

# Be Different

The Center of the Universe

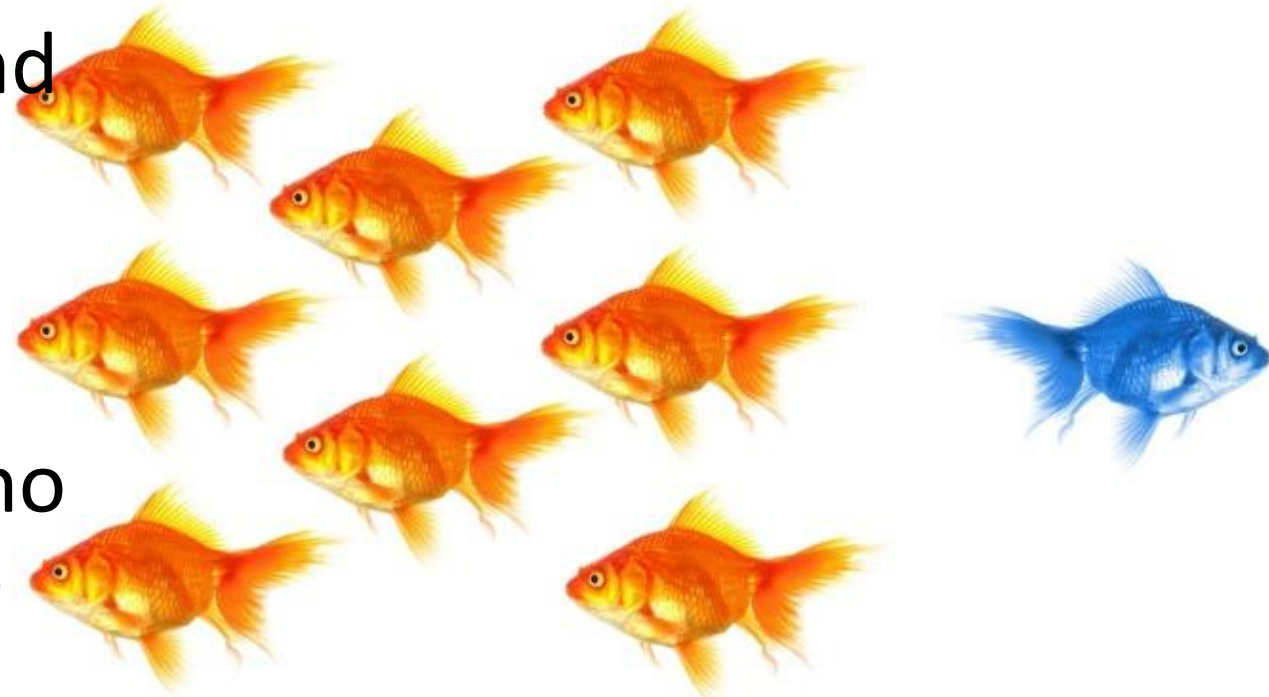
# Called to Be Different

Rom 12:1–2 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup> **Do not be conformed to this world,** but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

# Called to Be Different

Lev 20:26 You shall **be holy** to me, **for I the LORD am holy** and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be mine.

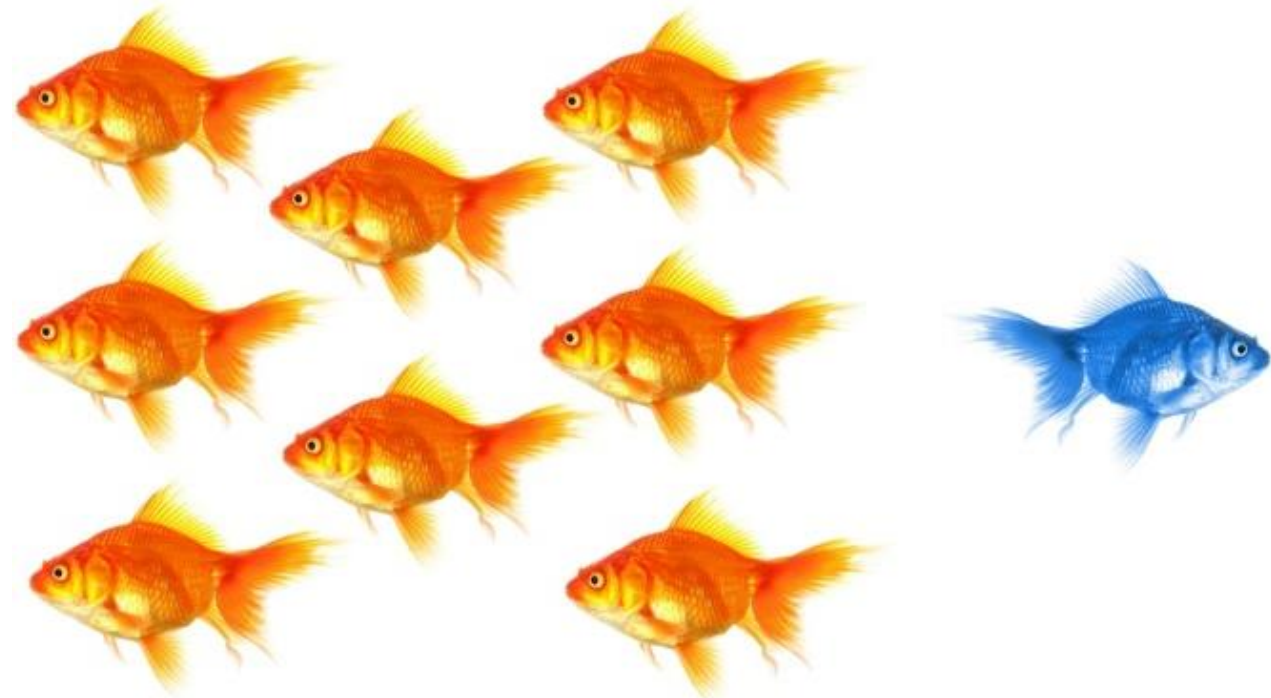
1 Peter 1:15–16 but as he who called you is holy, you also **be holy** in all your conduct, <sup>16</sup> since it is written, “**You shall be holy, for I am holy.**”



