



The Exchange - 28 February 2015

The Cross: A Counterintuitive Choice

1. What makes us act selfishly?
2. To what extent is selfishness our default nature? Is it possible to commit a fully selfless action and, if so, what is it that motivates people to act in selfless ways?
3. Richard Whately - a 17th century theologian - said "A man is called selfish not for pursuing his own good, but for neglecting his neighbor's." What do you think of this definition - can you think of any examples to illustrate this?
4. What do you think the consequences would have been for Paul and Silas if they had walked out of the jail? What would it have been for the jailer? His family? The city?
5. Is it possible to act in ways that others would see as unselfish, but still be doing it for selfish reasons? Can you think of any examples? What role might our motives play in determining whether we are being selfish or selfless?
6. What are some potential consequences of acting in ways that are selfless rather than selfish? Is there such a thing as being too selfless? Can being selfish ever be good?
7. Is it OK to look out for ourselves? What's the balance between selfishness and self-care?
8. In 2013, "selfie" was the word of the year. What impact might today's 'selfie culture' have on our ability to give of ourselves to others?
9. How can we in our daily life be more considerate of others?