

Walking As Jesus Walked: The Antidote to Narcissism
I John 2:6; Mark 1:14-15; Luke 9:23-24

Whatever God Created Man to Be, Man Now Wishes to Be Without God

- When narcissism reigns...

...Self-interest fuels our decision making

...We each see ourselves as "special"

...We must be praised and entertained all the time

...Our identity is rooted in self-manufactured images

...Friendship becomes a "competitive sport"

- We become materialistic... negative/critical... less happy... rationalizing.

THE ANTIDOTE:

1) REPENT OF SELF-FOCUSED LIVING - Mk 1:14-15

...let go of our self-serving strategies

...see ourselves as creatures God wishes to re-create - II Co 5:17

...deny our false self and live out of our true self - Lk 9:23-24

...leave the "far country" and come back "home" - Lk 15:11-32

2) LEARN HOW TO LOVE PROPERLY - I Co 13

...Practice the presence of God - I Jo 4:7-19

- abide in His perfect love

- nourish the love affair with God

...Practice the presence of people - Phil 2:3-4

- the way of the cross is "life for others"

- the intent to love requires that we pay attention

3) SEE OURSELVES (AND OTHERS) AS UNIQUE, BUT NOT SPECIAL - Ro 12:3-4

...Live humbly before God and others

4) LISTEN TO THOSE WHO LOVE US ENOUGH TO TELL US THE TRUTH - Eph 4:15,25

...Start with God: (private, devotional practice)

...Get connected with others: (corporate worship, small groups)

5) GET INVOLVED IN SOMETHING OTHER/BIGGER THAN OURSELVES

...Work for the needs/growth of others

...Help others receive their belovedness, blessedness in God