



What Do "Selfies" Say About Us?

Philippians 2:3: (NASB) *Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves.*



"Selfies" - a modern day phenomena of simplicity and ease. The concept is simple - take pictures of yourself so the world can see you as you choose for it to see you. What could be wrong with that? After all it is your life and you should have control over it, right? As with any luxury of life, there is usually a basic thread of goodness somewhere within it, but as with any luxury in life that thread of goodness can and usually is overrun by excess and pride. Do "selfies" represent this excess and pride and if so, how do we reset ourselves back to a clearer reality? (hashtag) Like, stay with us and find out!!

A little bit about selfies:

(Source: www.businessinsider.com) Fascinating Visual Shows the Most Popular Selfie Poses in Each City, Caroline Moss, February 21, 2014

A new study has revealed how people in different cities take snaps of themselves. Researchers working on a project called Selfie City analyzed 656,000 Instagram photos from cities like New York, Moscow, Berlin, Bangkok, and Sao Paulo between December 4 and 12, 2013, Wired reports.

Then the researchers identified which of these photos were selfies and made best guesses as to the age and gender of the person who took them before analyzing the images...

...Women in New York prefer the subtle head turn (just a hint of profile) over the dramatic ear-to-shoulder head tilt seen in many selfies taken in Brazil.

...Women's selfies show more expressive poses; for instance, the average amount of head tilt is 50% higher than for men: 12.3° vs. 8.2°. Sao Paulo is most extreme - there, the average head tilt for females is 16.9°, researchers reported.



Why? The Science of Selfies, Good Mythical Morning, Rhett and Link

- There's a professor, Mark R. Leary, of neuroscience at Duke University, Durham, North Carolina. He said, by posting selfies, people can keep themselves on other people's minds. Through clothes one wears, one's expression, staging the physical style of the photo, people can convey a particular image of themselves. Presumably one they think will garner social rewards. So, in other words, you are investing into your social persona by staging everything in the right way, getting the angle just right, and taking selfies. That's why people take selfies even if they don't know it.



Where did our "selfie seeds" come from?

1 John 2:15-17: (KJV) ¹⁵Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. ¹⁷And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.

Sin is formed through these three things or a combination thereof:

1. The lust of the eyes
2. The lust of the flesh
3. The pride of life

In these three actions all sin is conceived, developed and committed...but all sin need not have all three:

Genesis 3:4-7: (NASB) ⁴The serpent said to the woman, you surely will not die! ⁵For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil. ⁶When the woman *saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise*, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.

saw that the tree was good for food = lust of the flesh;

that it was a delight to the eyes = lust of the eyes; and

the tree was desirable to make one wise = pride of life - taking God's credit!



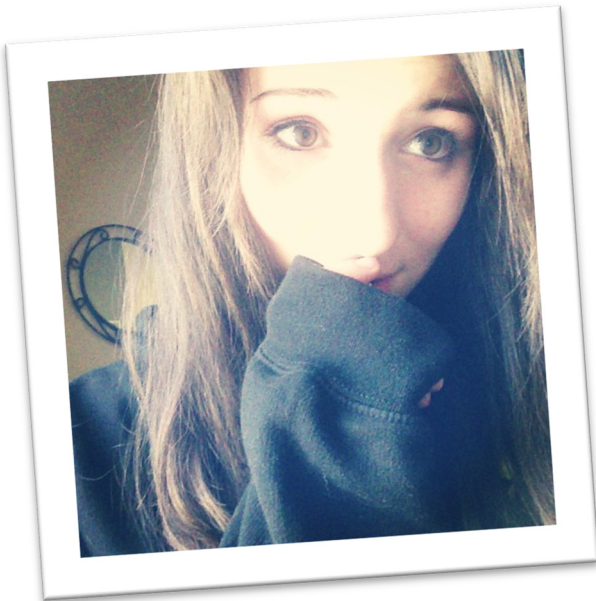
Rick's father, Richard, Sr., died this past week. Richard was selfless - a complete opposite of the theme of this program. He was a spiritual hero and rock of a Christian example.



Has the “selfie” mentality ever shown its face before?

SELFIE “POSES”

(Source: socialsamosa.com) The “just-out-of-bed” pose: Minimal makeup and just-out-of-bed hair would complete this look. Showing your followers and friends your “without makeup selfie” will make them love you all the more as they’ll get a glimpse of the ‘real’ you, which is very sexy.



