

SLIDE	NOTES
1	<p>TITLE</p> <p>In this module we discuss the deadly virtue of SELFLESSNESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * A fundamental ethical question involves asking: who is to be the primary beneficiary of one's morality—self or others? * This gospel primacy issue lies at the heart of the restored gospel and plan of salvation. * It should not surprise us that those philosophers and theologians who incorrectly give the gospel primacy to love over life, also incorrectly give the gospel primacy to others over self.
2	<p>SELF-FULL</p> <p>Imagine 3 friends go camping. One boy brings along a box of cookies. As he is eating around the campfire, the other boys mouths start watering and they ask for one.</p> <p>Anim1: SELFISHNESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Imagine he tells them all "no way" and eats the entire box himself. * We call this SELFISHNESS. * He has undue regard for himself at the expense of others * The VICTOR is himself, and the VICTIMS are everyone else around him (Others). This is called a "0 sum game" with a winner and loser. <p>Anim2: SELFLESSNESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Imagine he refuses to eat a single cookie. He gives the entire box to the others to eat and he takes none for himself. * We call this SELFLESSNESS. * He has undue regard for everyone else at the expense of himself. * He is the VICTIM and everyone else are the VICTORS. Again this is a "0 sum game" with a winner and loser. <p>Anim3: UNSELFISHNESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Now imagine he shares the cookies with his friends. Both he and his friends enjoy eating the box of cookies together, and their friendship grows from the shared experience. * We call this UNSELFISHNESS. * He has DUE regard for HIMSELF and OTHERS. * There is NO VICTOR NOR VICTIM . We call this a positive sum game because no one wins at someone else's expense. <p>Anim4: SELF-FULL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * There is a tendency sometimes for people mix up unselfish with selfless (as being the same thing)... * Selffull is perhaps a better way to describe Unselfish. Selffull means you can have a full life...You can have your cookies and friends too.
3	<p>Consider our Gospel Target again.</p> <p>Anim1: TARGET = unselfishness</p> <p>What is undershooting?</p> <p>Anim2: Selfishness...all taking and no giving.</p> <p>What is overshooting?</p> <p>Anim3: Selflessness...all giving and no taking.</p> <p>Anim4: Self-full...The Christ-Like target is give and take where everyone benefits...No victims or victors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Christ gives the atonement, and takes our covenant to obey the conditions for it. Broken heart and contrite spirit, obey his commandments, repentance, etc.

4	<p>Value Ethics, SELF-FULL Give and Take</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Give and Take (Value Ethics) is like a plant * People tend to focus only on the "giving part" (The Flower) and neglect to give credit to the "Taking Part" (The Roots) <p>Which has primacy: The Flower (the giving part) or The Root (the taking part)? Without the Roots, do you have a Flower?</p> <p>Anim1: For all plant life, the roots have primacy...The "Giving" is "Rooted" in "Taking". Anim2: Ground cover makes the give and take of the plant more aesthetically pleasing.</p> <p>Anim3: The same is true of Man's life...All giving a man can possibly do (Love, Friendship, etc.) must follow first some level of taking. Without first taking, what do you have to give?</p> <p>Anim4: The Universal Standard for all of man's "give and take" is Eternal Life. * Man's life is also rooted in taking. * In this give and take (within a Marriage, within a Family, within a business partnership, etc.) the ground cover is the common courtesies (please, thank you, contracts, covenants, etc.) that make the give and take less grinding.</p>
5	<p>With Eternal Life in Mind, we "Give and Take" obeying law as we grow from Grace to Grace.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Initially it is all take until we become strong enough to then give. <p>In the Law of Consecration, what does the Lord take from us? (everything) What does he give to us in return? (everything...even more than he took)</p> <p>Quote D&C 84:38</p> <p>A few examples of this pattern are: DECLARING TRUTH: First, we must gain an understanding of the truth before we can declare truth. Christ revealed to Hyrum Smith: "Seek not to declare my word but first seek to gain my word." SHARING TESTIMONY: First, we must obtain a testimony for ourselves before we can share it with others. ORDINANCES: First, we must obtain all ordinances for ourselves before we can do them in Holy Temples for others. SELF-RELIANCE: "Only when we are self-reliant can we truly emulate the savior in serving and blessing others." ...and so on.</p>
6	<p>SPOILER ALERT</p> <p>Warning: If you love (unconditionally) the primary song "Give said the little stream", you won't be able to un-see what you are about to see, and might want to step out of the room.</p> <p>Anim1: Quote Elder Maxwell...Give Said The Little Stream .. A General Authorities way of gently rebuking. Anim2: Self over Others is value Ethics Others over Self is Duty Ethics</p>
7	<p>As written (and as Elder Maxwell points out) "Give Said the Little Stream" is not exactly drenched in theological doctrine.</p> <p>What happens to a selfless stream? How long can the stream keep up the giving "all the day"?</p> <p>* Selflessness from Duty Ethics is focused only on giving. * It is perhaps a beautiful sentiment, but impossible to live, and death for the stream, flower, or person that really tries to live it. * Without the stream (or person) cheating to avoid its own death when its life resources run out, it might as well be singing:</p>

