

TURN

THE GIFT OF REPENTANCE

DATE: March 12, 2023

RECAP: Our culture often tells us to chase after whatever meets our needs, solves our problems, or gives us pleasure. They celebrate self-made people, self-expression, and self-autonomy assuming that a person with a strong self-identity is mature. They value independence and self-reliance. Many big questions our culture asks are about the boundary between my rights and another person's. Without necessarily choosing to do so, we are celebrating the self.

God has a better way for us: to turn from selfishness to selflessness. Selfishness is being concerned about your own welfare, pleasure, or well-being without the regard of others, often expressed through a lack of empathy, control, materialism, manipulation, and self-centeredness. Selflessness is loving God completely, yourself correctly, and others compassionately, having the mind of Christ and allowing Jesus to live in and through you expressed by the Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Recall a time when you or someone you know acted selfishly. Without necessarily sharing the details, did these actions lead to an increase or decrease in personal connections? Why do you think that is?
- Read Ephesians 4:1-6. What helps strengthen unity in a group of Christians?
- In what ways are you most prone to be selfish?
- Sometimes, adjusting our thoughts can help us to act less selfishly. Consider the selflessness of Christ (see Philippians 2:5-8). What would happen if you took on the mind of Christ?
- What strikes you as most incredible in Philippians 2:5-8? What was the motivation Jesus had in humbling Himself?
- Read John 17:20-23. How might Jesus' call to unity help you to overcome your selfish tendencies?
- What would happen if you were 1% more selfless to those around you? Read Matthew 5:16. How would that small change bring glory to God?
- What is your 1% way to be more selfless this week?