The photo is staged to look like something it is not in order to present to the world a perception.

Every picture of yourself that you take is not a self-absorbed action, however. Taking a picture with you at the Grand Canyon, for example, or a picture with a friend or relative you haven’t seen in a while are not the types of photos we are discussing here.

So, with social media, the whole advertised point is to connect - to see the lives of others, and most importantly, have your life be seen by others. Is that what is really happening? No, it has for the most part drifted into a category of “self-presentation.”

Interestingly, the whole idea of self-focus and self-gratification is ancient and the results have already been revealed:

(Source: Biblical commentary by McGee) Solomon also wrote the Books of Proverbs and the Song of Solomon. We will find Ecclesiastes to be quite different from the Book of Proverbs. In Proverbs we saw the wisdom of Solomon; here we shall see the foolishness of Solomon. Ecclesiastes is the dramatic autobiography of his life when he was away from God...

King Solomon was given great wisdom and wealth.

Ecclesiastes 2:1-4: (NASB) ¹I said to myself, Come now, I will test you with pleasure. So enjoy yourself. And behold, it too was futility. ²I said of laughter, It is madness, and of pleasure, What does it accomplish? ³I explored with my mind how to stimulate my body with wine while my mind was guiding me wisely, and how to take hold of folly, until I could see what good there is for the sons of men to do under heaven the few years of their lives. ⁴I enlarged my works: I built houses for myself; I planted vineyards for myself.

(continued) ...Man has tried to be happy without God; it is being tried every day by millions of people. This book shows the absurdity of the attempt. Solomon was the wisest of men, and he had a wisdom that was God-given. He tried every field of endeavor and pleasure that was known to man, and his conclusion was that all is vanity. The word vanity means, "empty, purposeless." Satisfaction in life can never be attained in this manner.

We do not find fulfillment in the “things” and the “stuff,” which is what selfies represent.



In comparison, Solomon and my dad were both very wise. My dad was focused on serving God, having made that life-changing decision at age 12. Unlike Solomon, he gave up pleasures when he gave himself to God. He was not a wealthy man, but in the most important way was wealthier than Solomon ever grew to be in the quality and richness of his life and family.



"Can We Auto-Correct Humanity," (Verse 1) Prince EA

Did you know the average person spends four years of his life looking down at his cell phone?
Kind of ironic, ain't it?
How these touchscreens can make us lose touch
But it's no wonder in a world filled with
iMacs, iPads and iPhones
So many "I's," so many selfies, not enough "us" and "we's"
See, technology has made us more selfish and separate than ever
'Cause while it claims to connect us, connection has gotten no better.

Now for some practicality in approaching the whole "selfie" mentality of our day: First, as we mentioned, all "selfies" do not fall into this category of self-promotion - it really boils down to the WHY, the HOW and the FREQUENCY of our "self-portraits." We will touch on five points to test our "selfie" awareness - **SELFIE SOLUTIONS** - as we use Philippians 2:1-11 as our guideline perspective.



**Establish (or re-establish) our TRUE NORTH of AFFECTION:
Where do we look to fill the holes in our lives?**

Philippians 2:1-2: (NASB) *¹Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, ²make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.*

Many times we have friends with whom we do not have "fellowship." Fellowship is coming together with a common purpose. You can fill the holes in your life by going to others gathered for a higher purpose. Solomon looked towards pleasures to "test himself." That does not work.

Focusing on a fellowship of serving the Lord helps us to focus outside of "just me:"

Romans 12:9-13: (NASB) ⁹*Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good.* ¹⁰*Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;* ¹¹*not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;* ¹²*rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer,* ¹³*contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.*

Did Jesus himself actually promote a "selfie" mentality? What?!?



SELFIE "POSES"

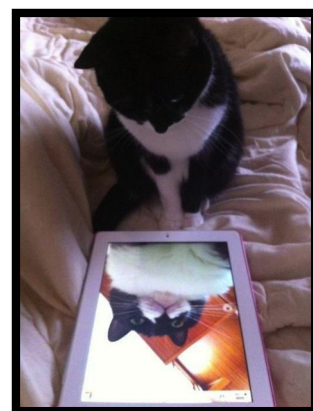
(Source: socialsamosa.com) Reflection shots: Pose and capture your reflection on the windows of cars or crystal clear human-size mirrors. This adds a sense of depth to your shots and makes them extremely fascinating.



