

**B.ED. SEM IV
PAPER XII(F)
TEACHING OF VALUE
UNIT -V
TOPIC VALE OF SELF - SACRIFICE VS VALUE OF
SELF-CENTREDNESS**

SELF-CENTERED

Synonyms and Antonyms of SELF-CENTERED

1. overly concerned with one's own desires, needs, or interests <a group of *self-centered* residents with no interest or involvement in their community>**Synonyms** egoistic (*also* egoistical), egomaniacal, egotistic (*or* egotistical), narcissistic, self-absorbed, self-centered, self-concerned, self-infatuated, self-interested, self-involved, selfish, self-loving, self-obsessed, self-oriented, self-preoccupied, self-regarding, self-seeking, self-serving, solipsistic **Related Words** inner-directed; complacent, conceited, overweening, pompous, prideful, proud, self-complacent, self-conceited, self-contented, self-directed, self-glorifying, self-important, self-indulgent, self-opinionated, self-pleased, self-satisfied, smug, vain, vainglorious**Near Antonyms** altruistic, beneficent, benevolent, charitable, generous, greathearted, humanitarian, magnanimous, philanthropic (*also* philanthropical), self-denying, self-giving, self-sacrificing; other-directed; diffident, self-

doubting; self-flagellating; self-questioning, self-reflective
Antonyms self-forgetful, self-forgetting, selfless, unselfish

Key difference: **‘Selfish’** people concentrate only on their personal views and regards, and thereby avoid others. While, **‘Self-Centered’** individual are those who are excessively concerned with only their needs and importance. Both, words reflect to those people who give or seek prime importance to only themselves. These are not concerning to other individuals or ignore their participation.

Actually, both these words, ‘selfish’ and ‘self-concerned’ mean same. But slightly differ in their deep explanations; i.e. selfish relates to selfishness, in which individuals deliberately attempt to improve their part of expense share from others. Or can also be considered as taking others advantage and fulfilling one’s desire. While, self-centered comes from self-centeredness in which individuals emphasizes more on their sayings, directions or mindsets to achieve their goals. Here, they ignore other individuals without letting it known to them.

‘Selfish’ combines the pronoun self-, meaning *‘to or for yourself’*, with the suffix -ish, for *"having the character of."*

A person is selfish when he/she is too very conscious about his/her needs and demands; and hence in order to accomplish them they intentionally and knowingly perform things so that they can achieve their needs. Many times, people ignore things a lot in selfishness; they start finding ways out to avoid those things from which they are frustrated. They don’t face them but, rather keep themselves away from them. Also, being selfish means only to think about one self’s and their profit; then for achieving that part of profit that person can opt for any situation. More broadly, it relates to one self’s

desperation to have all things only with themselves and not with others.

Self-centered

‘Self-centered’ highlights on two words, first ‘self’ means you, and ‘centered’ means prime focus.

A self-centered individual is the one who gives an excessive importance to him/herself and their related things. These are the ones’ who primly focuses on only their sayings and talks only about themselves and their related things. Not concerning and giving importance to others. Self-centered people tend to ignore the needs of others and only do what's best for them. These can also be called as egocentric, egoistic, and egoistical. Here the person doesn’t even realize their doings or their talks. The term ‘self-centered’ is mostly taken into negative connotations, as the word clearly refers to, centered in oneself. In its extreme forms, the behavior is considered to be a type of personality disorder. People with such type of disorder are very centered to their own concerns or views. They lack empathy and often get exaggerate their own self-importance. Due to this, these types of people find it difficult to co-operate and manage with their dear ones.

Both words, selfish and self-centered emphasize more on ‘self’ aspect. Selfish is an act which an individual does deliberately in order to achieve his/her goals or aims. While, self-centered refers to those ones who primarily considers them than others and ignore them. The self centered individuals are prone to behave like that way and hence they don’t even realize their behavior. Also, at times a selfish individual can change; but a self-centered individual is considered to be fixed and stationary and hence these cannot change. Selfish can sometimes be taken into a positive

connotation, but self-centered is always taken into negative connotation.

