

## “Problems” to Overcome

**SELFISHNESS:** *“Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility consider one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.”*  
Philippians 2:3-4

**PRIDE:** *“God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”* James 4:6

**PROCRASTINATION:** *“Let’s not become discouraged in doing good, for in due time we will reap, if we do not become weary.”* Galatians 6:9

### January Birthdays

14 Juanita Small

### January Anniversaries

8 Bob & Debbie Pescador

#### Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.

Sunday.....10:45 a.m.

Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Website:  
[indiochurchofchrist.com](http://indiochurchofchrist.com)

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# Indio Informer

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**Special Note: above shows Vol. 34  
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**This bulletin is the first of 2023...  
A bulletin begun 34 years ago by Bill Brown,  
Sr.**

### Saved to Serve

By Ron Bartanen

Jesus said, *“I must work the works of Him that sent me while it is day: the night cometh when no man can work”* (John 9:4).

We who, by the grace of God, are the saved in Christ, were saved not just that we might go to heaven, but that also we might work the works of God. A believer’s life should be of use to God and man. Time and again the Scriptures emphasize that we are saved to serve, and that God condemns, as much as any sin, the sin of doing nothing!

Why, then, are we usually so lax in our Christian service? Why are so many inactive? Why does it take so long for so many Christians to reach so few persons with the Gospel of Christ? We want to point out that there are barriers to service which we need to

emphasize and break down in order that we be effective laborers for Christ.

**SELFISHNESS** is probably the number one barrier to effective Christian service. We are basically selfish and are more concerned about our own problems than about anyone else's. My ingrown toenail will possibly cause me more concern than my neighbor's cancer. My needs always seem much more pressing than the needs of anyone else. Often, what God wants done must take second place to what I want done. It is easier to sing "King of my life, I crown Thee now" than it is to crucify self and enthrone Christ in my life. Lord, deliver me from SELF; help me tear down the barrier of selfishness in my life.

**PRIDE** is another barrier to Christian service. The thankless, often behind-the-scenes job in the Lord's vineyard often goes begging. Anyone can serve amidst recognition and praise. It takes a true servant of Christ to serve when man does not see, and man does not care. There would be no limit to what the church could accomplish if we didn't care who got the credit. The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier teaches a great lesson—a nation's victories are mostly won by the blood of nameless men. So, also, in the kingdom of God, the real heroes are the humble, unheralded saints who serve tirelessly simply because they love the Lord.

**PROCRASTINATION** is possibly one of the most common barriers to service. All true Christians want to serve the Lord, but too frequently it is something that we regard as preferably done tomorrow. From experience I know that I have lost opportunities because I delayed too long. How quickly the night comes when no longer will work be possible. How quickly the harvest season will be past!

May the Lord, in His grace, give power to break down the barriers such as selfishness, pride and procrastination that we may get on with the Master's work.

### **It's Not About Me!**

By Joe Chesser

We live in a society that basically believes, "It's all about me." Almost every message that advertisers use promotes

"me." Check them out and see if I'm right. Pamper yourself. Please yourself. Protect yourself.

No wonder so many marriages are breaking up. No wonder so many people are having a difficult time at work. No wonder there's so much crime and overcrowded prisons. No wonder there's so much mudslinging in politics. No wonder there's so much road rage. No wonder children are so difficult to control. No wonder there are so many lawsuits. No wonder there are so many people crying that their rights have been violated. No wonder there are so many churches being split.

One of God's irrefutable laws says that whatever you sow, you reap. We are seeing the vivid results of sowing the seeds of self-centeredness, and it's not pretty.

However, God's law of sowing and reaping works both ways. If we actively sow seeds of selflessness and service to others we will definitely reap a different harvest. What we see in Jesus, and what actually cost him is life, is that God is not happy with self-centeredness in any realm of human existence: not in the home, not in the workplace, not in the church. So, Jesus repeatedly taught us that Christianity is not about "me," it's about others.

- The greatest command is to love God (not self).  
Mark 12:29-30
- The next greatest is to love our neighbors (not self). Mark 12:31
- We are to die to ourselves. Luke 9:23
- We are to bless those who persecute us. Romans 12:14
- We are to do nothing out of selfish ambition.  
Philippians 2:3
- We are to consider others better than ourselves  
Philippians 2:3

As much as we are bombarded by advertisers, politicians, educators, and even clergy to "look out for #1," it will be difficult to believe and practice the teachings of Jesus that it's "not about you." But we must.

Yet, here's the blessing. When we learn to do things the way Jesus taught and lived, we learn that putting others first is the

best thing we can do for ourselves. There's nothing on earth  
to compare to becoming like Jesus!