# How Can We Be Pure in an Impure World?

Psalm 119:9–11

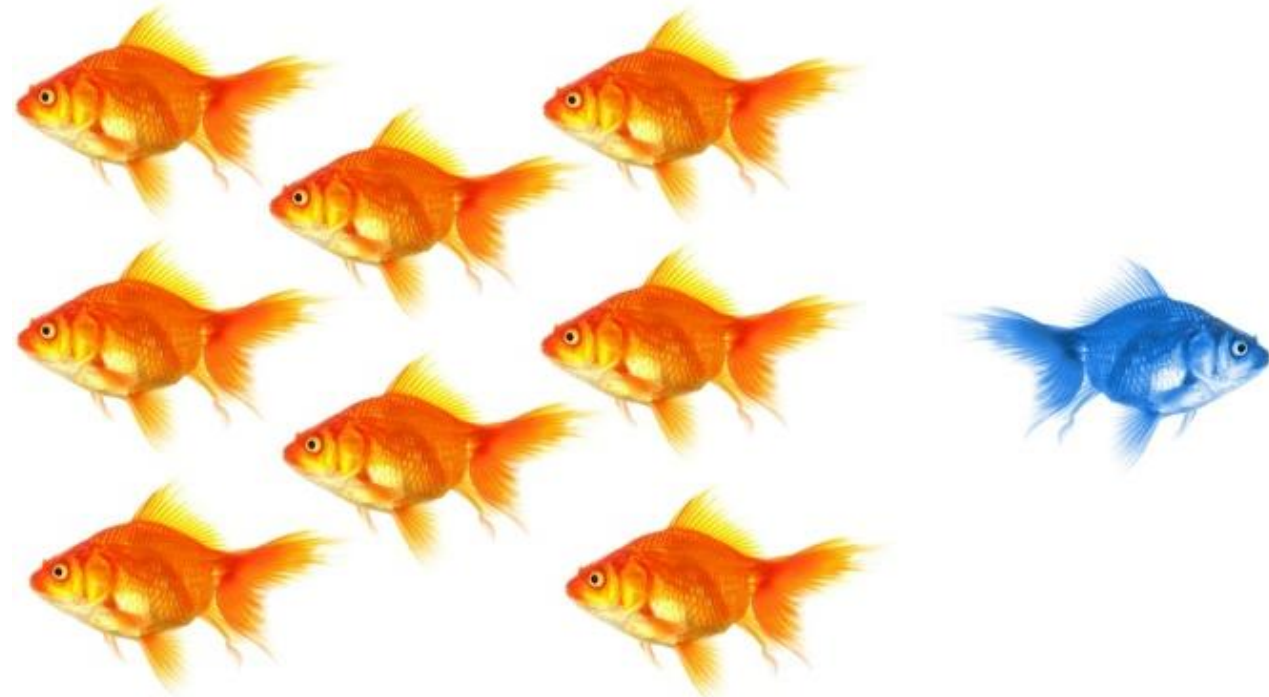
**<sup>9</sup> How can a young man keep his way pure?** By guarding it according to your word. <sup>10</sup> With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! <sup>11</sup> I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.



