

so small and so bad. Start there. Admit this, then we can start looking for a solution.

The solution to a world full of such small, vile, self-centred people like this, can be found nowhere else but in the Bible. No other religion teaches this or even believes anything like this about human nature. Not even churches believe it. Jesus Christ is the only one who has confronted this situation head on. And we can read about Him only in the Bible. The Bible alone is our manual of living in this corrupt, evil world.

Other religions may speak of how we need to do things to placate whatever god or gods they espouse. Priests or pastors in churches may speak about how “precious” we all are and how God loves us all just the way we are, regardless of our utter, wretched self-centredness. The Bible, on the other hand, speaks of our **inability** to placate God and our **need** of a Saviour.

Galatians 6:3

*For if a man think himself to be something, when he is **nothing**, he deceiveth himself.*

Surely King Solomon was right when he said:

Ecclesiastes 2:17

*Therefore I hated life; because the work that is wrought under the sun is grievous unto me: for all is vanity and vexation of spirit.*

But we think ourselves so wonderful:

Revelation 3:17

*Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked*

In our being so overly confident in ourselves, we can't see how stupid we really are. And as a consequence, we don't see the depth of how bad, and how selfish, we actually are at heart. That's why most people don't have time for religion. Because they don't want to come to any such conclusion about themselves. Most would admit to making a few mistakes in life, but they can't see, and don't want to see, how absolutely vile and self-centred their lives really are. We need to realise AND admit that we are all this bad. The more we look at ourselves, look back at our lives, and have a truly honest opinion about ourselves, surely, the more we will find the truth about how stupid we have been and how absolutely wretched we are.

We must come to the point where we **loathe** ourselves, because we **are** like this, it's the truth, and we can't do anything to change that fact. We must be honest with ourselves about this. More to the point, we must be honest with God about it too. Then, and only then, can we truly cry out to Him. And He **will** hear us, because He is a merciful God.

Isaiah 55:6,7

*Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.*

Jeremiah 29:13

*And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.*

## The Necessity of Self-Loathing

Try this: Go to any crowded place, and take a good look at everybody's faces. They are all busy, busy, busy with their own little affairs, so confident in what they are doing and saying. Many of them are indeed positively taught to be that way. Americans in particular, and other nations who copy them, are taught from an early age to have such cocky confidence in themselves. How few in the world see that such a “me-first” educational philosophy is so foolish. And if we come to realise this truth and start mentioning it to anyone, it is we who will soon be regarded as having a mental problem. But in fact we are the only ones who are sane. It is the cocky, confident majority who are empty and deluded.

Or try this: Look around at everybody passing by, and try to spot one truly humble person. There aren't any. They are all full of themselves, busying themselves about all sorts of things of no consequence. Me, me, me all the time. Nobody, nobody, nobody humbles themselves to the dust. Yet that is the only way of being honest with ourselves. We are nothing. When we die, no one will remember us. So we need to stop thinking that it's all about “me,” because it isn't.

Or try this: Look out from a high viewpoint. From such a height the tiny people on the ground look just like maggots crawling around. How small and insignificant they are! But at ground level, approach any of them, and they think that they, their opinions and their relationships with each other are so important. But they are maggots.

They are nothing. The Bible teaches us how utterly insignificant we all are:

Psalm 8:4  
*What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?*

Psalm 9:20  
*Put them in fear, O LORD: that the nations may know themselves to be but men. Selah.*

Psalm 39:5  
*Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth; and mine age is as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity. Selah.*

Psalm 39:11  
*When thou with rebukes dost correct man for iniquity, thou makest his beauty to consume away like a moth: surely every man is vanity. Selah.*

Psalm 62:9  
*Surely men of low degree are vanity, and men of high degree are a lie: to be laid in the balance, they are altogether lighter than vanity.*

Psalm 146:3,4  
*Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help. His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.*

Isaiah 2:22  
*Cease ye from man, whose breath is in his nostrils: for wherein is he to be accounted of?*

Isaiah 40:15  
*Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance: behold, he taketh up the isles as a very little thing.*

Jeremiah 17:5,6  
*Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD. For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited.*

All of us are really NOTHING! We must begin there. If we don't believe that, it is for no other reason than because we don't want to.

But that is not all. Not only are we so small and insignificant, we are also such vile creatures. Indeed, that's what living for self all the time inevitably makes us. We are no good to anybody in that state. The Bible teaches us about our utter vileness too:

Genesis 6:5  
*And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*

Genesis 8:21  
*....the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth....*

Job 40:4  
*Behold, I am vile....*

Job 42:6  
*Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.*

Psalm 5:9  
*For there is no faithfulness in their mouth; their inward part is very wickedness; their throat is an open sepulchre; they flatter with their tongue.*

Ecclesiastes 7:20  
*For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.*

Ecclesiastes 7:29  
*Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions.*

Jeremiah 17:9  
*The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*

Matthew 15:19  
*For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies*

Mark 7:21-23  
*For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.*

Romans 3:10-18 (quoting from various Psalms)  
*As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet are swift to shed blood: Destruction and misery are in their ways: And the way of peace have they not known: There is no fear of God before their eyes.*

This is the absolute truth about every one of us. We are all so small, and we are all so vile. Forget self-worth, self-esteem, self-acceptance. All these are modern false humanistic philosophies of no consequence. Every philosophy men invent is a lie. They all exalt man far too highly. Look at the truth. After all, we can't get away from it, no matter how hard we try. The truth is that we are