	<p>Anim1: Rewritten: "Give said the dry stream bed, give oh give, till' you're dead!"</p> <p>Anim2: Selfishness How would the song be written from a "Selfish" undershooting perspective?</p> <p>Anim3: What happens to a selfish stream? * All take is an unstainable cancer, growing until it has nothing or no one left to take from. * It then dies Ugly and Obnoxious. Like the Dead Sea, it turns corrupt.</p> <p>Anim4: Unselfishness How would the song be written from an "Unselfish" Value Ethics perspective?</p> <p>Anim5: Take and Give ... What happens to an unselfish (selfull) stream? It takes and gives, making everything grow and progress. Beautiful, sustainable, and long-lived. Only through "take and give" can a stream, flower, or person live a sustainable, beautiful, long-lived life.</p>
8	<p>In Duty Ethics, the Self must be obliterated.</p> <p>Anim1: Quote C.S. Lewis Do we want to become Gods? Is it hopeless? Is it a terrible story?</p> <p>Anim2: Quote First Presidency Anim3: Quote Joseph Smith Anim4: Quote Brigham Young Anim5: Quote Brigham Young Anim6: Quote Jeffrey Holland</p>
9	<p>In Duty Ethics any desire for gain is immoral.</p> <p>Anim1: Quote Anders Nygren... * Mother Teresa and those who hold similar beliefs like hers who take a vow of poverty have an obvious contradiction on their hands. * Taking a "virtuous vow of poverty" yet going around saving all the poor from poverty. Why save the poor from something that is so virtuous? Shouldn't the poor be taking a vow of poverty too?</p> <p>Anim2: Quote D&C 84:38 Anim3: Quote Brigham Young Anim4: Quote Brigham Young</p>
10	<p>Do these scriptures seem to promote selflessness? * It is a fundamental error to take any single statement or scripture (like "charity seeketh not her own") and run with it, while selectively ignoring overall context. * Seekers of truth pay attention to ALL the available evidence.</p> <p>So are there any scriptures supporting self-fullness?</p>
11	<p>Consider a few SELF-FULL scriptures that the altruists conveniently ignore:</p> <p>Anim1: Was The Apostle Paul an Altruist? Anim2: Quotes</p> <p>Anim3: Was The Apostle John an Altruist? Anim4: Quote</p>

	<p>Anim5: Was Alma an Altruist? Anim6: Quote</p> <p>Anim7: Was King Benjamin an Altruist? Anim8: Quote</p>
12	<p>Was Patriarch Abraham an Altruist? Anim1: Quote</p> <p>Anim2: Was Joseph Smith and Hyrum Smith Altruists? Anim3: Quote</p> <p>Anim4: Was Christ Himself an Altruist? Anim5: Quote</p> <p>If Christ's gospel were duty ethics (others over self), wouldn't this have been an excellent time to rebuke Peter by saying "Shame on you Peter! What a selfish question. You should be altruistic and forget about yourself or any reward for your own actions and focus solely on others. It is immoral to expect anything from this. You should do it just because it is your duty." ...But that is not what Christ said.</p> <p>Christ preached the opposite. Anim6: Quote</p>
13	<p>* "A Crown of Glory" is a good metaphor describing value ethics. * "A Crown of Thorns" and the Cross is a good metaphor describing Duty Ethics.</p> <p>Anim1: Quote Brigham Young No such thing as sacrificing for God. It is all sacrifice for ourselves. So if we are doing everything for our own happiness why bother help Others?</p> <p>Anim2: Quote (1) God's help in your life can greatly benefit your life. Doing good things to others of God's children, brings His blessings to you.</p> <p>Anim3: Quote (2) You live in a society (neighborhood, a community, a state, a country, etc.) * Others are a part of YOUR life...Life would be lonely and much less meaningful to YOU without others to share YOUR life with.</p> <p>What kind of society do you want to live in?</p> <p>Christ also answered this question. We all should want to live in a society where people take care of each other. It is not wise to face reality (the box) all by yourself.</p>
14	<p>Questions? Rating?</p>