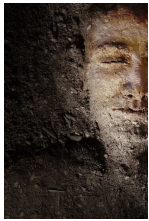


Individuality

Sunday, January 15, 2017

I have a question for you today:



“Can our individual autonomy or individuality (regardless of the social community or environment we live in) make a difference for or against our God?” Let me begin by reinforcing the fact that we were created as individuals.

(Genesis 1: 26 – 27)

26 Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Now God had created one man and one woman, they with God were together. This was their social community, yet they were autonomous individuals.

Being individuals gives us the opportunity to stand as God leads us to in accordance with His Word.

Their community was perfect, pure, and right with God. Yet, its individuals had the opportunity to stand for or against God.

Our behavior should not be dictated by our allegiance to our social community’s standards.

Instead our behavior should be dictated by our allegiance to our Creator’s standards.

The social community we live in here locally in Coalinga or nationally in the United States forces it’s moral, social and economic philosophies on each of us through laws, required education standards, or our social clicks. We have the opportunity as individuals to choose to please our Creator or Man. There are many examples of this choice throughout the Bible, but we will just focus on the Biblical account of Adam and Eve that I began with today.

(Genesis 3: 1 – 7)

1 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden’?”

2 And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden;

3 but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’”

4 Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die.

5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, & you will be like God, knowing good & evil.”

6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, & he ate.

7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

Adam & Eve’s individual decisions were made to stand against God.

Satan can make things very appealing to us. He loves to use choices that involve our Sexual needs, Spouse, Career, Possessions, & Personal Character.

We have to choose as individuals to yield to what God says to do or to what the Enemy lures us into.

Our sexual needs are to be fulfilled the way God designed them to be fulfilled according to scripture.

Our spouse should be based on who God has prepared for us. As Eve was prepared to be the perfect mate for Adam.

Our career should be what God is leading us to do.

Our possessions should be based on what He desires for us to have.

Our personal character should reflect God rather than our egos.

Consider the individuality of Noah, Abraham, Joseph, the Prophets, Jesus & Paul. Their individuality was not dictated by their social community, but directed by God. We should respond the same to God. We should be individuals living by God's standards & His directions.

God is pleased when we live for Him.

(John 8:29) And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him."

Our individual autonomy will be judged by God. What we do with our lives matters to God. God will bless those who overcome sin. Let's quickly read over a few verses in Revelation. **(Revelation 2:7, 17, 26)**

7 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."

17 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it."

26 And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations—

(Revelation 3:4-5, 12, 21)

4 You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. 5 He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

12 He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.

21 To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

Now not having gone into the depth of the meaning of each verse...what is God's primary focus? That God will honor and bless beyond measure those who overcome sin, those who live in, through and for Him!

Our individual autonomy regardless of the community or environment we live in can be used for God or against God, but those who commit to His Will are going to live lives that will be blessed and honored by God!