

# A Christian Perspective on



*2 Corinthians 5:14-21*

**1. We must not trust self.** “That we should not trust in ourselves but in God” (2 Cor. 1:9). “Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD.... Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD” (Jer. 17:5,7). Self will always disappoint you and let you down! We are not sufficient of ourselves (2 Cor. 3:5).

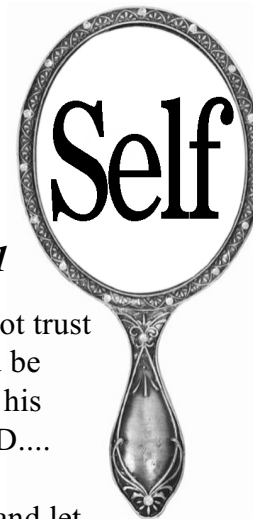
**2. We must not promote self.** “For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord” (2 Cor. 4:5). The message of our life and lips ought to point to Christ, not to ourselves. We are to promote Him, not self. “He must increase, but I must decrease” (John 3:30).

**3. We must not live for self.** “He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them, and rose again” (2 Cor. 5:15). Now that I am saved I no longer live for myself, but I live for my Saviour. My slogan used to be, “For to me to live is SELF,” **but now**, “For to me to live is Christ” (Phil. 1:21). We must learn to say “NO” to self and “YES” to Christ: “If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me” (Luke 9:23).

**4. We must not please self.** “We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves” (Rom. 15:1). Our focus was once on pleasing self, but now it is on pleasing God (Gal. 1:10), and helping and edifying others (Rom. 15:2). If we must focus at all on self, then let us focus on cleansing ourselves (2 Cor. 7:1), judging ourselves (1 Cor. 11:31), and being a vessel fit for the Master’s use (2 Tim. 2:21).

~George Zeller: [www.middletonbiblechurch.org](http://www.middletonbiblechurch.org)

# A Christian Perspective on



*2 Corinthians 5:14-21*

**1. We must not trust self.** “That we should not trust in ourselves but in God” (2 Cor. 1:9). “Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD.... Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD” (Jer. 17:5,7). Self will always disappoint you and let you down! We are not sufficient of ourselves (2 Cor. 3:5).

**2. We must not promote self.** “For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord” (2 Cor. 4:5). The message of our life and lips ought to point to Christ, not to ourselves. We are to promote Him, not self. “He must increase, but I must decrease” (John 3:30).

**3. We must not live for self.** “He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them, and rose again” (2 Cor. 5:15). Now that I am saved I no longer live for myself, but I live for my Saviour. My slogan used to be, “For to me to live is SELF,” **but now**, “For to me to live is Christ” (Phil. 1:21). We must learn to say “NO” to self and “YES” to Christ: “If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me” (Luke 9:23).

**4. We must not please self.** “We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves” (Rom. 15:1). Our focus was once on pleasing self, but now it is on pleasing God (Gal. 1:10), and helping and edifying others (Rom. 15:2). If we must focus at all on self, then let us focus on cleansing ourselves (2 Cor. 7:1), judging ourselves (1 Cor. 11:31), and being a vessel fit for the Master’s use (2 Tim. 2:21).

~George Zeller: [www.middletonbiblechurch.org](http://www.middletonbiblechurch.org)