

Excessive individualism and the pleasure principle

- ▶ Text: Luke 12:16-ff
- ▶ Review of various philosophies of life:
 - ▶ Hedonism- The idea that pleasure is the ultimate good. Many also consider this Epicureanism.
 - ▶ Gnosticism- Chief goal of life is knowledge.
 - ▶ Cynicism- Suppress all desires.
 - ▶ Skepticism- No absolutes.
 - ▶ Stoicism- Philosophy guided by Reason.
 - ▶ Skepticism- There are no absolutes.

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- ▶ Jewish philosophy- “Fear God and keep his command.”- Eccl. 12:13
- ▶ Christian philosophy- “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”- Eph. 2:10
- ▶ Our focus today is:
 - ▶ Excessive individualism and the pleasure principle.- Harrub and Palmer of *THINK* magazine.

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- ▶ Excessive individualism and the pleasure principle explained:
 - ▶ The world exists to make me happy.
 - ▶ I am concerned about my life and everyone else can fend for themselves.
- ▶ Today we are going to look at three ways this approach to life can be described.

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- ▶ #1- If I believe something is right, then it is right.
 - ▶ Judges 21:25
 - ▶ Jer. 10:23
 - ▶ Prov. 14:12

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- ▶ #2- If I want to do something, then I'll do it.
 - ▶ Gen. 3:1-6
 - ▶ Jer. 37:1-38:26
 - ▶ What examples can you give that support this prevalent attitude?
- ▶ #3- If I've done something wrong, then it must be someone else's fault.
 - ▶ Gen. 3:7-13
 - ▶ I Sam. 15:14-16

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► Questions:

- Why do you think this is happening?
- What do you think is contributing to this mentality?
- What can be done to change this?