# The Patterns of this World

## A Worldview

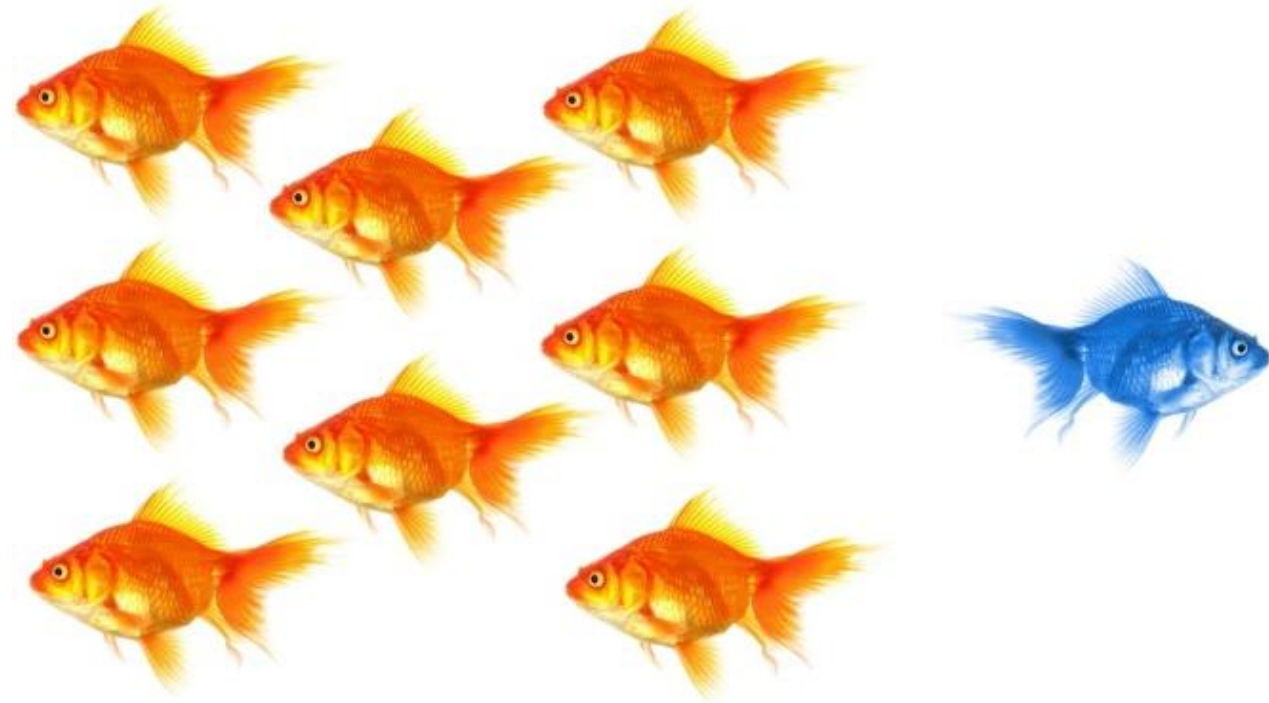
“a commitment, a fundamental orientation of the heart... which we hold about the basic constitution of reality, and that provides the foundation on which we live and move and have our being.” –James Sire





# The Patterns of this World

- Worldviews can exercise subtle influence over our lives.
- Easier to see in others than in our own lives.

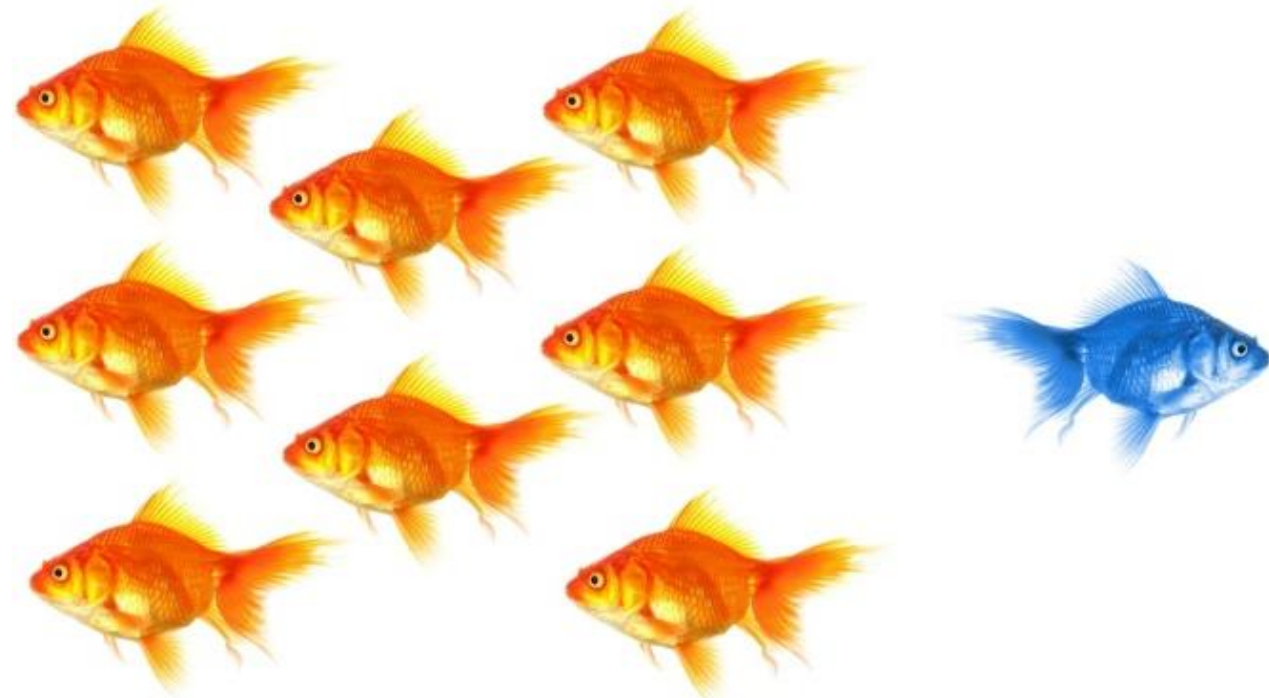


# Individualism

“the belief that the individual is the primary reality and that our understanding and lifestyle should be centered in oneself.”

