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Galatians 2:20-21 KJV 20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. 21 I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness *come* by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

Philippians 1:21-24 KJV 21 For to me to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain. 22 But if I live in the flesh, this *is* the fruit of my labour: <u>yet what I shall choose I wot not</u>. 23 For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: 24 Nevertheless to abide in the flesh *is* more needful for you.

1 Corinthians 15:31 KJV I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, <u>*I*</u> <u>die daily.</u>

Death to Self really means dying to the things that I want to do. Many of those things are permitted in God's Word, but in order to get our work done for Jesus, — they are not convenient for us to participate in, because they will hamper our work for our Lord. To be plain about it, our work is more important than our pleasure. **OUCH!** To be honest about it, Because Salvation does not depend upon our performance, but rather upon our faith/trust in the finished work of Jesus, our liberty must take a back seat to our responsibilities. **EXAMPLE** — Playing baseball is fun, but telling others about Jesus is really more important!

Illustration - Years ago I worked with a man that loved to fish. Every Monday he would come to work and brag about the fish that he had caught. He was a professing Christian. I had the privilege of leading a big man to the Lord one weekend. He weighed in at about 225 pounds. The following Monday my friend started bragging about his many fish. I said to him, I caught one that weight 225 pounds. (Jesus said that He would make us fishers of men) My friend was astonished. He said "What kind of fish was it? I told him what Jesus said about fishing for men and called out the new converts name. I also told my fishing friend, who said he was a Christian, if you would use as much energy to fish for men as you do for fish, then you might catch a soul for Jesus too. Needless to say, He was not too happy with me!



Dying to self is really not an option, but a mandate. If we are to ever do anything for the Lord, then we must give up our lives for our Lord.

Mark 10:26-30 KJV And they were astonished out of measure, saying among themselves, Who then can be saved? 27 And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men *it is* impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible. 28 Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee. 29 And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, 30 But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.