Comparison between Selfish and Self Centered:

	Selfish	Self Centered
Short description	Selfish refers to the act of devoting to or caring only for oneself. It is generally being concerned with one's own interests, benefits, welfare, comfort et cetera, regardless of the interests of others.	Self-centered means chiefly or mostly concerned with one's own interests. Self-centered people are considered selfish and even egotistical. The archaic use of the word means fixed and unchanging.
Forms	adjective	adjective
Synonyms	<i>egocentric, egoistic, egoistical, self-centered, self-centered</i>	<i>egocentric, egoistic, egoistical, self-centered, self-absorbed, self-involved, selfish, narcissistic</i>
Antonyms	<i>unselfish, altruistic, selfless, considerate, generous, public-spirited, self-denying,</i>	<i>altruistic, selfless, unselfish</i>

	<i>self-giving, sacrificing, forgetful, sharing</i>	
Their nature	To be selfish is something, which a person does deliberately.	To be self-centered is not deliberate but not known to that person; he/she go on being in that state.

IS SELF SACRIFICE ULTIMATELY SELFISH

If sacrificing my interests for another's sake makes me feel good about myself, is my so-called "act of kindness" selfish at its core?

Most of us don't know how to answer. Does tithing just make me feel good inside? Do heroes just die just for their own glory? Since we are sometimes blind to the true reasons behind our actions, how can we ever be sure our own motivations aren't somewhat selfish?

We're not alone in our altruistic skepticism. According to [Judith Lichtenberg in *The New York Times*](#), "[T]he view that people never intentionally act to benefit others except to obtain some good for themselves still possesses a powerful lure over our thinking."

The idea that humans are always motivated by selfishness is called "[psychological](#)

egoism.” Psychological egoists believe that even if an action seems altruistic, it’s ultimately done for direct or indirect personal gain. The possibility of true self-sacrifice without receiving anything in return is completely ruled out.

Though they may not use the term, many people believe in psychological egoism for two reasons:

- As economists claim, every rational being behaves in his or her own self-interest.
- As Christianity teaches, humans are fallen and prone to selfishness.

However, psychological egoism challenges our Christian call to be self-sacrificing like Christ.

Self-interest and Selfishness

Before exploring how psychological egoism and self-sacrifice are at odds, we need to set one thing straight: there is a huge difference between self-interest and selfishness.

The distinction between self-interest and selfishness seems to be so blurred in public discourse that self-interest nearly means selfishness. But this is far from the true definition of self-interest.

Selfishness is a sin, but self-interest is necessary to live out the Christian life. While the Bible clearly condemns selfishness, self-interest is a good thing—it enables us

to become well-functioning, contributing members of God's community. Self-interest motivates us to get up and go to work in the morning, to make friends, to care for our children, to drive carefully to work, and to go to church. It is even in our self-interest to be altruistic. Self-interest is not mutually exclusive from altruism in the Bible.

But is altruism also selfish if you like the way it makes you feel? No. Feeling good after an act of charity or self-sacrifice is *not* selfish. As Paul says in [2 Corinthians 9:7](#), "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

God loves a cheerful giver. That means God wants us to give freely and enjoy the act of giving. Rather than attributing the benefit of cheer we feel after giving to our selfishness, we should accept this joy as a blessing from God. After all, joy is a fruit of the spirit ([Galatians 5:22](#)). Why would God want us to feel bad for doing something good?

God's Pleasure—and Ours

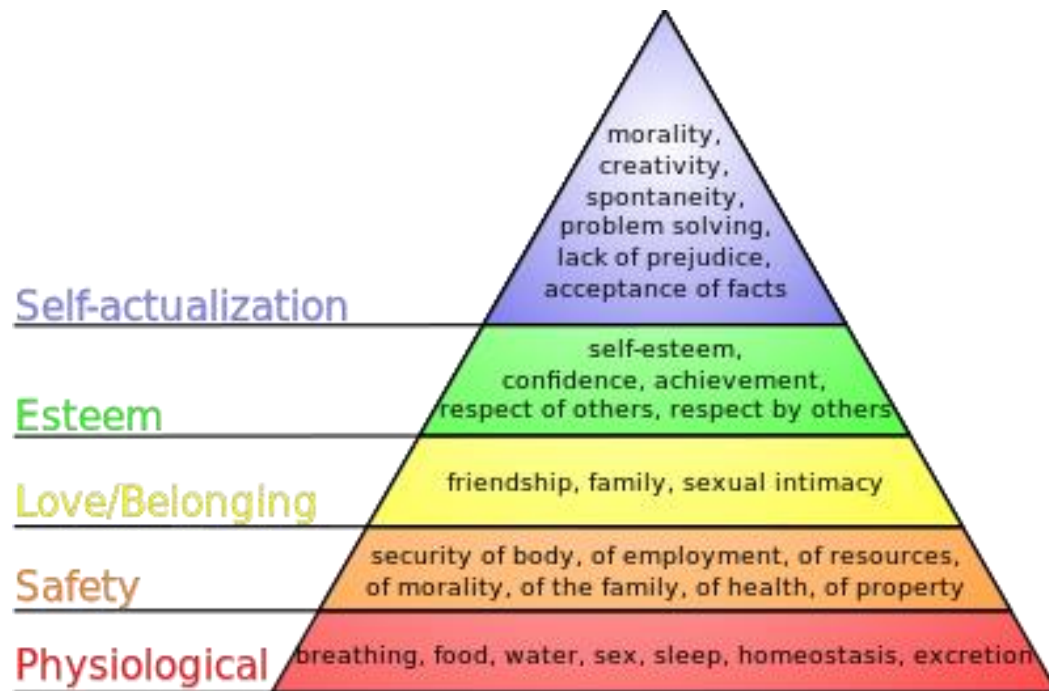
This brings us to a deeper and more theological question: Is it sinful for a Christian to seek joy and happiness in this life? Aren't we supposed to seek God, not our pleasure?

