

The Eleven Sins of Self

Ex 20:5 —The iniquities passed down to the third and fourth generation are mostly centered on self — our self-centered iniquities that bring forth death. Ex 34:6-7 — “By no means clearing the guilty...” What means are available for clearing the guilty? The same means by which we can overcome, which is Rev 3:20-21. Overcoming these inborn ways is the only means by which our souls are saved.

In our souls are these iniquities which are centered upon the *selfish ways* we have been born with. These selfish ways hurt and damage our souls, and others are affected by our selfishness.

Rev 3:4 — Most did not overcome their self-centered iniquities by which their garments were polluted, producing a generation that did not love enough to overcome them (1 Jn 4:20; Ex 20:5-6; Jms 1:12,21).

Regardless of one’s inborn iniquity, sin is knowing the right thing to do, but rather than doing it, choosing to please yourself (Jms 4:17). Jms 1:21 speaks about the salvation of our souls as we learn to judge and overcome our inherited iniquities. It’s been given to us to do this. Jms 5:19-20 – The salvation of our soul is at stake, as when someone is drifting and we rescue him so he can overcome his iniquities. Each of our inherited iniquities, our inborn sins, if we allow them to continue to prevail against our better judgment (Jms 1:14-15), will bring forth death. Jms 4:17 – *“Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do, and does not do it, to him it is sin.”* We will be tempted to do what our inborn tendencies lead us to do, to the hurt of others, and if we don’t overcome this temptation we make ourselves unworthy of Messiah (Rev 3:4-5), for He came to save us from our sins (Mt 1:21).

Each one of us has inborn, inherent traits that grow and increase if we do not take action to overcome them, by faith, and put them under our Master’s feet (Heb 10:13). This is the generation of those who love Him (Jms 1:12). Most of the inherited things in us have to do with *self* – like self-centeredness.

The degrading process of Ex 20:5 produces a generation who hate God, but He shows His love to those who overcome for Him (verse 6). Our parents were very self-centered, and also our grandparents and great grandparents. It has been passed on to us.

The ways *self* is manifested in our lives are:

a. **Self-Centeredness** – being centered upon or engrossed with self; having selfish motivations behind everything one does, and controlling every relationship.

b. **Self-Consciousness** – being socially ill at ease, socially retarded; even the clothes they wear betray their insecurity. They are conscious of how they look because they think everyone is looking at them.

c. **Self-Importance** – having excessively high regard for one’s own opinion; this is one of the enemies that destroyed the first Edah.

d. **Self-Indulgence** – gratifying one’s appetites and desires beyond what is normal and healthy, usually to the hurt of others.

e. **Self-Interest** – regard for one’s own advantage or interest above others.

f. **Selfishness** (self-love) – concerned mostly with oneself; the opposite of thinking more highly of others (Phil 2:3), having more regard for others than for yourself; it is the opposite of **self-sacrificing**, which is depriving or denying yourself for the sake of others (sacrificing is giving up something of value to gain something of greater value).

g. **Self-Pity** – exaggerating every situation to get pity for themselves, having a victim spirit — “Look what they’ve done to me,” but not seeing what they do to others (1 Cor 12:20-26).

h. **Self-Satisfaction** – a smug satisfaction with self, especially when you look better or do better than others.

i. **Self-Seeking** – seeking primarily one’s own end or interest (Phil 2:2-4).

j. **Self-Serving** – putting your own interests above others, without concern for others. (There’s doubt that they’ve passed out of death and into life, 1 Jn 3:14-23.)

k. **Self-Will** – willfulness or obstinacy.

These sins of self militate against the Body of Messiah. Our Master said, “*Love one another as I have loved you*”(Jn 15:12), and “*The world will know you are My disciples because you love one another*”(Jn 13:35). These are the overcomers who are worthy of our Master.

Salvation is being saved from self-life, from being controlled by selfish desires (Gal 5:19-21). Salvation is being controlled by the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23). Most of our inherited iniquities are centered around self, which destroys the image of God in us. This is the sin of humanity. Heb 12:1 — We must overcome these things that cause us to stumble, as well as making others stumble. We are learning the tactics of the enemy to overthrow God's Holy People. We must take *self* out of the picture of these eleven self-centered iniquities.

Mt 24:40-41 — One is still thinking about himself, whether anyone is recognizing him and appreciating him and noticing him, while the other is only thinking about pleasing his Master and loving his brothers (Phil 2:2-4).

The one who is not taken did not overcome his self-centered iniquities. He was not dressed and ready (Rev 19:7-8); his works were bad, since they were self-centered, done to be seen, appreciated, recognized.

Self-centeredness is the fruit of the flesh; *self-control* is the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:19-24). The *self* is finished, under control, crucified *daily* (Lk 9:23; Heb 3:13), even until *the Last Day* (1 Pet 4:7). Selfish thoughts are under the control of the Spirit (Col 3:2-5). Rev 14:1-5 — This generation will not have these inherited iniquities which are not put under their Master's feet. No deceit is found in them.

