

Individualism

by Wayne Goff

“Self-centered feeling or conduct as a principle; a way of life in which an individual pursues his or her own ends or ideas; free and independent individual action or thought; egoism” [*Shorter Oxford English Dictionary*].

Individualism in religion is a murderer of “organized religion.” Now if one means by “organized religion” the man-made denominations or cults, then I am opposed to them too. But if by “organized religion” one refers to the church built by Jesus Christ ([Matthew 16:18](#)) and purchased with His own blood ([Acts 20:28](#)), then I am opposed to it! One cannot go to heaven by himself! He must be joined together with those of like-minded spirits.

Those who were “*being saved*” in Acts 2 were “added” by the Lord to the church, the body of saved ones. Why would the Lord group together a body of believers if they did not need one another?

Also, our society realizes the value of socializing among those of like minds with all the various kinds of associations to help recovering addicts, alcoholics, and other dependencies. One cannot rid himself of those problems without help from others!

The Lord’s gospel is full of admonitions to brethren and to the church to care for “*one another*”! We are “*one body in Christ*,” but “individually members of one another” ([Romans 12:5](#)). We are connected by God to each other. See also [Romans 12:10, 16; 14:13; 15:5, 7, 14; 16:16; 1 Corinthians 11:33; 12:25](#), etc. It is very touching to realize that we need spiritual society and fellowship together. Brethren, let’s continue to love one another in both word and deed!

“*Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law*” ([Romans 13:8](#)). Loving one another proves that we love God, [1 John 4:8-11](#).

In reality, individualism destroys any society of people. It may work well when things are going well, but in the end it is disastrous. There will be no one there to help you in your time of need if you’ve always practiced individualism!

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