



INDIVIDUALISM

STARTING THE DISCUSSION...

Individualism is a word that you probably haven't heard on the news or making big headlines, yet it is one of the most common themes in our culture. The idea that the best life is where you are authentic and honest with who you are is always around us. It makes up our media and can easily influence a good amount of our thinking. But the call is always to line up our thinking with what the Bible calls us to do and shape our understanding by the gospel. While many see that the goal of life is found in self-expression, the gospel calls us to a more compelling vision. That our individual unique gifts are given to us by God for the purpose of building up others and displaying the glory of God.

KEY TEXT: 1 CORINTHIANS 12:14-20, 27

¹⁴ For the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, yet one body...

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

Additional Texts: Genesis 1:27, Jeremiah 17:9, Romans 3:23, 2 Corinthians 5:17



UNDERSTANDING THE WORD

1. What point is Paul making in this chapter? How does he use the analogy of our physical bodies to help us understand?
2. How do we relate to God as both an individual and as a member of the body?

APPLYING THE WORD

3. What area(s) do you find its easy to buy into expressive individualism? How does the gospel shape our thinking?
4. How can you use the unique gifts that God has given you to build others up and glorify God?

PRAYING & ACTING

1. How can our group show the gospel in our community when it comes to individualism? What practical steps could we take to help our neighbourhood hear the gospel?
2. Pray that God would use our words and our actions to show the superior greatness of Jesus through our lives.