Every one of us has inherent tendencies that we have to overcome, producing a generation that love Him, and He will show lovingkindness towards them (Ex 20:6). Jms 1:12 is talking about a generation who will love Him no matter what they go through to be tested. Our iniquities humble us so that we can be saved.

Mt 1:21 — He came to save His people from their sins. He came so we could be saved from *self*. If we aren't, we'll destroy people. College teaches people to reason and live for *self*. If we are living for *self* we're not going to lay down our life for our brother. That's why we're here. To do this we have to overcome the inborn tendencies in us. We know what they are, and if we don't know our brothers will tell us.

Heb 3:13 says to encourage one another *daily*, coming to their side and helping them. What if everyone was doing this? If everyone were filled with the Spirit there wouldn't be anyplace for #11 — self-will. If we were all filled with the Holy Spirit no one would harden his heart, not going to his brothers and coming alongside and helping them.

Ishshah — I'm thankful I'm being saved. All I learned in college was self-preservation. I'm thankful I'm in the Body and have brothers and sisters to tell me what my enemies are so I can overcome them.

Yoshiyah — I'm thankful we didn't get all the iniquities — all the “*selfs*”. We don't have the sin of the entire world on us like our Master did, but we have our own iniquities. It's important we know what our iniquities are so we can defeat them. We need clarity. If we are naming our enemies all week long we can enter into the Shabbat.

Jesse — I'm thankful to hear what I've heard tonight — that most of our iniquities are intertwined in self. Our Master is our example. He was the least self-centered person who ever lived.

2 Cor 5:21 — He became sin on our behalf. He took our sins to death. He forgives us if we confess and overcome. He became our iniquities on our behalf.

Baruch — If these things go unjudged and we don't overcome our iniquities, they get bigger, but if we overcome them they get smaller, reduced in strength and size. The strength of our soul increases and we are gathering and not scattering. If we set our face like flint then it's 12 hours of destruction for our enemy. When our Master overcame He increased in wisdom and stature and we can too. But if we're lazy then our iniquities will increase.

Yashuvam — It's clear in Lk 12:22 that we don't need to be anxious for our life. We can give up our life here and our Father will give us the kingdom.

Chayeh — The only way we can increase is because our Master came to save us from our sins. He didn't just come to forgive us. It's so some day we will be like our Master.

People who have left here – they had ways they never put to death and they magnify things done to them. But that's the way they were in the Body. I'm thankful we can increase and be builders and not be going the way all humanity is going. Our Master saw with the eyes of compassion and we can too. We can look at a person and see his iniquities, yet still see the person and be able to have compassion on him.

Zahav – More and more, as people shared, I thought to myself, "How can I ever overcome all of these ways? They are so deeply ingrained in me..." I began to think about all of the ways I had inherited from my parents, how much grace I seemed to lack on a regular basis, how much I affected others, etc.

Then something dawned upon me. I realized that the more I thought about the ways I was, how I was going to overcome *my* iniquities, how much I affected others, etc., the more I was digging myself even deeper into the ways of *self*. The biggest trap of self was that it was *self*-perpetuating. The more I thought about overcoming and dealing with my own iniquities, the more I was totally getting wrapped up in myself, which was my problem in the first place.

But, there *IS* a way out. Yoneq also spoke of how we needed to encourage one another, come along side one another and take of each other. I then realized that all of the sins of *self* were only bad things because of the word *self* that was part of them. Take the sin of "self-love" for instance. *Love* is not a bad thing, but add the word *self* and it becomes sin. However, if we take *self-love*, and remove *self*, and apply it to others, now we have a virtue. *Self-love* becomes *love for others*. What a wonderful thing! I realized that the word *others* was the answer to all of these iniquities. Instead of *self-pity* I could have pity or compassion for others. Instead of *self-glory* I could bring glory to others.

If I am wrapped up in my *self*, then it is self-perpetuating, and I never end up overcoming. However, if I can just learn to turn it around to *others*, then there is no overcoming left to do. I will have learned to turn my eyes outward, encourage my brothers, and the word *self* will be left all by itself, outside of the Body. I am thankful to have heard this.

Rev 3:4 – Our Father didn't get rid of all those people. Most of the people in Sardis didn't overcome their iniquities and stained their garment. Few reached their full potential. Rev 3:5 – If we overcome we can walk in white with Him. Verse 6 – "*He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches* (the Edah)." Let's hear what the Spirit is saying to us.

Yochanan ben Ra'am – As long as we can humble ourselves our Master can save us. If we give in to our tendencies and get worthless He can't save us. Our Master came to save us from our iniquities.

Eph 4:29 – If we're not edifying and building up the Body and we can still continue on in our sins, allowing our iniquities to rule us, and the Holy Spirit is not grieved in us, then maybe we're not saved. I'm thankful the Holy Spirit is able to be grieved by things that come out of us and hurt others. We can sense whether He is in us.