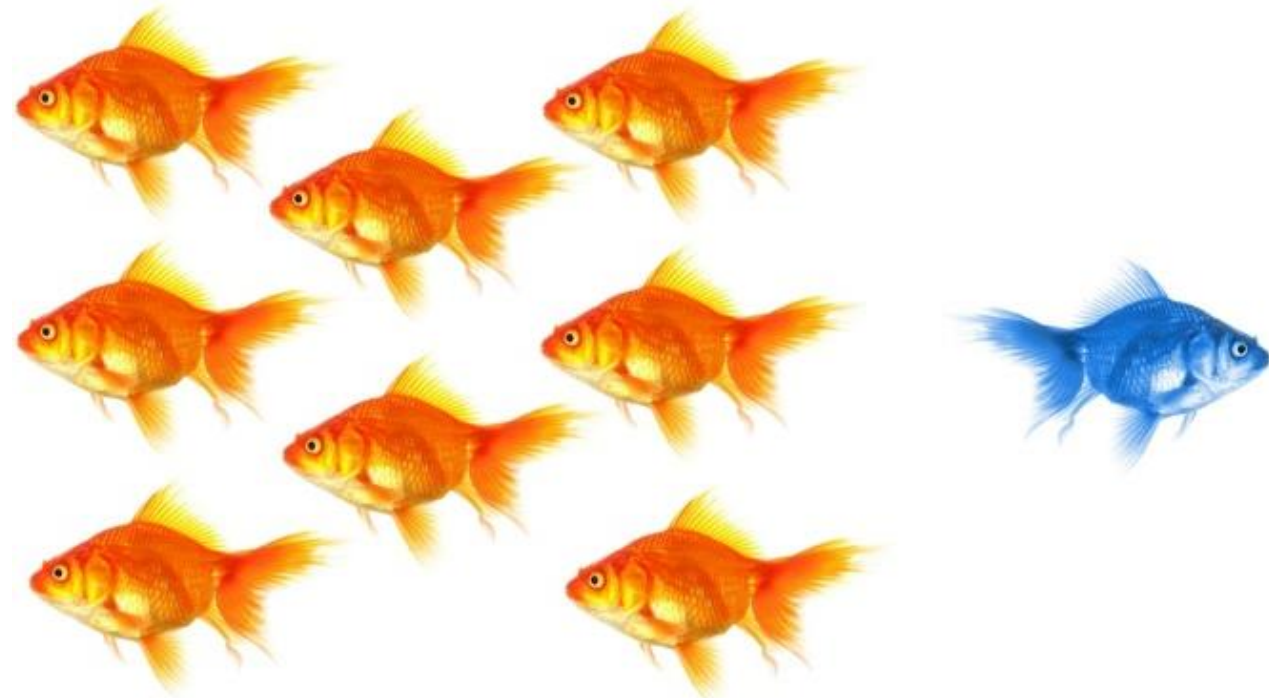
Personal interests vs. the interests of others.

Self-sufficient vs. relying on others



# Individualism – The Good

- Highlights personal freedom and responsibility.
- Affirms our need to make a difference (personal contribution)
- Recognizes the strength of “chosen beliefs.”





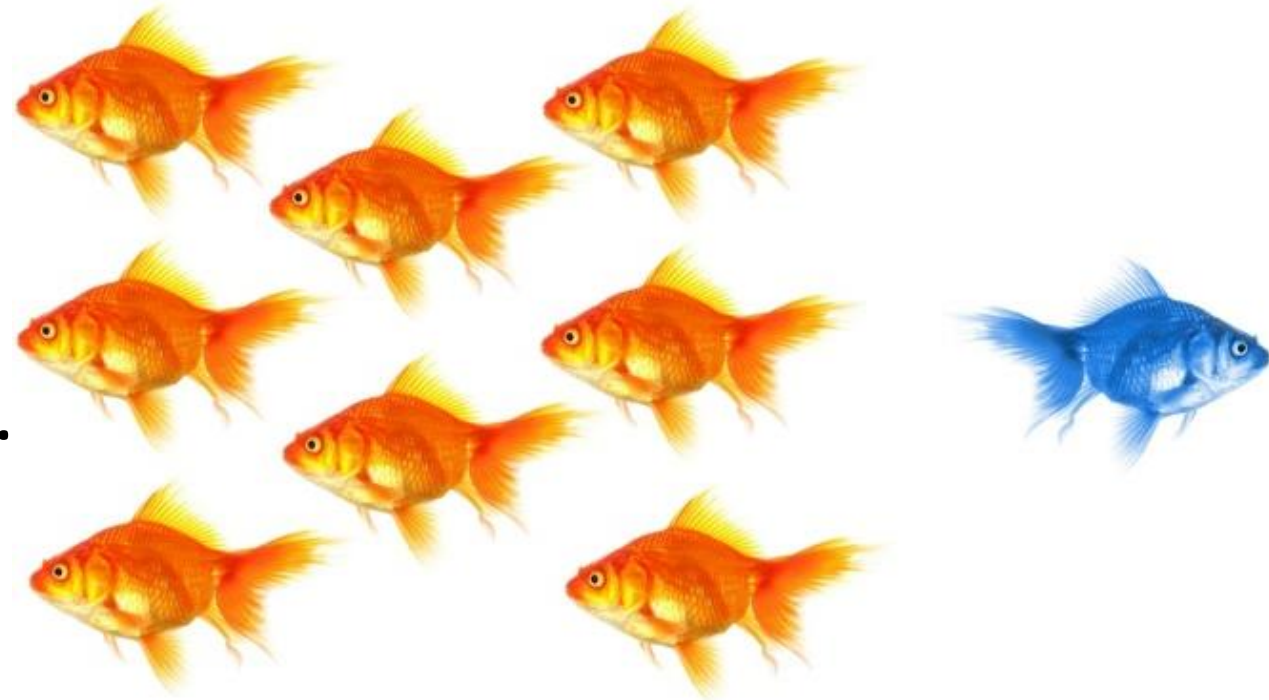
# Individualism – The Negatives?

How does God and His Word  
challenge this worldview?

## **Two Lies**

I am the center of the universe.

I am self-sufficient.