"Selfies," (Chorus) Nina Nesbitt

Taking pictures of myself, self, self
Taking pictures of myself, self self
Guess I'm reaching out to be assured
All I wanted was to be adored

Now you're telling me I'm vain, vain, vain
But you don't feel my pain, pain, pain
Facing life upon the shelf, shelf, shelf
Taking pictures of myself, self, self.



Selfies can be used to cover up "what is" and present something that is different. Becoming obsessed by this practice can reveal the selfishness of our society.



A caller from Connecticut suggests: **Isaiah 44:10:** *Anyone who forms a god or casts an idol to no purpose will be put to shame.* People always carry pictures of their grandkids in their wallet, not photos of themselves. Selfies may offer a way to share stories and experiences, but there is also a danger that their ease of use may not lead to bonding with friends, relatives or community, but ego gratification. **Isaiah 5:21:** *Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and prudent in their own sight.* Joy is found in being in Christ in the moment. Worrying too much about selfies takes us out of that experience. Is the selfie truly to share or to show off? This is a new technology but the same old problem. We do not rise in being seen by man but by being in God. **Deuteronomy 26:19:** *He will then raise you high in praise and renown and glory and you will be a people sacred to the Lord your God.*



King Solomon's excesses continue - notice the subject matter here:

Ecclesiastes 2:5-8: (NASB) ⁵*I made gardens and parks for myself and I planted in them all kinds of fruit trees;* ⁶*I made ponds of water for myself from which to irrigate a forest of growing trees.* ⁷*I bought male and female slaves and I had homeborn slaves. Also I possessed flocks and herds larger than all who preceded me in Jerusalem.* ⁸*Also, I collected for myself silver and gold and the treasure of kings and provinces. I provided for myself male and female singers and the pleasures of men—many concubines.*

Self-gratification and indulgence - sounds like the lifestyles of the rich and famous! This was the opposite of Rick's dad...



My dad built a legacy of spirituality and faithfulness and handed it to anyone who would take it.

 **Hashtag, The Science of Selfies, Good Mythical Morning, Rhett and Link**

- *People know exactly what we're talking about when we say "selfie," but the first time it was used as a hashtag was on Instagram, January 16, 2011. Jennifer Lee from Oakland shared a picture of her face - a selfie - and hashtagged it SELFIE. So congratulations, Jennifer Lee. You hold the record for the first hashtag selfie. You should win something for that!*



Did Jesus encourage a "selfie" mentality?

Mark 12:28-31: (NRSV) ²⁸*One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, which commandment is the first of all?* ²⁹*Jesus answered, The first is, Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one;* ³⁰*you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.* ³¹*The second is this; you shall love your neighbor as yourself. (As your "selfie?" Um, no.) There is no other commandment greater than these.*

Did Jesus mean we should be adoring ourselves? No, we should be caring for ourselves, not being egotistical or proud. Our love for self comes out of a love for God first and foremost, which places us in our rightful position as *the created*. As such, love for self is humble, appreciative and God-honoring. Do we show our love for our neighbor in this way?



"Can We Auto-Correct Humanity," (Verse Two) Prince EA

And let me express first
Mr. Zuckerberg, not to be rude but you should re-classify Facebook to what it is:
An anti-social network
'Cause while we may have big friend lists
So many of us are friendless, all alone
'Cause friendships are more broken than the screens on our very phones
We sit at home on our computers measuring self-worth by numbers of followers and Likes
Ignoring those who actually love us
It seems we'd rather write an angry post
Than talk to someone who might actually hug us
Am I bugging?

solution



**Establish, or re-establish our
TRUE NORTH of MOTIVATION and ACTION:**
Are we moved to act by what we want and
feel, or do the lives of those around us
supply our motivation to action?

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

Empty conceit is just that - empty - it has no lasting value. Godliness, on the other hand, is an unending source of strength, grace and perspective!



Jonathan and Rick are ready for their first selfie!

Head tilt? ☒

New outfits? ☒

Upward angle? ☒

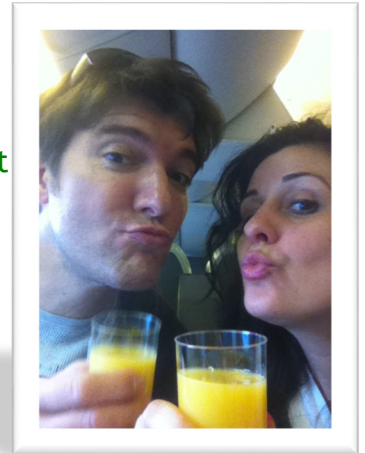
Duck lips? Um....hmmm. DELETE and try again!



