

## Doctrine of Self

1. As the Bible instructs individuals on how to treat others, so the Bible teaches individuals what to do and what not to do themselves.
2. Jesus was tempted to show off His divine power, but He refused.
  - *Matthew 4:6 And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.*
  - *Luke 4:9 And he brought him to Jerusalem, and set him on a pinnacle of the temple, and said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down from hence:*
3. A person is not to commit perjury or lie under oath but to keep a promise or oath made to the Lord.
  - *Matthew 5:33 Again, ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, Thou shalt not forswear [commit perjury] thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths:*
4. People are to love others as much as they love themselves.
  - *Matthew 19:19 Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.*
  - *Matthew 22:39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.*
  - *Mark 12:31 And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.*
  - *James 2:8 If ye fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:*
5. Jesus was tempted to save Himself from the agony of Calvary.
  - *Matthew 27:40 And saying, Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross.*
  - *Mark 15:30 Save thyself, and come down from the cross.*
  - *Luke 23:37 And saying, If thou be the king of the Jews, save thyself.*
  - *Luke 23:39 And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us.*

6. While the proverb, “God helps those who help themselves” is not biblical, the sentiment is recognized.
  - *Luke 4:23 And he said unto them, Ye will surely say unto me this proverb, Physician, heal thyself: whatsoever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in thy country.*
7. Gospel obedience is important. What Jesus commands, a person must do.
  - *Luke 5:14 And he charged him to tell no man: but go, and shew thyself to the priest, and offer for thy cleansing, according as Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.*
8. Self-examination, self-judgment and self-correction must precede criticism of someone else.
  - *Luke 6:42 Either how canst thou say to thy brother, Brother, let me pull out the mote that is in thine eye, when thou thyself beholdest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, cast out first the beam out of thine own eye, and then shalt thou see clearly to pull out the mote that is in thy brother's eye.*
9. Care should be taken that the Lord not be troubled needlessly.
  - *Luke 7:6 Then Jesus went with them. And when he was now not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to him, saying unto him, Lord, trouble not thyself: for I am not worthy that thou shouldest enter under my roof:*
10. A person should endeavour to love the Lord God with the entire heart, soul, strength and mind, and then others as well.
  - *Luke 10:27 And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.*
11. A person must prepare to fellowship with the Lord.
  - *Revelation 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.*
12. Jesus was asked to give an opinion about Himself.
  - *John 1:22 Then said they unto him, Who art thou? That we may give an answer to them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself?*
13. People do not generally act in secret who wish to be known widely.
  - *John 7:4 For there is no man that doeth any thing in secret, and he himself seeketh to be known openly. If thou do these things, shew thyself to the world.*

14. What Jesus said about Himself was declared to be a lie by the Pharisees.

- *John 8:13 The Pharisees therefore said unto him, Thou bearest record of thyself; thy record is not true.*

15. The people were incredulous when Jesus revealed Himself as the Son of God.

- *John 8:53 Art thou greater than our father Abraham, which is dead? And the prophets are dead: whom makest thou thyself?*

16. Self-awareness is important and risky.

- *John 10:33 The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.*

17. The Lord was selective to whom He revealed gospel truths.

- *John 14:22 Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world?*

18. A person must be able to be discerning, especially about spiritual matters.

- *John 18:34 Jesus answered him, Sayest thou this thing of thyself, or did others tell it thee of me?*

19. Self-determination will one day be replaced by the discretion of others.

- *John 21:18 Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not.*

20. A Christian can be led by God the Holy Spirit.

- *Acts 8:29 Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.*

21. A Christian can be guided by holy angels.

- *Acts 12:8 And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me.*

22. Christians must try to prevent others from doing themselves harm.

- *Acts 16:28 But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here.*

23. A Christian must practice ritual and real cleansings.

- *Acts 21:24* *Them take, and purify thyself with them, and be at charges with them, that they may shave their heads: and all may know that those things, whereof they were informed concerning thee, are nothing; but that thou thyself also walkest orderly, and keepest the law.*

24. A person must render a righteous judgment about others.

- *Acts 24:8* *Commanding his accusers to come unto thee: by examining of whom thyself mayest take knowledge of all these things, whereof we accuse him.*

25. Speaking up in defense of oneself is not wrong.

- *Acts 26:1* *Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Thou art permitted to speak for thyself. Then Paul stretched forth the hand, and answered for himself:*

26. Those who proclaim the gospel might be declared mad by non-believers.

- *Acts 26:24* *And as he thus spake for himself, Festus said with a loud voice, Paul, thou art beside thyself; much learning doth make thee mad.*

27. It is possible for self to condemn self.

- *Romans 2:1* *Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.*

28. A soul can store up the wrath of God against Himself by having a hard and impenitent heart.

- *Romans 2:5* *But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;*

***Special Note.***

The concept of storing up the wrath of God explains in part why immediate judgment does not fall upon our transgressions.

29. A person can be very self-righteous and even arrogant in evil or injurious behavior to others.

- *Romans 2:19* *And art confident that thou thyself art a guide of the blind, a light of them which are in darkness,*

30. When we try to teach others, we teach ourselves as well.

- *Romans 2:21* *Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? Thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal?*

31. The Law of God tells a person what not to do and also what is to be done.

- *Romans 13:9 For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.*

32. There is inner happiness to the person who does not condemn himself by allowing sin in the soul.

- *Romans 14:22 Hast thou faith? Have it to thyself before God. Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth.*

33. To love others like a person loves himself is to fulfill the Law.

- *Galatians 5:14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.*

34. A person must be careful to examine his own life before finding fault with someone else. In addition, a person must move to restore those who are discovered to be at fault.

- *Galatians 6:1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.*

35. A Christian must learn how to behave in the house of God.

- *1 Timothy 3:15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.*

36. The Christian is to engage in spiritual exercises with a view towards godliness.

- *1 Timothy 4:7 But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness.*

37. A Christian is to engage in spiritual meditations.

- *1 Timothy 4:15 Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.*

38. A Christian is not only to know bible doctrine but to continue in it in order to be saved.

- *1 Timothy 4:16 Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.*

39. A Christian is to seek to be morally and doctrinally pure and not endorse too quickly the sins of others.

- *1 Timothy 5:22 Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.*

40. Personal fellowship is to be withdrawn from those that proclaim a gospel contrary to sound doctrine.

- *1 Timothy 6:5 Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.*

41. A Christian is to be a student of the Scriptures.

- *2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

42. Performing good works are to be part of the lifestyle of a Christian.

- *Titus 2:7 In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity,*