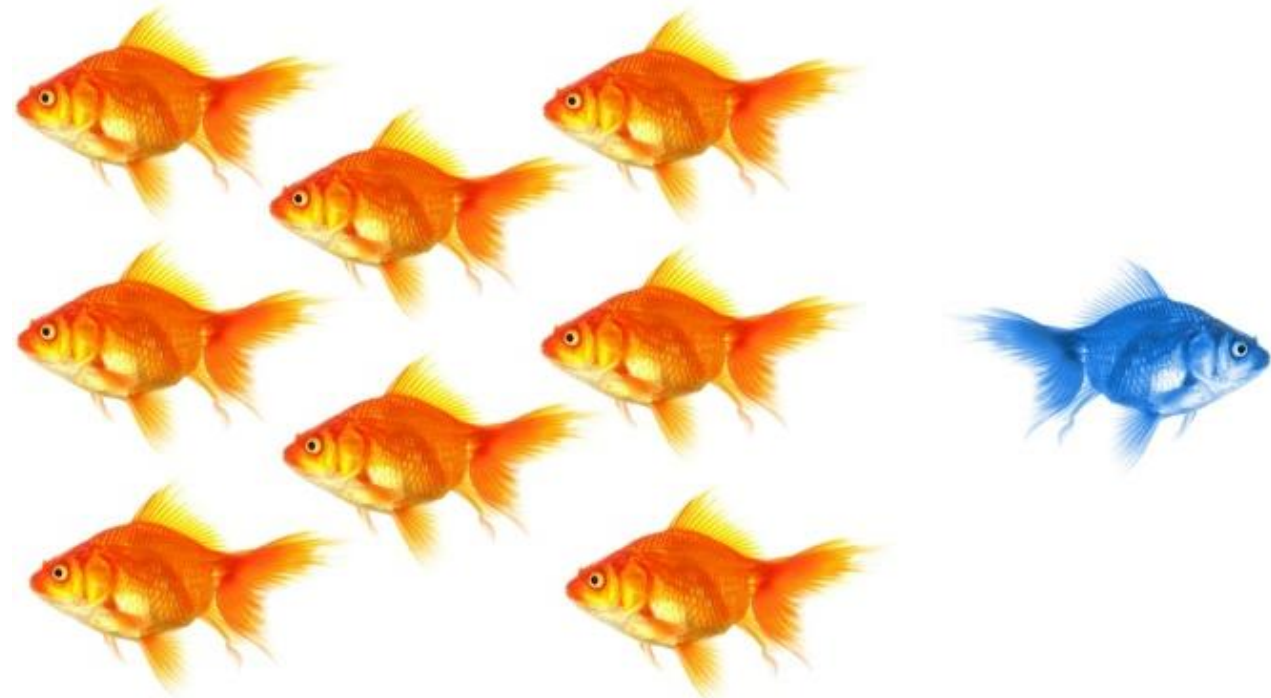


# I am the Center of the Universe

- Win at Any Cost
- If it makes you happy, it can't be wrong.
- Other people exist to meet my needs & wants.

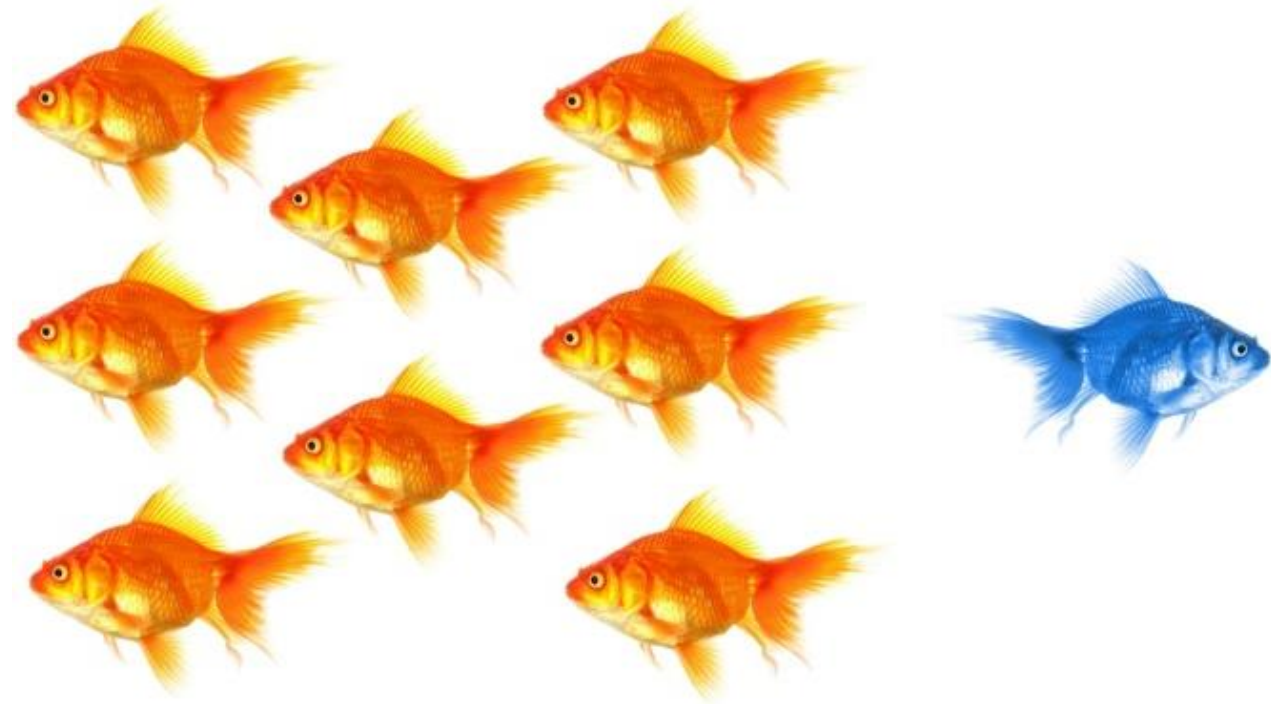
SELFishness

“It's all about me!”