To answer questions about our own pleasure, we need to understand a crucial truth about hedonism, or pleasure-seeking. In 1986, John Piper introduced the term “Christian hedonism” in his book *Desiring God: Meditations of a Christian Hedonist*. Although the term “Christian hedonism” sounds like an oxymoron, it is not a contradiction at all. We are Christian hedonists because we believe the song of Psalm 16:11: “You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness and joy, in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”

According to Piper, Christian hedonism is desiring the vast, ocean-deep pleasures of God more than the mud-puddle pleasures of wealth, power, or lust. Unfortunately, too many Christians have bought into the lie that God doesn’t want us to be happy. Piper dispels this myth in his essay “What Is Christian Hedonism?”

We value most what we delight in most. Pleasure is a gauge that measures how valuable someone or something is to us. Pleasure is the measure of our treasure.

Why Being Self-Centered is Good



This may seem like an odd blog entry, but it has been the topic of conversation over many dinners recently.

Although we are taught from a young age that being self-centered is a bad thing, I think that more people would benefit from being this way. Let me explain.

To start off, I am not suggesting that people should be selfish. I think of selfish as being “exclusively concerned with oneself.”

Being self-centered – in my opinion – is entirely different.

Centering is what you base your life on.

My parents are children-centered. For them, my sister and I are the most important part of their life. They live vicariously through us.

I have friends who are spouse-centered. They do everything in their power to please their partner.

Too many of my friends are work-centered. Their job is the most important aspect in their life. They get meaning from their career. It is no surprise that men are twice as likely to die during their first five years of retirement, than they are prior to retirement.

Others are service-centered. They give their lives to charity and others. They sacrifice their own well-being in the name of contribution. Oprah may fall into this category. One of the reasons she claims she put on all of her weight is that she did not spend enough time taking care of herself.

Which leads us to the benefits of self-centering.

Throughout your life, there is only one constant. You. Your children may pass away before you do. Your spouse may, in spite of all of your loving, leave you. Your job (as many people are finding out) is only temporary. Even service to others can be fraught with challenges. If you center on someone or something else, you may be giving up control of your life.

Only YOU will be around for as long as you live.

Therefore, instead of centering your life on someone or something that may not be around as long as you, maybe you should try being *self-centered*. This gives you some level of stability in an unpredictable world. Even the Merriam-

Webster dictionary definition – “independent of outside force or influence” – supports this notion.

Anyone who has flown on a plane has heard the flight attendant say, “If the plane loses oxygen pressure for any reason, the oxygen masks will drop down out of the small overhead compartment. If you are seated next to someone who might need some assistance, you should put your own mask on first, and then breathe normally as you assist the other person.”

Take care of yourself first. Be centered. Be grounded. Take control of your life and don't get derailed by circumstances around you.

Being self-centered is NOT the same as being selfish. Those who are self-centered are NOT narcissistic, hedonistic, or self-absorbed. Because self-centered individuals are more grounded, they are able to give even more to others. They have the potential to be even more generous and to make even greater contributions.

In some respects, this is in line with Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs (pictured above). Self-actualization (which is where I put self-centering) is the highest level, higher than esteem, love/belonging, safety and physiological needs. Interestingly, creativity is listed under self-actualization.