

Volume 1, Day 6 — INDIVIDUALITY

“If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself.” — Matthew 16:24

Individuality is the husk of the personal life. Individuality is all pushing and shoving to get what it wants. It separates and isolates. It is the characteristic of the child and we all agree. But if we mistake individuality **for** the personal life, we will remain isolated. The shell of individuality is God's created natural means of protecting the personal life. But individuality must be removed in order that the personal life to be fully realized as it is brought into fellowship with God. Individuality counterfeits personality in the same way that lust counterfeits love. God designed human nature for Himself. Individuality debases human nature for itself.

The characteristics of individuality are independence and self-assertiveness. It is the continual assertion of individuality that hinders our spiritual life more than anything else. If you say, “I cannot believe.” That is because individuality is in the way. Individuality never can believe. Personality cannot help believing. Watch yourself when the Spirit of God is at work. He pushes you to the limits of your individuality, and you either have to say, “I won’t!” or have to surrender. Surrender will break the husk of individuality and let the personal relationship emerge. The Holy Spirit narrows it down every time to one thing (cf. Matthew 5:23-24). The thing in you that will not be reconciled to your brother is your individuality. God wants to bring you into union with Himself. But unless you are willing to give up your right to yourself He cannot. “Let him deny himself” If you deny the independent right to self, then the real life has a chance to grow.

My Utmost for His Highest - Oswald Chambers