

**THE INDIVIDUAL IS NOT THE
WHOLE**

2 Samuel 21:1-9

GOING FOR SPIRITUAL MATURITY

- Studying the Bible is to discover the true realities as God's created them.
- Truth describes those realities for us to comprehend and to live by them.
- The vital realities to recognize are the spiritual ones.

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Individualism and **collectivism** are conflicting views of the nature of humans, society and the relationship between them.

Individualism holds that the **individual is the primary unit of reality** and the ultimate standard of value. This view does not deny that societies exist or that people benefit from living in them, but it sees society as a collection of individuals, not something over and above them.

Stata DEFINES COLLECTIVISM

Collectivism holds that **the group**---the nation, the community, the proletariat, the race, etc.---**is the primary unit of reality and the ultimate standard of value.**

This view does not deny the reality of the individual. But ultimately, collectivism holds that one's identity is determined by the groups one interacts with, that one's identity is constituted essentially of relationships with others.

What do Scripture reveal as God's Design?

2 SAMUEL 21

1 Now there was a famine in the days of David for three years, year after year; and David sought the presence of the LORD. And the LORD said, **"It is for Saul and his bloody house, because he put the Gibeonites to death."** 2 So the king called the Gibeonites and spoke to them (now the Gibeonites were not of the sons of Israel but of the remnant of the Amorites, and the sons of Israel made a covenant with them, but Saul had sought to kill them in his zeal for the sons of Israel and Judah).

2 Samuel 21b

3 Thus David said to the Gibeonites, "What should I do for you? And how can I make atonement that you may bless the inheritance of the LORD?" 4 Then the Gibeonites said to him, "We have no concern of silver or gold with Saul or his house, nor is it for us to put any man to death in Israel." And he said, "**I will do for you whatever you say.**" 5 So they said to the king, "The man who consumed us and who planned to exterminate us from remaining within any border of Israel,

2 Samuel 21c

6 **let seven men from his sons be given to us,** and we will hang them before the LORD in Gibeah of Saul, the chosen of the LORD.” And the king said, **“I will give them.”**

7 But the king spared **Mephibosheth**, the son of Jonathan the son of Saul, because of the oath of the LORD which was between them, between David and Saul’s son Jonathan.

2 Samuel 21d

8 So the king took the two sons of Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, Armoni and Mephibosheth whom she had borne to Saul, and the five sons of Merab the daughter of Saul, whom she had borne to Adriel the son of Barzillai the Meholathite. 9 Then he gave them into the hands of the Gibeonites, and they hanged them in the mountain before the LORD, so that the seven of them fell together; and **they were put to death in the first days of harvest** at the beginning of barley harvest.

ADDENDUM

2 Sam. 21:¹⁴ They buried the bones of Saul and Jonathan his son in the country of Benjamin in Zela, in the grave of Kish his father; thus they did all that the king commanded, and **after that God was moved by prayer for the land.**

GENESIS 2

¹⁸ Then the LORD God said, "It is **not good** for the man **to be alone**; I will make him a helper suitable for him."

²³ The man said,
"This is now bone of my bones,
And flesh of my flesh;
She shall be called Woman,
Because she was **taken out of Man.**"

²⁴ For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and **they shall become one flesh.**

GENESIS 12

Gen. 12:1-3 "Go forth from your country, and from your relatives and from your father's house, to the land which I will show you; and I will **make you a great nation**, and **I will bless you** and make your name great; and **so you shall be a blessing**; and I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

CONGRATULATIONS! The way we think.

"**May you** our sister, become thousands of ten thousands, and may **your descendants** possess the gate of those who hate them."
Gen.24:60 (Rebekkah)

"Here's to a lifetime of **happiness!**
Congratulations"

"Congratulations and Best Wishes for a **lifetime** Filled with Love" (Amer Greet)

"Be **friends**. Share each other's hopes. Fill **each other's dreams**. Love deeply and truly and forever." (Hallmark)

JOSHUA 7

:20 So Achan answered Joshua and said, "Truly, I have sinned against the Lord, the God of Israel, and this is what I did:

:21 when I saw among the spoil a beautiful mantle from Shinar and two hundred shekels of silver and a bar of gold fifty shekels in weight, then **I coveted them and took them**; and behold, they are concealed in the earth inside my tent with the silver underneath it. "

JOSHUA 7b

:24 Then Joshua and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, the silver, the mantle, the bar of gold, **his sons, his daughters**, his oxen, his donkeys, his sheep, his tent and all that belonged to him; and they brought them up to the valley of Achor.

:25 And Joshua said, "Why have you troubled us? The Lord will trouble you this day." And all Israel stoned them with stones; and they burned them with fire after they had stoned them with stones.

MATTHEW 10

³⁴ "Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but **a sword**. ³⁵ For I came to SET A MAN **AGAINST** HIS FATHER, AND A DAUGHTER **AGAINST** HER MOTHER, AND A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW **AGAINST** HER MOTHER-IN-LAW; ³⁶ and A MAN'S ENEMIES WILL BE THE MEMBERS OF HIS HOUSEHOLD.

³⁷ "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.

INTRODUCING THE NEW TESTAMENT

Matt.3:¹ Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, ² “**Repent**, for the **kingdom of heaven** is at hand.”

Matt.4: ¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to preach and say, “**Repent**, for the **kingdom of heaven** is at hand.”

CONCEPT OF A FAMILY

Jn. 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become **children of God**, even to those who believe in His name, ¹³ **who were born**, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

Heb. 2:11 For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one *Father*; for which reason He is not ashamed to **call them brethren**,

THE CHURCH IS ONE BODY

1 Cor. 12:12 ¶ For even as the body is one and {yet} has many members, and **all the members of the body**, though they are many, **are one body**, so also is Christ.

:13 For by one Spirit **we were all baptized into one body**, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

:14 For the body is not one member, but many.

THE INDIVIDUAL IS ONLY PART OF THE WHOLE

- This is what is Real
- The Christian must 'change his mind.'
- The Whole for the Christian is the Church
 - Our natural family is no longer where we belong
 - Our ethnic identity is no longer who I am

1 CORINTHIANS 12

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵ And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. ⁶ There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all *persons*. ⁷ But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit **for the common good.**

SOME PRINCIPLES TO OBSERVE

- **The New Whole for Christians is the Church**
 - We must not divide nor separate
- **Each believer is gifted for the benefit of the church.**
 - Everyone must seek the good of the Church
- **Unlike Marriage, the Unity of the Church is Eternal**
 - Our fellowships must be maintained

1 Corinthians 12 Gifted for the Church

1 Corinthians 10 "Judging the body rightly"

John 16 Loving one another.