# God, Our Creator, is the Center of the Universe

Revelation 4:11 “Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.”







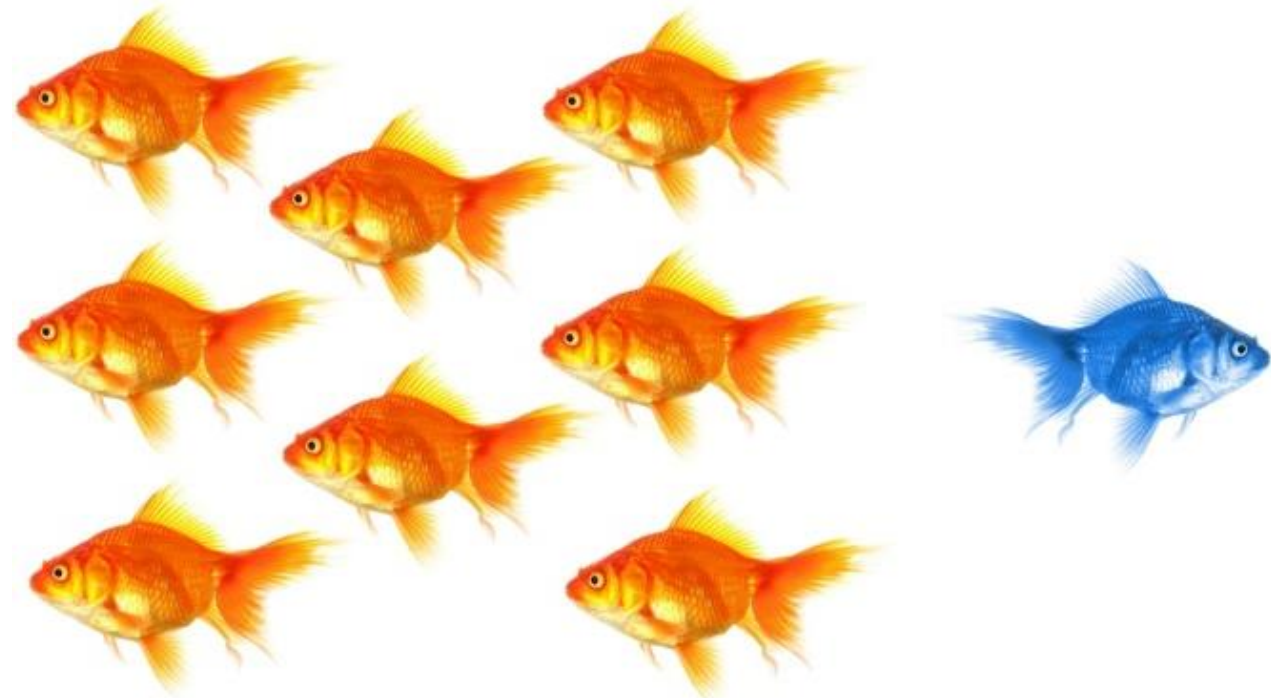
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# Earth Compared to Planets and Stars

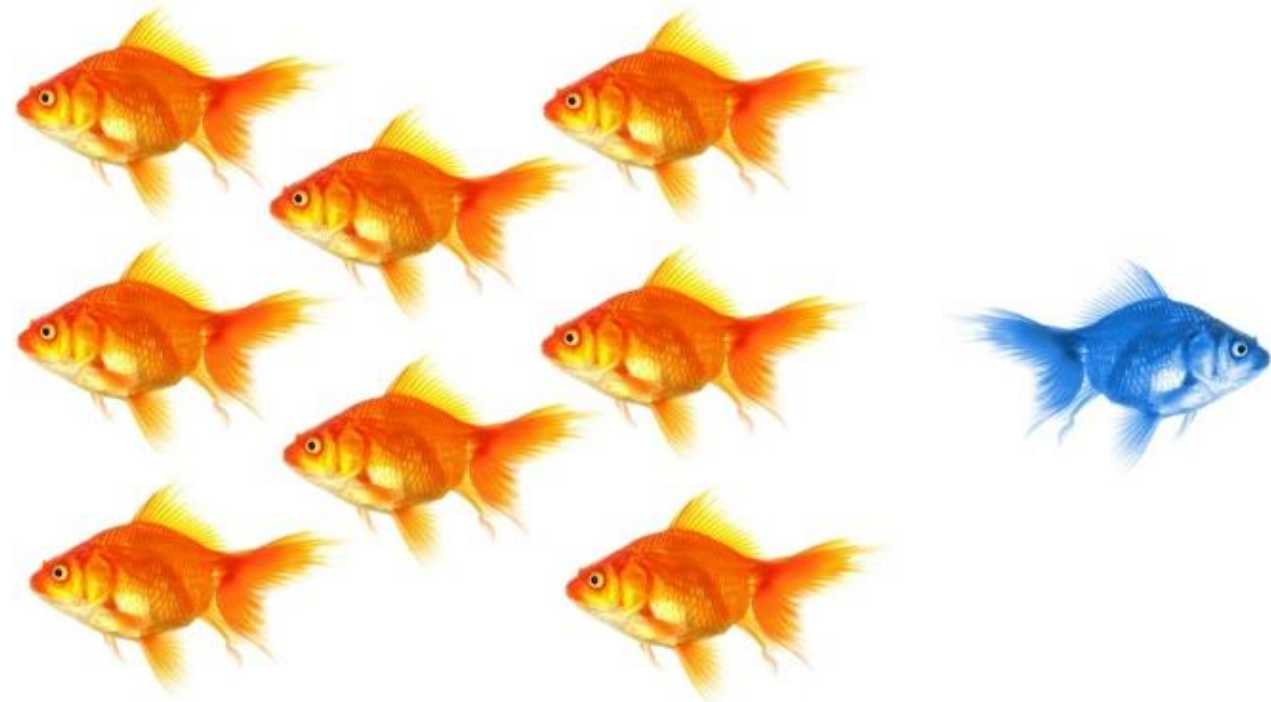
# God, Our Creator, is the Center of the Universe

