

1. Our culture offers a gospel of self-fulfillment, which begins and ends with the self.

Slide #1

The Gospel of Self-fulfillment/Expressive Individualism

Expressive Individualism is the “understanding of life ... that each one of us has his/her own way of realizing our humanity, and that it is important to find and live out [or express] one’s own, against surrendering to conformity with a model imposed on us from outside, by society, or the previous generation, or religious or political authority.”

-Charles Taylor, *A Secular Age*

2. The Gospel of Jesus Christ centers on who God is and who we are in Him (John 15:1).

Slide #2

“God has designed the human machine to run on Himself. He Himself is the fuel our spirits were designed to burn, or the food our spirits were designed to feed on. There is no other. That is why it is just no good asking God to make us happy without bothering about religion. God cannot give us happiness and peace apart from Himself, because it is not there. There is no such thing.”

-C.S. Lewis

3. Our true identity and fullest self is found by abiding in Jesus (John 15:4-5).
 - a. by walking with the Spirit (Galatians 5)

Slide #3

¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. ¹⁹ Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality,²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, ²¹ envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will

not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit (Galatians 5:16-25).

b. and being pruned by the Father (John 15:1-5).

Application: As we practice abiding in Jesus' presence, walking in the Spirit, and being pruned by the Father, we will be made fruitful.