Can we give our "selfie" a face-lift
to help us find a truer meaning to life?

SELFIE "POSES"

(Source: socialsamosa.com) Capture your pout.
Paint your pout in a bold color while keeping the rest
of your makeup minimal... Now click while focusing
on and showing off your super gorgeous lips.



Number two, *Seven Selfies*
You Can't Take Back, Meghan Rosette

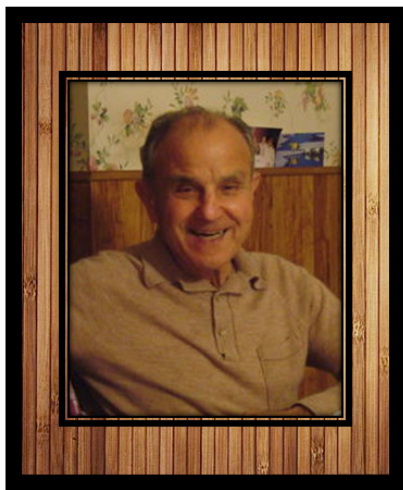
- Number two: *The adorable kid picture.*
*This one breaks the basic rule - never snap a
pic with a kid who's a thousand times cuter than you are.
So, ditch the adorable niece or cousin. Selfies are about YOU looking
awesome. You don't want some kid stealing your thunder.*



Solomon continues...Way back in ancient history, he lived the question
"How much is enough?"

Ecclesiastes 2:9-11: (NASB) ⁹Then I became great and increased more than all who preceded me in Jerusalem. My wisdom also stood by me. ¹⁰All that my eyes desired I did not refuse them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure, for my heart was pleased because of all my labor and this was my reward for all my labor. ¹¹Thus I considered all my activities which my hands had done and the labor which I had exerted, and behold all was vanity and striving after wind and there was no profit under the sun.

It all comes to a grinding halt, for no matter what we have, we are still mortal!



My dad instituted Sunday dinners that included family birthdays. He would ask, "Now that you are a year older, what are your words of wisdom for us?" It is a deep family tradition now.



🔊) When? 1839, *The Science of Selfies*, *Good Mythical Morning*, *Rhett and Link*

- *Where do selfies come from? Well, actually a guy named Robert Cornelius who was an American pioneer in photography produced a daguerreotype, which is an image formed on a polished silver surface. He did this in 1839. A primitive photo. One of the first photos ever, and because he didn't have anybody there with him apparently and the exposure time was so long, like a couple of minutes, he was able to take lens cap off, get in front of the thing, look at himself, look into the camera for a couple of minutes and then go back and finish taking the photo. So, I guess just by default one of the first photos ever was actually a selfie.*



Give your selfie a facelift! How?

Romans 12:1-2: (NRSV) ¹*I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.* ²*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

So, take the “i” out of “selfie” and replace it with an “L” for our Lord.

Add Sanctification and Salvation to the conclusion of what was once “selfie” and you now have “selfless!” Thus we have our facelift, for you can only accept these changes if you continually look up!



A caller from Connecticut suggests **James 1:23-25**: *Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do. Our Lord Jesus took the form of a servant to serve others. What a challenge for us to lay up treasures in heaven - forget the selfies!*



“Can We Auto-Correct Humanity,” (verse three) Prince EA

You tell me...

I asked a friend the other day let's meet up face-to-face

They said alright, what time you wanna Skype?

I responded with OMG, SRS, and then a bunch of SMH's

And realized what about me?

Do I not have the patience to have conversation without abbreviation?

This is the generation of media overstimulation

Chats have been reduced to snaps

The news is 140 characters

Videos are six seconds at high speed

And you wonder why ADD is on the rise faster than 4G LTE

But, get a load of this

Studies show the attention span of the average adult today
is one second lower than that of a gold fish.