Psalm 8:3–4 3 When I look at  
your heavens, the work of  
your fingers, the moon and  
the stars, which you have set  
in place, 4 what is man that  
you are mindful of him, and  
the son of man that you care  
for him?



# God, Our Creator, is the Center of the Universe

Romans 25 because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

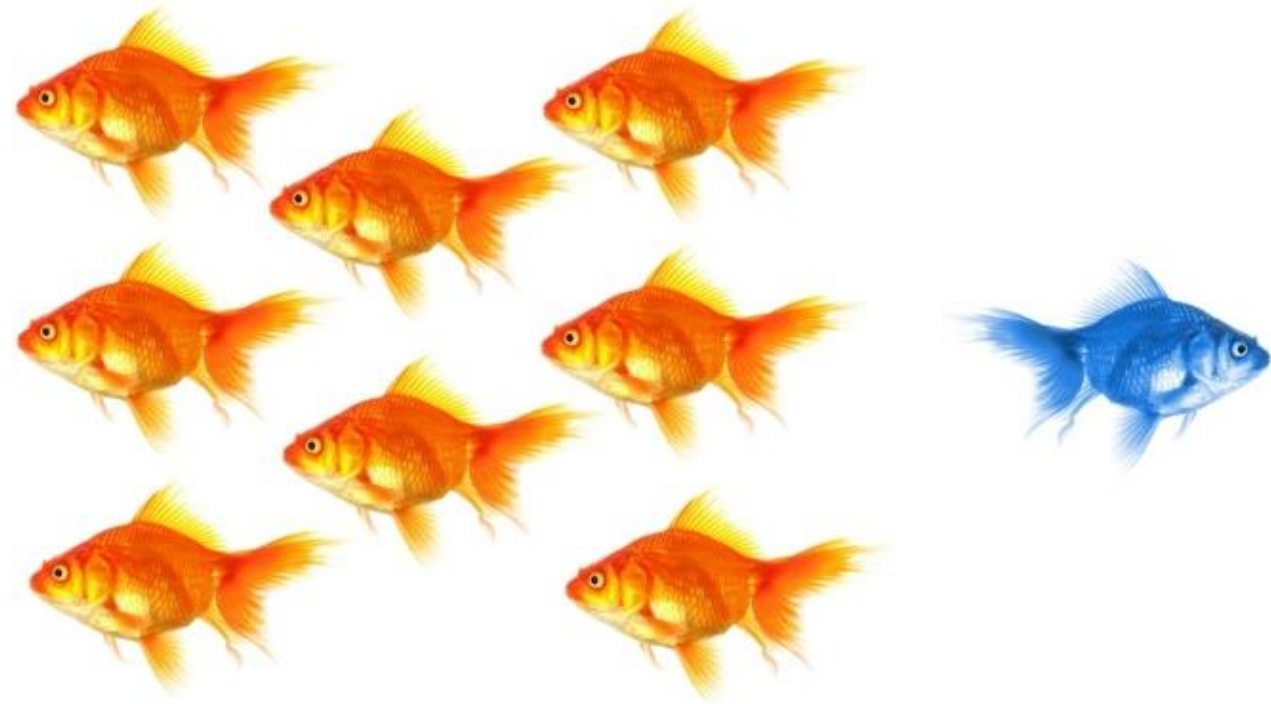


# I Am Self-Sufficient

“I don’t need anyone else.”

We put up walls to keep others out.

