and abused, but never was man abused as God has been. Many have been treated cruelly and ungratefully, but never one was treated as our God has been. Let us look back upon our past lives—how ungrateful have we been to him! It was he who gave us beings and the first utterance of our lips should have been in his praise; and so long as we were here, it was our duty to have perpetually sung his glory; but Instead of that, from our birth we spoke that which was false and untrue, and unholy; and since then we have continued to do the same.

**Charles Spurgeon**

## It's Supposed to Be All About Jesus

For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

**1 Corinthians 2:2**

Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

**Philippians 3:8-10**

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, Jesus

## The Remaking of Worship

It's now all about You

# How He Loves

John Mark McMilan

Verse 1:

He is jealous for **me**,

Loves like a hurricane, **I** am a tree,  
Bending beneath the weight of his wind and mercy.  
When all of a sudden,

**I** am unaware of these afflictions eclipsed by glory,

And **I** Realize just how beautiful You are,

And how great Your affections are for **me**.

Pre-Chorus:

And oh, how He loves **US** so,

Oh how He loves **US**,

How He loves **US** all

Chorus 1:

Yeah, He loves **US**,

Whoa! how He loves **US**,

Whoa! how He loves **US**,

Whoa! how He loves.

Yeah, He loves **US**,

Whoa! how He loves **US**,

Whoa! how He loves **US**,

Whoa! how He loves.

Verse 2:

**We** are His portion and He is **our** prize,  
Drawn to redemption by the grace in His eyes,

If grace is an ocean, **we're** all sinking.

So Heaven meets earth like a sloppy wet kiss,

And **my** heart turns violently inside of **my** chest,

I don't have time to maintain these regrets,  
When I think about, the way...

Chorus 2:

He loves US,

Whoa! how He loves US,

Whoa! how He loves US,

Oh how He loves.

Yeah, He loves US,

Whoa! how He loves US,

Whoa! how He loves US,

Whoa! how He loves.

## The Truth

*God is the Great Object of Worship, not Man.*

He is to be the object of the Story, the object of every song, the object of every conversation, the object of every thought, and the object of every life lived. He is the theme, He is the center - NOT US.

## Crown Him with Many Crowns

Matthew Bridges

1. Crown him with many crowns,  
the Lamb upon his throne,  
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns  
all music but its own.  
Awake, my soul, and sing  
of him who died for thee,  
and hail him as thy matchless King  
through all eternity.

2. Crown him the Lord of life,  
who triumphed o'er the grave,  
and rose victorious in the strife  
for those he came to save.  
His glories now we sing,  
who died, and rose on high,  
who died, eternal life to bring,  
and lives that death may die.

3. Crown him the Lord of peace,  
whose power a scepter sways  
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,  
and all be prayer and praise.  
His reign shall know no end,  
and round his pierced feet  
fair flowers of paradise extend  
their fragrance ever sweet.

4. Crown him the Lord of love;  
behold his hands and side,  
those wounds, yet visible above,  
in beauty glorified.  
All hail, Redeemer, hail!  
For thou hast died for me;  
thy praise and glory shall not fail  
throughout eternity.

## Emotional Spewing

### *The Great Self-Healing Exercise*

Get it out, Don't bottle it up. Come on and share your frustrations, express your junk, rant, rail, accuse, vomit, hurl, and/or spew out that which is curdling within you.



## The Truth

*Get Christ IN, Don't keep Him out!*

## Find Yourself

*The Great Self-Medicating Adventure*

## The Truth

He that finds his life shall lose it: and he that loses his life for my sake shall find it.

**Matthew 10:39**

## Self-Coddling vs. Truth Purveying

### The Key question for the Self-Coddler

How do you feel?

### The Key question for the Truth Purveyor

What is the Truth?

## 4 Classic Self-Coddling “Me” Questions

1. How am I feeling?
2. What do I feel God is saying?
3. How am I unique?
4. What makes me special?

## ME-ianity

A celebration and worship of your own uniqueness (sprinkled with nice sounding words about Jesus)

- your unique style
- your unique manner

- your unique method
- your unique tastes
- your unique views
- your unique thoughts
- your unique theology

## CHRIST-ianity

a celebration and worship of God's uniqueness (lacquered with a life that sings "Holy, Holy, Holy!")

- An adoption of His Holy style
- An adoption of His Holy manner
- An adoption of His Holy method
- An adoption of His Holy tastes
- An adoption of His Holy views
- An adoption of His Holy thoughts
- An adoption of His Holy theology

## Self-Esteem

*The Great Self-Delusion*

### **Self-Esteem - The Christian Rendition**

The Cross is about me. The Gospel is about me. Jesus is about me.  
 Worship is about me. The Bible is about me. My Bible study is about me.  
 My prayers are about me. My money is for me. My time belongs to me.  
 My leisure time should be spent on me. The credit for any achievement or  
 good behavior should go to me. After all, God desires me to esteem  
 (respect, admire, acclaim, favor, appreciate, recognize, honor, revere,  
 prize, and treasure) myself.

## The Truth

### **Christ-Esteem - True Christianity**

The Cross is about Jesus. The Gospel is about Jesus. Jesus is about the  
 Glory of the Father. Worship is about Jesus. The Bible is about Jesus.  
 My Bible study is about Jesus. My prayers are about Jesus. My money is  
 for Jesus. My time belongs to Jesus. My leisure time should be spent on

Jesus. The credit for any achievement or good behavior should go to Jesus. After all, God desires me to esteem (respect, admire, acclaim, favor, appreciate, recognize, honor, revere, prize, and treasure) Jesus above all things.

## Expressing Our Own Individuality

*Making Life on Earth the Great Stage for Our Own Glory*

### The Truth:

*Expressing His Individuality. . . and not our own*

Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

1. that you all speak the same thing
2. and that there be no divisions among you
3. that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment

**1 Corinthians 1:10**

But let him that glories glory in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD.

**Jeremiah 9:24**

## Forget You

*Forget your misery  
Forget your junk  
Forget your grievances  
Forget your aches and pains  
Forget your burdens  
Forget your fears and anxieties  
Forget your dreams and desires  
Forget your reputation  
Forget your family and friends*

*Forget your wealth and ambition  
Forget your positions of power and prestige  
Forget your talents and skill  
Forget the applause and the earthly accolades  
Forget You, all of you, and every inch of you*

*For your life is now all about Jesus, and every inch  
of you now serves a greater purpose.*

*For as Jesus said . . .*

If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple (Luke 14:26-27) . . . Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? (Mark 8:34-36) . . . He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honor. (John 12:25-26) . . . For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. (Romans 8:13)

## The Thoroughfare of Grace

Rejoice always.

Pray without ceasing.

In every thing give thanks:

for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**