

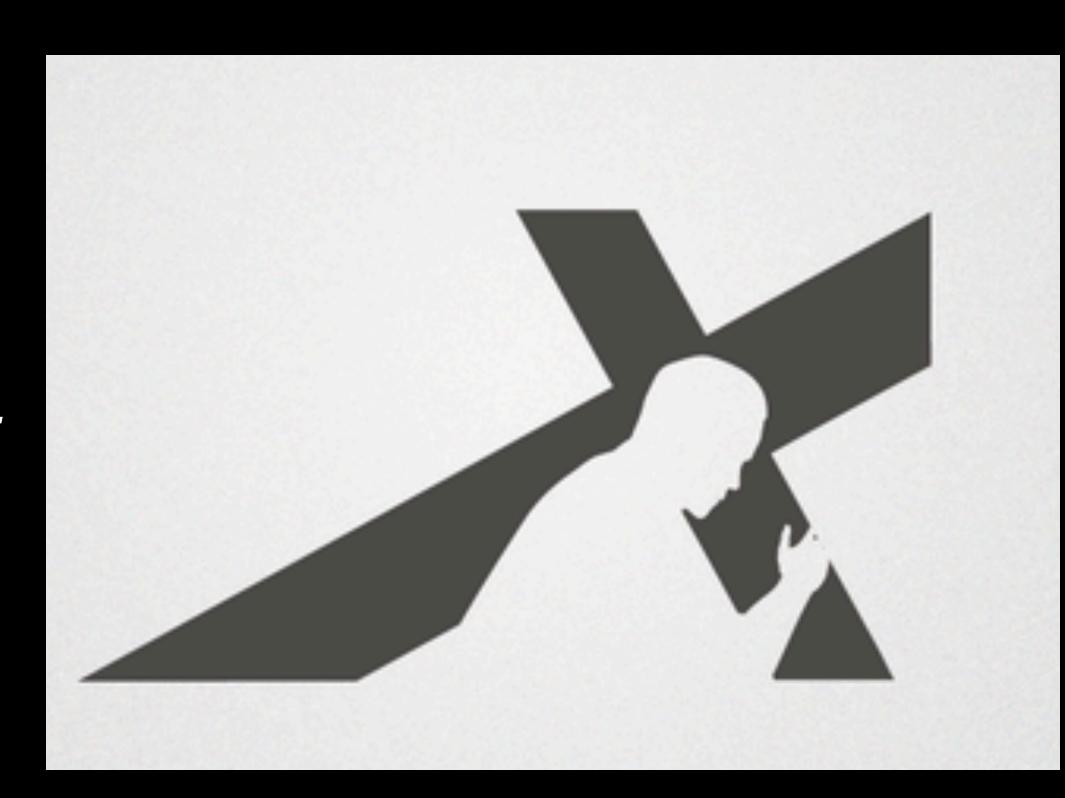
self-indulgent |self ən'dəljənt

adjective

characterized by doing or tending to do exactly what one wants, especially when this involves pleasure or idleness:

• (of a creative work) lacking economy and control.

- Self-denial is one of the hardest mandates that God has given us. To deny one's self, is the first step in receiving Christ. *Matt. 16:24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.*
- When men cannot deny their own feelings, aspirations, and ambitions, they cannot follow Christ. Titus 1:16 They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.
- Men that cannot deny these things in order to follow Christ must discredit the Bible or reinterpret it, to agree with their agenda. 2Tim. 3:8 Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.





- Fathers should teach their wives and children how to deny themselves by working and providing for the family. The father sharing and giving of himself illustrates how one denies his own desires for others. This example helps us to deny ourselves and follow Christ. 1Tim. 5:8 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.
- It is hard to understand God's plan of being taught and led by a man, if you lack proper upbringing. This causes many to be selfish and put their own desires before God's will. Prov. 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.
- When we do not deny ourselves, we cannot receive God's kingdom. We will constantly put our will before God's and eventually lose hope in God's way ever working for us. Rom. 1:28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

- When we have had a less than ideal upbringing, we will usually want our way and fight against those that fight against our will and desires. *Prov.* 15:10 Correction is grievous unto him that forsaketh the way: and he that hateth reproof shall die.
- This attitude makes it hard for us to hear and receive correction. The first step in self-denial is the ability to admit wrong and receive correction. *Prov. 6:23 For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life:*
- Resolving the issue of nonconformity and self-denial starts with us making strong efforts to adhere to what we are being taught and make changes accordingly. James 2:14 What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?



Self-indulgence is a learned behavior. When children grow up watching men put themselves before them, they learn self-indulgence instead of self-denial. When parents push the importance of being financially successful above good character and morality, children grow up putting their financial and emotional needs over their spiritual needs. This behavior makes denying oneself very difficult.

Our poor example is the reason why our generation puts their own personal feelings, wants, and desires above doing what is right and good. Christianity is being attacked today by these types of people. People that would rather discredit it than abide by it. People that would rather call it a lie and challenge it than submit to it and live by it.

In our society, people want what they want at any cost. At the expense of our children's well being, we want divorce, so we (not our children) can be happy! At the expense of our children not understanding their purpose, we shun creation roles and are absent during their formative years! At the expense of our family having no like-minded believers in their lives, we shun church, so that we can live the way we want without any accountability or leadership! At the cost of our children turning away from God when they are older, we push career over character!

In 2017, self-indulgence must be resolved once and for all. We must bring our self-indulgence to a resolution so that self-denial can supersede it. Only then will we be able to receive what God has for us and be able to live according to His desires and not our own.

Gal. 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.