

Dear Discouraged - Part 5
"IN THE SAME WAY"

Pastor Bill Bush
March 8, 2009

Review:

Part 1: No matter what happens to you, remember God's amazing grace!

Part 2: When tempted with discouragement, dare to be different!

Part 3: When tempted with discouragement, remember who GOD says I am!

Part 4: Your integrity will be tested by how you respond to temptation, authority and suffering!

TODAY'S BIG IDEA:

Have the courage to glorify God by GIVING UP my rights in order to MEET ANOTHER'S needs!

1 Peter 3:1-7

Three basic ways to live life:

My Way (Selfish)	God's Way (Selfless/Submissive)	Others' Way (Subjected)
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WHY SHOULD I BE selfless?

1. Selfishness is the source of CONFLICT. (James 4:1)
2. SELFLESSNESS is the secret to CHANGE. (v. 1)
3. Selfishness short-circuits PRAYER. (v. 7)

HOW CAN I BE selfless?

1. Understanding: Consider Another's NEEDS. (v. 7, Philippians 4:5)
2. Respect: Honor Another's VALUE. (v. 7, Philippians 2:3)
3. Sacrifice: Act on Another's BEHALF. (v. 1)

"Let us stop just saying we love people; let us really love them, and show it by our actions." I John 3:18 (TLB)

To be SELFLESS, you must NOT GIVE WAY TO FEAR!

"do what is right and do not give way to fear." (v. 6)

The story of Naaman (2 Kings 5)

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SHARPEN THE POINT
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For further study of today's message

ENTRY POINT: While today's message and the "Seven Questions for a Couple" focus on wives and husbands, God's commandment to love each other as He first loved us applies to *all* relationships. Begin by reading **James 4**.

"Submission – The state of being submissive or compliant; *meekness*." How does being submissive or unselfish lead to healthier, more holy relationships?

Meekness does **not** equal weakness! "Meekness: Showing patience and humility, gentle." With that in mind, how meek would you say you are in your relationships with God and others?

"Choice: The power, right or liberty to choose or select." This definition implies something you do *willingly*. How willing are you to choose unselfishness and submission in order to love according to God's word and to glorify Him?

**"Don't be selfish; don't live to make a good impression on others.
Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself.
Don't think only about your own affairs, But be interested in others, too, And what they are doing."
Philippians 2:3-4**