

## Expressive Individualism

Describe yourself.

1. We are all now a *Mod Pizza!*
2. “You be you,” “Be true to yourself,” “Follow your heart,” “Find yourself.” (Trevin Wax)
3. A preoccupation and prioritization of the inner psychological life (Trueman, Taylor)
  - Am I happy? Am I fulfilled?
4. ... an understanding “that each one of us has his/her own way of realizing our humanity,” and that we are called to live that out (“express” it) rather than conform to models imposed by others (especially institutions). (James KA Smith, Taylor)
5. Authenticity as opposed to conformity (Taylor) #Sin?
6. Busy and fragile self (Taylor) – pressure to construct & preserve the self #Love?
7. Self as sacred #God?
8. Isolated self – others are a threat, esp. institutions. #Church?
9. Craves affirmation. Resists formation. (Levin, McCracken) #Discipleship?
10. Sadly, all of this can be (and likely is) true of us *even as Christians* today.

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“Of Issachar, men who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do, 200 chiefs” (1 Chronicles 12:32)

“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?” (Jer. 17:9)

“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life that I now live, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me” (Gal. 2:20) – **a free and secure identity received in Christ**

“For who sees anything different in you? What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?” (1 Cor. 4:7)

“But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ” (Phil. 3:7-8)

**Free** to love, serve and belong. **Free** from fear of rejection, rebuke and persecution.