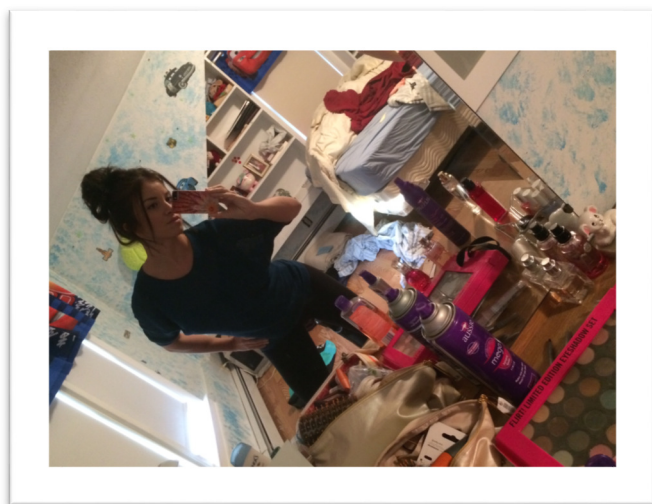
solution



Establish, or re-establish our **TRUE NORTH of ATTITUDE**: Do we have such an attitude as Jesus to provoke us to be able to put our lives on the line - to be able to walk away from comfort and into conflict?

Philippians 2:5-7: (NASB) ⁵Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, although he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.

Are there any dangers to leaving a "selfie" mentality behind?



SELFIE "POSES"

(Source: socialsamosa.com) The Mirror Selfie

Capture yourself from both sides by posing in front of a mirror in the most flattering angle. This will make your selfie look very interesting and it will stand out amidst innumerable other selfies in the Selfie Land.



"Selfie Song - Man, too" (Verse One) Mippey5



Repeat if needed, that's all I know
I'm home alone and I think I look great
So, Hi, internet, take a look at my face I can't let this outfit I got go to waste
but I'm stuck in a bathroom alone with no date
so I'll just stay here and take another Selfie.
I'm obsessed! It's unhealthy!
Click! Share! I don't care if I'm a man I'm-a take another pic
and I'm-a post to Instagram!
Uh...I'm bored, so I'm-a take a selfie
I'm obsessed! It's unhealthy!

Solomon continues...his perception of his world implodes around him as he is faced with mortality and the flawed thinking of a man who lavished too much upon himself:

Ecclesiastes 2:12-17: (NASB) ¹²So I turned to consider wisdom, madness and folly; for what will the man do who will come after the king except what has already been done? ¹³And I saw that wisdom excels folly as light excels darkness. ¹⁴The wise man's eyes are in his head, but the fool walks in darkness. And yet I know that one fate befalls them both.



So far so good - wisdom is better, yet both the wise and foolish die.

¹⁵Then I said to myself, as is the fate of the fool it will also befall me. Why then have I been extremely wise? So I said to myself, this too is vanity. ¹⁶For there is no lasting remembrance of the wise man, as with the fool, inasmuch as in the coming days all will be forgotten. And how the wise man and the fool alike die! ¹⁷So I hated life, for the work, which had been done under the sun, was grievous to me; because everything is futility and striving after wind.

What happened? Solomon reached for and grasped so much in his life that when it all added up to his life being a terminal endeavor, he abandoned everything as vanity - even wisdom! This is a sad and poignant warning to our present "selfie" society about our own end results of our reaching and seeking fulfillment in places that only give you "stuff."

In Memory of Rick's Dad

December 2, 1928 - January 21, 2015

"He never looked back..."

*2 Corinthians 12:9 (KJV) ⁹ And he said unto me, **My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.** Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*

My Prayer

(Written by Richard Sr.)

Dear Lord,

*Don't You mind my weakness;
You know Your strength is made perfect in my weakness;
Don't mind my failures;
Do not spare me for Thyself, Thyself Dear Lord,
In any way, at any cost, no matter whether I like it or not.
You know best, Dear Lord,
and I want You to have Your way in me.
Not my will but Thine always;
Probably I shall not like the process; it will hurt;
I may even feel discouraged and ready to draw back,
Doubts will assail me, fears will trouble me,
I may be weary of the conflict and sigh for rest
and cry for deliverance before the work is done.
Never mind, Dear Lord.
Finish the work You have begun, for Thy name's sake,
and for Thine own glory,
and stay not Thy hand until Thou seest clear and true,
and perfect Thine own image and likeness in me;
And to Thee, and Thee alone, shall be the praise forever.*

