

## Self-Love

Standing in line while dealing with the usual Brazilian red tape, I noticed a large tattoo on the arm of the person waiting next to me: “self-Love” (written in English, not Portuguese!).

Immediately my soul reminded me of Apostle Paul’s admonishment: “...in the last days... men shall be lovers of their own selves...” (II Tim. 3:1-2). A sure sign of the last days before His return!

Now compare that with the first and great command, according to Jesus, “...Thou shall love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind...” (see Mt. 22:36-38). Then Jesus complemented that first law with another follow-up directive stating, “...Thou shall love thy neighbor as thyself” (Mt. 22:39).

Fulfilling those two laws does not leave much room for self-love.

In reality, if the first (and great) commandment is obeyed in full, we all will quickly discover that

if it were not for His daily dose of mercy and grace on each of our lives, we would all be annihilated and worthless!

Why, then, engage in self-love? Perhaps because self-love strongly indicates a state of God-less emptiness of the soul.

We all know that no person can be saved without a Savior and that no one can fully understand unselfish love without feeling a warm wash of love from God (who loved us first)!

Yet, self-love is a growing phenomenon in society (the astonishing growing numbers of cosmetic surgeries and muscle-building academies confirm the statement), which never ceases to push God aside!

Regretfully, as we live these end-time days, we now see signs of the same soul tattoo ink (invisible to the naked eye) of self-love strutting across platforms of some pentecostal congregations! For example, we are witnessing, here and there, a new tribe of “professional” Pentecostals (thank God they are few in number, for now) that are enamored with themselves,

completely captivated by their own self-love, playing/singing/preaching, merely for self-pleasure and NOT in worship and submission unto the Lord!

Of course, our bigger problem is not with a self-loving musician/singer here or there. There are also a few lay ministers (or higher) that preen themselves in front of mirrors, loving their oratorical abilities more than holy anointing.

Be warned; selfie pictures should never be taken around a cross of spiritual sacrifice and Bible submission. Instead, let's all go back to Jesus' cross and look up to His love crushed body (see 1 Cor. 2:2). No self-love anywhere to be found. Everything else becomes as dung (see Phil. 3:8).

Love God above all, and there will be no room left for self-love!

John "Brad" Lambeth

[jblambeth@gmail.com](mailto:jblambeth@gmail.com)