1. From the two lists in 2 Corinthians 12:20 and Galatians 5:19-20, write down all of the carnal behaviors with which selfish ambition is grouped by the Apostle Paul.

a. How would you evaluate the seriousness of selfishness given the company with which it is grouped?

b. We tend to view selfishness as internal, whereas many of the other sins listed could have immediate negative impact on others. Why is selfishness listed as such a dangerous sin? How does it impact others?

c. The average church would deal immediately with anyone practicing idolatry or sorcery (Galatians 5:20). How should the church respond to the presence of selfish ambition?

d. In what areas are you tempted toward selfishness? How have you seen its negative effects when it goes uncontrolled?

2. Read Romans 2:5-11. The “self-seeking” are mentioned in verse 8 and are compared with those who seek after God. From this passage, record what you learn about the two groups Paul describes:

God-centered Self-centered

3. Read Philippians 1:15-18.

a. What do you learn about the motivations of some Christian preachers?

b. What are the motivations of the carnal? (verses 15, 16)

c. What are the motivations of the spiritual? (verse 15)

d. How is it possible that some could preach about the selflessness of Christ while at the same time doing so out of selfish motives?

4. Read Philippians 2:1-11.

a. What is Paul’s primary admonition to the Philippians? (verse 3)

b. What are the traits of those who live selflessly? (verse 2)

c. What is the essence of living selflessly? (verse 3b)

d. When you esteem others better than yourself, what is the result? (verse 4)

e. The exhortation to selflessness is really an exhortation to be like whom? (verse 5)

f. What did Jesus have the option of doing? (verse 6b)

g. What did he choose to do instead? (verses 7-8)

h. Who did Jesus esteem “better” than Himself?

i. What image is suggested for the characteristics of the selfless person? (verse 7)

j. How did God honor selflessness in the life of Christ? (verse 9)

k. How will the whole world one day honor the selflessness of Christ? (verses 10-11)

l. What value would you say God places on selflessness?