

ENTITLED  
Gratitude  
November 19, 2017

Introduction: The desire within our selfish nature is to promote oneself above others. We desire recognition. We desire to be known. If we are not careful, we will develop a sense of entitlement in our lives. Would you happen to know any entitled people? We are living in an entitled society – a ‘we deserve culture’. How does one fight against the forces that darken our hearts and minds? There is an answer, but are we ready and eager to embrace the changes in our lives needed for transformation?

Scripture: Romans 1:18-23

*For although they knew God, **they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened** (Romans 1:21 NIV).*

I. Entitled

<sup>9</sup> He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: <sup>10</sup> “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one **a Pharisee** and the other a **tax collector**. <sup>11</sup> The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that **I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector**. <sup>12</sup> **I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.**’ <sup>13</sup> But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ <sup>14</sup> I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. **For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted**” (Luke 18:9–14).

**Principle**: Entitlement is a malignant form of self-love.  
*‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men’* (Luke 18:11).

II. Surely, Not Me?

<sup>1</sup> Therefore **you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things.** <sup>2</sup> We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things. <sup>3</sup> Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and **yet do them yourself**—that you will escape the judgment of God? (Romans 2:1–3).

**Principle**: All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.  
*for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God* (Romans 3:23).

III. It’s Not About Me!

*nor is he [God] served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since **he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything*** (Acts 17:25).

<sup>10</sup> For every beast of the forest **is mine**, the cattle on a thousand hills. <sup>11</sup> I know all the birds of the hills, and all that moves in the field **is mine**. <sup>12</sup> "If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world and its fullness **are mine** (Psalm 50:10–12).

The Spirit of **God has made me**, and the breath of the Almighty **gives me life** (Job 33:4).

...**You are not your own** (1 Corinthians 6:19).

**Principle:** Sin is exchanging God's glory for another.

because they **exchanged the truth about God for a lie** and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen (Romans 1:25).

#### IV. Defense Against Entitlement

For although they knew God, **they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him**, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened (Romans 1:21 NIV).

##### A. Humility

He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and **to walk humbly with your God?** (Micah 6:8).

"Whoever exalts himself **will be humbled**, and whoever humbles himself **will be exalted.**" (Matthew 23:12).

##### B. Gratitude & Glory

"The one who **offers thanksgiving** as his sacrifice **glorifies me...**" (Psalm 50:23).

**I give thanks to you**, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and **I will glorify your name** forever (Psalm 86:12).

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies as a living sacrifice**, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship (Romans 12:1).

**Principle:** When I recognize my life in God, I can't help but be humbled, give him glory and give him thanks.

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I. Entitled (*Luke 18:9–14*)

**Principle:** Entitlement is a malignant form of \_\_\_\_\_. (*Luke 18:11*)

II. Surely, Not Me? (*Romans 2:1–3*)

**Principle:** All have \_\_\_\_\_ and fallen short of the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. (*Romans 3:23*)

III. It’s Not About Me! (*Acts 17:25*) (*Psalms 50:10–12*) (*Job 33:4*) (*1 Corinthians 6:19*)

**Principle:** Sin is \_\_\_\_\_ God’s glory for \_\_\_\_\_. (*Romans 1:25*)

IV. Defense Against Entitlement (*Romans 1:21 NIV*)

A. \_\_\_\_\_ (*Micah 6:8*) (*Matthew 23:12*)

B. \_\_\_\_\_ (*Psalms 50:23*) (*Psalms 86:12*) (*Romans 12:1*)

**Principle:** When I recognize my life in God, I can’t help but be \_\_\_\_\_, give him \_\_\_\_\_ and give him \_\_\_\_\_.