

ENTITLED

WASTING AWAY IN ME-VILLE

ENTITLEMENT IS
AN UNDERLYING ATTITUDE AND PERSPECTIVE
WHICH ASSUMES SOMEONE OWES ME SOMETHING.

I'M ENTITLED...

- Someone owes me.
- It's about me and I'm what matters.
- I own _____.
- I don't have enough.
- It's not fair.
- I shouldn't have to wait, struggle, fail or hurt.
- I'm too good for service, sacrifice, or humility.
- I shouldn't have to deal with inconvenience, disappointment, or delayed gratification.
- My immediate needs are paramount.
- Comfort and success are more important than character and love.

SOURCE OF ENTITLEMENT

- I'm special.
- I'm smarter.
- I work harder.
- I've suffered more.
- Everything I do (job, call, vision, ministry) is more important.
- I'm from _____.
- My family is _____.
- I have more _____.
(education, money, responsibility, influence, etc.)

It's about me. Entitlement assumes I shouldn't have to struggle. If I fail, it's someone else's fault. I should be served, entertained, provided for, and I shouldn't have to wait. I shouldn't have to deal with inconvenience, disappointment, or delayed gratification. If I have a setback or find myself suffering, something's wrong and it's not fair. I'm smarter, better, work harder, my job is more difficult and more important. My kids deserve better and our society is here to serve us. After all... **I have rights and I'm entitled!**

FRUIT OF ENTITLEMENT

- Loss of Empathy
- Selfishness
- Disappointment
- Resentment
- Idolatry – Greed
- Apathy – Boredom

TWO STORIES

Also a dispute arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest.²⁵ Jesus said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors.²⁶ But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves.²⁷ For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves." Luke 22:24-27

Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all the Israelites had gone there to make him king... the whole assembly of Israel went to Rehoboam and said to him:⁴ "Your father put a heavy yoke on us, but now lighten the harsh labor and the heavy yoke he put on us, and we will serve you."

⁸ But Rehoboam rejected the advice the elders gave him and consulted the young men who had grown up with him and were serving him.

⁹ He asked them, "What is your advice?"

¹³ The king answered the people harshly. Rejecting the advice given him by the elders, ¹⁴ he followed the advice of the young men and said, "My father made your yoke heavy; I will make it even heavier. My father scourged you with whips; I will scourge you with scorpions."

¹⁶ When all Israel saw that the king refused to listen to them, they answered the king: "What share do we have in David, what part in Jesse's son? To your tents, O Israel! Look after your own house, O David!" So the Israelites went home. I Kings 12:1, 2b-4; 8-9a; 13-14; 16

NEXT STEPS

Pray for our nation and vote.

Become aware of entitlement in your community, family, and your own heart.

FOR FURTHER READING

From Innocence to Entitlement by Jim Fay & Dawn Billings

Deliver Us From Me-ville by David A. Zimmerman

Generation Me by Jean M. Twenge, Ph. D.

One Life: Jesus Calls, We Follow by Scot McKnight