

GET OVER YOURSELF

REBELLING AGAINST THE CULTURE OF NARCISSISM

Part 5

ENTITLEMENT: The Culture of SPECIAL

INTRODUCTION – Narcissism versus Confidence

Parenting changes for the better...

Habits that aren't helping...

Other unhelpful trends...

The results...

- ENTITLEMENT AT SCHOOL...
- ENTITLEMENT AT WORK...
- ENTITLEMENT IN RELATIONSHIPS...

DINE IN – Keys to Killing Entitlement

Thanksgiving...

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Humility, Compassion, & Serving...

John 13:1-17; Ephesians 4:2; Philippians 2:3; Colossians 3:12; Titus 3:2; James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5-6

Specialness through belonging...

1 Corinthians 12

Intentional Simplicity...

Matthew 6:19-34

TAKEOUT – I'll Have That to Go Please

TAKEOUT #1 – TV or not TV

Make media a place for shared experience. Limit all media that separates. There may be some shows or music that you and your children do not share, but keep that the rare exception. Television, movies, books, and music should lead to shared experience, conversation, learning together and mutual understanding. Talk about what you see, or your silence will allow narcissistic behaviour to pass as normal.

TAKE OUT #2 – Giving Gifts

Give few purchased gifts unless they are truly right for the person. Set time aside to make gifts or give the gift of shared experiences, such as coupons for shared experiences that can be redeemed quickly.

TAKEOUT #3 – Cultivating a Habit of Gratitude

"One of the best ways to combat entitlement is to be grateful for what you already have. Gratitude is the opposite of entitlement: you think about what you already have, instead of what you deserve to have but don't." (The Narcissism Epidemic)

TAKEOUT #4 – Being Quick to Apologize... Sincerely

"To apologize for anything you've done to wrong someone is to discard entitlement and move toward a true connection with someone else." (The Narcissism Epidemic)

CONCLUSION – How is Your Foot Washing Coming?

John 13:13-17

FOR FURTHER RESEARCH...

- Polly Young-Eisendrath, *The Self-Esteem Trap: Raising Confident and Compassionate Kids in an Age of Self-Importance*
- David Walsh, *No: Why Kids – of All Ages – Need to Hear it and Ways Parents Can Say It*
- Karyn Gordon, *Raising Healthy Teens in an Age of Overindulgence* (www.drkaryn.com)

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS

Warming Up...

1. Have you heard about the plan to change our service times? Do you understand the reasons why? Reflect on some of the opportunities that our church family has been given with these new service times. Talk together about what new service time you might be interested in attending.
2. Jean M. Twenge & W. Keith Campbell write, "[North] American culture is obsessed with getting across the message that we are all different and all unique. Why not emphasize instead what makes us all similar as human beings?" What do you think?

Look to the Book...

3. Read **1 Corinthians 12** - from different translations if time permits. A) What verse or idea stands out to you the most? Why? B) Note that the earliest line of demarcation in Christian faith revolved around Jesus being Lord. Why do you think Jesus (rather than God the Father or the Holy Spirit) is singled out as the centrepiece of Christian faith? C) According to **verse 7**, why are individual Christians given spiritual gifts? How does this challenge our Western individualist mentality? D) In what verses and in what way does this passage warn against self-deprecation? In what verses and in what way does this passage warn against self-sufficiency? E) How does Paul advocate for a kingdom culture where more modestly gifted members are honoured and delighted in more than the 'out-front' members? What might that look like if lived out in our churches today? F) What gifts do you believe God has given you for serving others? How do you use them? How might you use them better?

So What?...

4. If you are a parent, what is one thing you could do differently to better equip your child(ren) to rebel against the culture of narcissism?
5. What narcissistic traits have you identified in yourself so far in this series? What are you doing about it?
6. Take a few minutes to meditate on things you are (or should be) thankful for. Write them down if you can. Then talk about them if time permits. Can you commit to doing this daily for one week?

The Meeting House | Sunday, December 6, 2009 | Bruxy Cavey

Notes are available online at themeetinghouse.ca/teaching