

DENYING OURSELVES

- I. Scriptures pertaining to "denying ourselves"
 - A. Matt. 16:24; Mk. 8:34; Lk. 9:23- "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me."

- II. Suggested interpretations of "denying oneself"
 - A. Disown yourself
 - B. Renounce yourself, negate yourself
 - C. Disregard yourself
 - D. Repudiate yourself
 - E. Berate yourself
 - F. Hate yourself
 - G. Reject yourself
 - H. Abase yourself, castigate yourself, flagellate yourself, (Col. 2:23)
 - I. Escape from yourself, abandon yourself
 - J. Crucify yourself, execute yourself, die to yourself
 - K. Disavow yourself, disbelieve or dispute reality of yourself
 - L. Disallow yourself

- III. Defining our "self"
 - A. Personal identity - spiritual
 - B. Personal individuality - psychological
 - C. Personal embodiment - physical
 - D. Personal interest - selfishness
 - E. Personal resource - humanistic lie

- IV. Which of these features of "self" are we to seek to "deny"?
 - A. To deny personal identity would be to deny that we are a "new creature" identified with Jesus Christ.
 - B. To deny our personal individuality would be to deny that we each have a unique patterning of personality.
 - C. To deny our personal embodiment would be to deny our physical existence as but an illusion.
 - D. To deny personal interest would be to disallow selfish expressions in our behavior.
 - E. To deny personal resource would be to reject the false humanistic assertion of self-potential.

- V. What does it mean to "deny"?
 - A. Popular English usage of "disavow."
 - 1. Mental or psychological denial - subjective attitude
 - 2. To be "in denial" is to refuse to admit the reality of, or to declare or disaffirm as untrue.
 - B. Greek word *arneomai* best interpreted as "disallow."
 - 1. Volitional denial
 - 2. A choice to restrain or restrict, to suppress the expression of something.

- VI. Common religious misunderstanding of "denying ourselves"
- A. Deny the need to "deny ourselves;" instead encourage to "affirm yourself" or "love yourself"
 - B. Disavow your selfish "flesh" patterings; "you are a new creature in Christ; old things have passed away" (II Cor. 5:17); perfectionism.
 - C. "Worm theology"; self-renunciation; suppressionism; (attempt to reverse Gal. 5:17).
 - D. Dying to self; crucifying yourself; mortification of self.
 1. Which "self" do they seek to die to? (note III)
 2. Usually renouncing the "straw-man" of humanistic self-potential
 3. Misuse the following scriptures:
 - a. Matt. 16:24; Mk. 8:34; Lk. 9:23 - "take up cross daily"
 - b. Rom. 8:36 - "put to death all day long"
 - c. I Cor. 15:31 - "I die daily"
 - d. II Cor. 4:11 - "constantly delivered over to death"
 - e. Phil. 3:10 - "conformed to His death"
- VII. Understanding what it means to "deny ourselves"
- A. Necessitates the awareness and admission of our selfish tendencies patterned in the "flesh"
 - B. Does not refer to a subjective, psychological denial, but a volitional denial whereby we choose to disallow the expressions of selfishness in our behavior.
 1. Titus 2:12 - "deny ungodliness and worldly desires"
 2. Phil. 2:3,4 - "do nothing from selfishness...do not look out for your own personal interests..."
 - C. Denying ourselves is not a "work" of self-effort and performance whereby we overcome and get rid of the "flesh" - Gal. 5:17. Such is a denial of God's grace.
 - D. Denying ourselves is part of the process of sanctification.