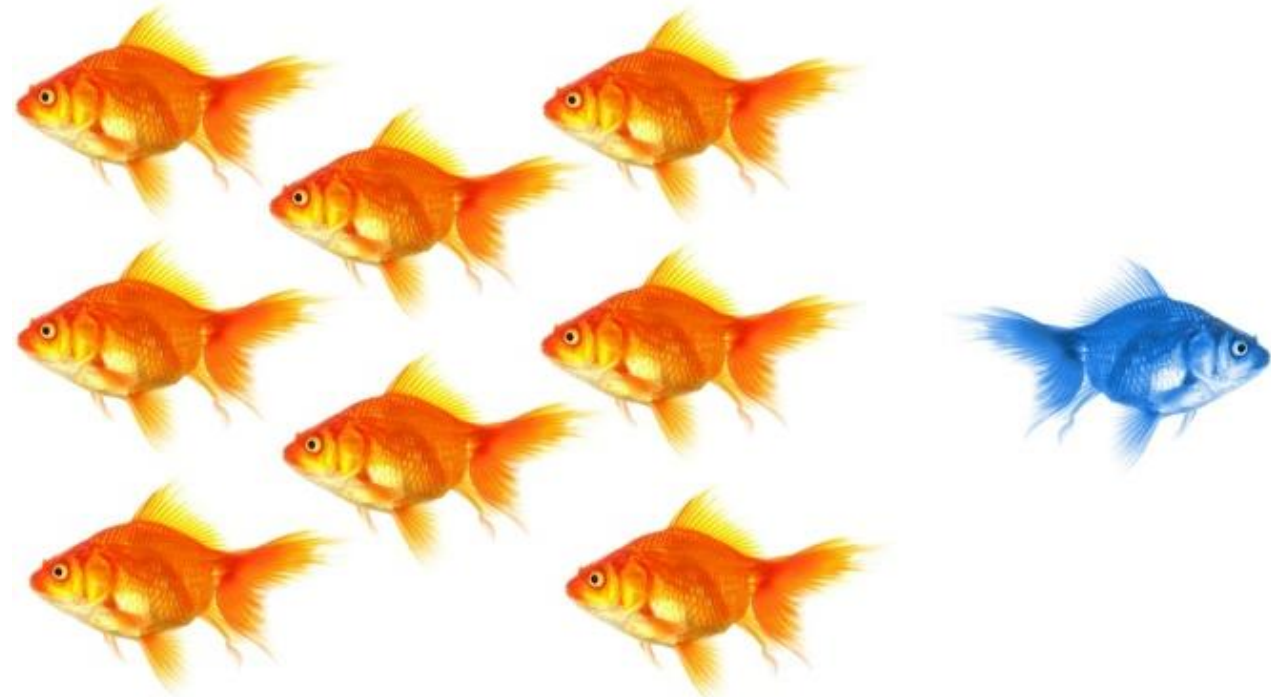
Lack of concern for other’s needs.



# We Need God and Each Other

Acts 17:28 'In him we live and move and have our being'

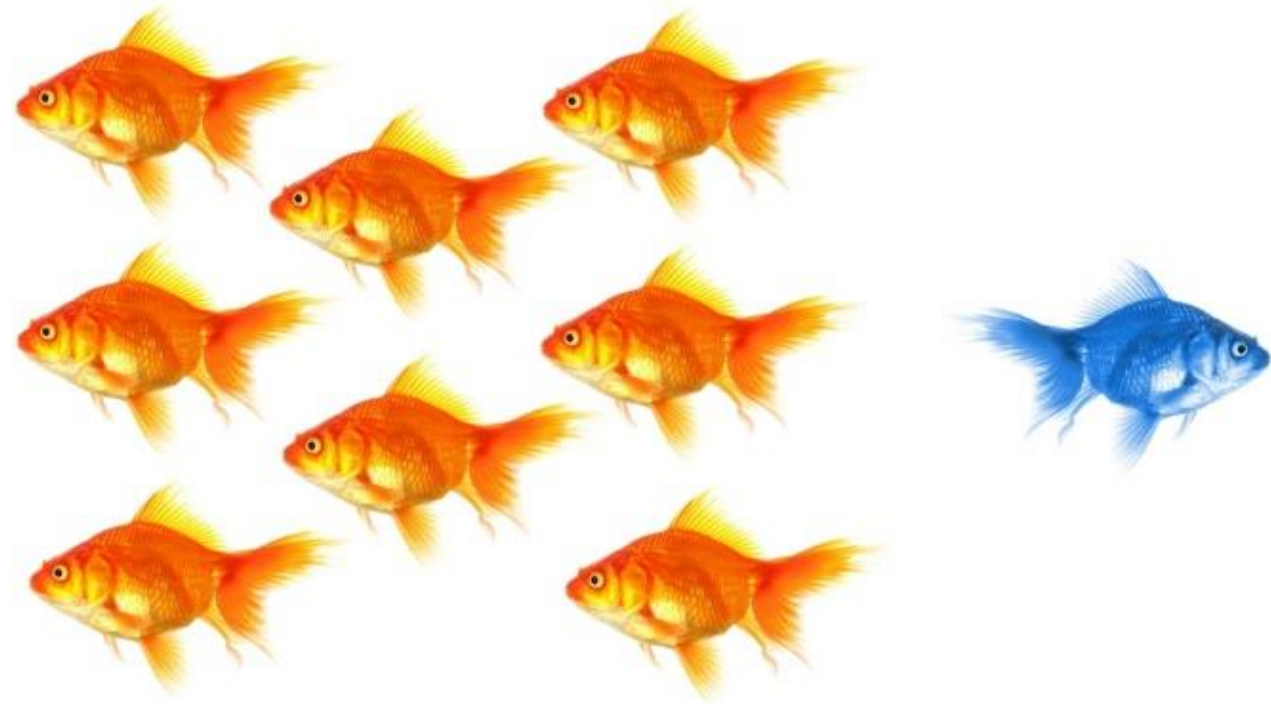
Ecclesiastes 4:11–12 Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? 12 And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.





# We are Called to Love God and Others

Luke 10:27 And he answered,  
“You shall love the Lord your  
God with all your heart and  
with all your soul and with all  
your strength and with all  
your mind, and your neighbor  
as yourself.”



# We are Called to Love God and Others

Phil 2:3-4 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