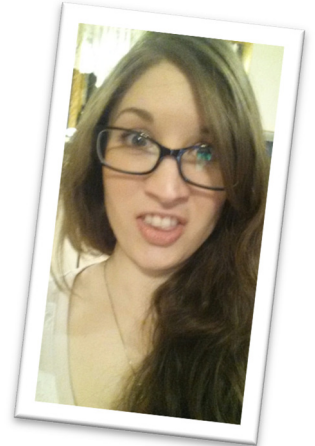


))) When 2002, *The Science of Selfies*, *Good Mythical Morning*, *Rhett and Link*

- *The first use of the term "selfie" appeared in 2002 on an Australian internet forum. September - this was the post: "I was drunk at a mate's 21st. I tripped over and landed lip first with front teeth coming a very close second on a set of steps. I had a hole about one centimeter long right through my bottom lip and sorry about the focus. It was a selfie."*



Well, that tells us a lot! We have become "drunk" with the idea of self-image, self-presentation and making ourselves look like something we probably are not so we can look down upon those around us.



We always have a choice in how we deal with the world around us - it may not be an easy choice and it may not always be an obvious choice, but we **do** have a choice:

Joshua 24:14-16: (NASB) ¹⁴Now, therefore, fear the LORD and serve Him in sincerity and truth; and put away the gods, which your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD. ¹⁶The people answered and said, Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods.

Being obsessed with selfies is really serving the god of self. Choose this day who you will serve! Today we have the idol of *ourselves*.



"Can We Auto-Correct Humanity," (Verse Four) Prince EA

So if you're one of the few people or aquatic animals that have yet to click off
or close this video, congratulations
Let me finish by saying you do have a choice, yes
But this one, my friends, we cannot auto-correct - we must do it ourself
Take control or be controlled,
Make a decision. Me?
No longer do I want to spoil a precious moment by recording it with a phone
I'm just gonna keep them
I don't wanna take a picture of all my meals anymore - I'm just gonna eat them
I don't want the new app, the new software, or the new update
And If I wanna post an old photo, who says I have to wait until Thursday
I'm so tired of performing in the pageantry of vanity
And conforming to this accepted form of digital insanity.

(For our readers over the age of 20, Thursday refers to "Throwback Thursday.")



A caller from Connecticut, a young man of 26 years old, does not have a smartphone but is married to someone who regularly uses social media. It bothers him that there is such a false perception of reality. He appreciates this program.

solution



Establish, or re-establish our **TRUE NORTH of PURPOSE:**
Is the purpose of our lives so vibrant that our humility and obedience to it will shine through, no matter what the cost?

Philippians 2:8: (NASB) *Being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*

Purpose brings choice which brings the courage to change!

Philippians 3:7: (NASB) *But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ.*

Instead of "take another selfie," how do we give in a way that is selfless?



SELFIE "POSES"

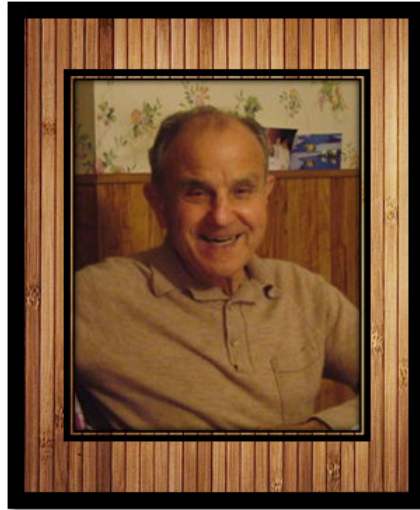
(Source: socialsamosa.com) The you're-getting-ready pose

Take a shot of yourself while you're applying makeup or tying up your hair...I promise the capture will not only turn out interesting but also extremely appealing.

A last look at Solomon - here having given in and realizing that what is given by God is a blessing, and what we rush around to amass for ourselves is nothing but busy work with no reward:

Ecclesiastes 2:24-26: (NASB) *²⁴There is nothing better for a man than to eat and drink and tell himself that his labor is good. This also I have seen that it is from the hand of God. ²⁵For who can eat and who can have enjoyment without Him? ²⁶For to a person who is good in His sight He has given wisdom and knowledge and joy, while to the sinner He has given the task of gathering and collecting so that he may give to one who is good in God's sight. This too is vanity and striving after wind.*

At least he began to again acknowledge God. He asked for and received wisdom but over time decided to test himself with pleasures and diversions. He really should have asked for wisdom with humility.



I wrote an allegory called “Road Signs” in tribute to my dad. You see signs on the road every day and take them for granted until something happens like a snowstorm at night and your sense of direction is off. Then you look for the road sign as a marker to get home. He was a “road sign” where what he was telling us was wise and gave us important direction. *See Bonus Material.*

Back to basics!

