

Not “I”, But Christ

*Lord, bend that proud and stiff-necked “I”.
Help me to bend the neck and die,*

*Beholding Him on Calvary,
who bowed His Head for me.*

The following are some of the features and manifestations of the self-life. The Holy Spirit alone can interpret and apply this to your individual case. As you read, examine yourself in the very presence of God. Are you ever conscious of:

A secret spirit of pride - an exalted feeling, in view of your success or position, because of your good training or appearance; because of your natural gifts and abilities? An important, independent spirit?

Love of human praise; a secret fondness to be noticed; love of supremacy, drawing attention to self in conversation; a swelling out of self when you have had a free time in speaking or praying?

The stirrings of anger or impatience, which, worst of all, you call nervousness or holy indignation; a touchy, sensitive disposition to resent and retaliate when disapproved of or contradicted; a desire to throw sharp, heated flings at another?

Self-will; a stubborn, unteachable spirit; an arguing, talkative spirit; harsh, sarcastic expressions, an unyielding, head-

strong disposition; a driving, commanding spirit; a disposition to criticize and pick flaws when set aside and unnoticed; a peevish, fretful spirit; a disposition that loves to be coaxed and humored?

Carnal fear; a man-fearing spirit; a shrinking from reproach and duty; reasoning around your cross; a shrinking from doing your whole duty by those of wealth or position; a fearfulness that someone will offend and drive some prominent person away; a compromising spirit?

A jealous disposition, a secret spirit of envy shut up in your heart; an unpleasant sensation in view of the great prosperity and success of another; a disposition to speak of the faults and failings rather than the gifts and virtues of those more talented and appreciated than yourself?

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me...” (Galatians 2:20)

Unbelief, a spirit of discouragement in times of pressure and opposition; lack of quietness and confidence of God; lack of faith and trust in God; a disposition to worry and complain in the midst of pain, poverty, or at the dispensations of Divine Providence; an overanxious feeling whether everything will come out all right?

Formality and deadness; lack of concern for lost souls; dryness and indifference ; lack of power with God?

Selfishness; love of ease; love of money?

A dishonest, deceitful disposition; the evading and covering of the truth; the covering up of your real faults; leaving a

better impression of yourself than is strictly true; false humility; exaggeration, straining the truth.

These are some of the traits which generally indicate a carnal heart.

By prayer, hold your heart open to the searchlight of God, until you see the groundwork thereof. "Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way in me" (Psalm 139: 23, 24).

The Holy Ghost will enable you, by confession and faith, to bring your "self-life" to the death. Do not patch over, but go to the bottom. It alone will pay.

Oh, to be saved from myself, dear Lord,

Oh, to be lost in Thee;

Oh, that it might be no more I,

But Christ that lives in me.

"Create in me a clean heart, O God;
and renew a right spirit within me" (Psalm 51:10).