

## Selfishness

What is Selfishness? - This is a question which may very naturally arise in the mind for the term 'selfish' is so often used without regard to its true meaning; in the manner in which it is generally applied, unjust would be a more appropriate word, for Self is the moving principle in every heart, and when controlled and directed by a proper education, results in good. -

Happiness is the aim of all, and the rational mind soon discovers that true happiness can only be attained by promoting that of others; but the unjust, think to gain their object by pursuing their own individual gratifications, at the expense of the peace of those around them. Selfishness like a disease diffuses its baneful effects through the mind, poisoning all the pure springs of thought and action, insidious in its approaches it may be lurking in the heart, like the canker in the rosebud, when all looks fair and beautiful to the eye and there is no appearance of organic defect: There are those, who, while the sun of prosperity shines warmly upon them, will reflect a portion of its light and heat, but they have no inherent warmth in their hearts to bless with, when the clouds of adversity sweep across the sun and obscuring its brightness, cast their cold shadows upon every thing around: Bereft of the cheering influence which has hitherto sustained them, the flowers of peace and happiness wither and die.

A habit of selfishness when long indulged in, weakens the affections, paralyzes the understanding and stamps itself in revolting characters, upon the external appearance.

There are those upon whose countenance is written, I, or myself in legible distinctness, speaking in every movement; scenes, to others the source of the purest joy they pass unheeding. They have no ear for the melodies of nature, no eye for her beauties - They see nothing in all the wide-spread field of thought of sufficient merit or importance to abstract their minds for one moment from the idol they adore. What an ignoble worship is this, cramping and fettering the free born spirit

the nobler part, to the continual contemplation of its clay  
prison house! But how like a sunbeam amid darkness  
is the face that glows with the feelings of a generous heart -  
a heart that is continually searching for good instead of e-  
vil and pays a willing homage to excellence wherever  
found; this is a charm time cannot destroy, and one  
that will twine its evergreen wreath around the brow  
of age.