James 4:6-10: (NASB) ⁶*But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.* ⁷*Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.* ⁸*Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.*

Submitting to God is the opposite action from “the pride of life” and from “I’ll take another selfie!”

Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.

Being double-minded is basically being lazy because we are not fully committed either way. We **MUST** shake off the lethargy of double-mindedness and reach with intention for the selfless humility of serving God through Jesus!

If we put our hope in man - in ourselves - what hope of glory can possibly exist?

What if we hope in God through Christ?

Colossians 1:27-29: (NASB) ²⁷*to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.* ²⁸*We proclaim him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ.* ²⁹*For this purpose also I labor, striving according to his power, which mightily works within me.*

Beauty is not about the photo, it is about the purpose.



“Can We Auto-Correct Humanity,” (Verse Four) Prince EA

*Call me crazy, but I imagine a world
where we smile when we have low batteries
'cause that will mean we'll be one bar closer - to humanity*



solution



Establish, or re-establish our
TRUE NORTH of **VISION**:
Does our faith in the vision
of God's future
override and obliterate
the paltry visions
of our own little lives?

Philippians 2:9-11: (NASB) ⁹*For this reason also, God highly exalted him, and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

Our vision is the glorification of Jesus - his name; his work. It isn't about me. When we can clearly see that, all of the other distractions in our lives can go away. There is value in living a life bigger than ourselves.

We have become slaves to the god of ourselves, the god of image and presentation. In reality we can choose to walk away from that and be servants of the God of righteousness, mercy, love, justice and wisdom. We can walk a life connected to those around us. Put the selfies away and bring instead selflessness and see how much better life is.

*So, what do "selfies" say about us?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*

*And now a tribute to Richard, Sr.
only in the **Full Edition** of CQ Rewind!*





"Road Signs"

Sometimes there are people in our lives who just are. They are not the most vocal, they are not those who seek attention or the limelight. They just are. They live in a quiet, directed and disciplined way doing those things they are committed to with such apparent ease and grace that they are often overlooked. Overlooked that is, until there is a disturbance or challenge in OUR lives – a tragedy or a trauma. It is when these tragedies and traumas happen that we look for those people, for our lives have fallen out of balance and direction and we need guidance – we need a focal point...

Here is an example: You are driving home from a distant location at night and a major snowstorm begins to rage. As you drive the road becomes more treacherous, your vision becomes less clear and even your sense of direction comes into question, because all you can see is the storm. You feel fear and uneasiness, for what had always been a familiar and even comfortable road now has become an uncertain and even menacing path. So you drive and you watch, because you know that somewhere along this road will be that familiar road sign that confirms your location and gives you hope that your trauma will end. You know the sign will be where it always has been – you have seen it, you have read it and you have followed it a thousand times before, mostly without much notice. Now though, now you need and anxiously seek out that sign because it represents order and location. That sign represents hope and home...and so you look for it.

As you navigate your dark, treacherous path, the sign suddenly appears and you are inspired and refocused, for now you KNOW where you are and you KNOW how to get home! While the tension of your journey does not vanish as a result of the sign, it does begin to be replaced by more and more courage because this road sign has reset you to a reality that no longer sees the storm; this road sign has instructed you to a reality that sees through the storm...

This is how you get home...



My dad was one of those people who just are – one of those people who in actuality represent road signs for the rest of us because of their steady, quiet, disciplined focus. They are our road signs because they have learned through their own experiences simply how to “be,” how to always move forward and how to know where home is. Their characters over years of testing have been set firmly in the concrete foundation of faith and the message they hold out for all to see is a message of true hope, true direction and true instruction, for their message is from the hand of God through His written word.

Today we stop to honor the life of my dad, who served as a quiet but significant road sign to all he met. Though he gave many sermons from the pulpit, his mightiest and most powerful sermon was the sermon of his life – the sermon of his love for God; the sermon of his dedication to following in the footsteps of Jesus.

My dad’s strongest teachings were not even necessarily with words – his strongest teachings were the tireless day to day examples of living, being and seeking the Gospel. My dad and those like him are there to show us the way, no matter what the conditions are that surround our journey.

Notice those around you who are the road signs in life. They will not disappoint you if you read their message and follow their direction, and who knows, maybe one day you and I can become the road signs for those around us...

