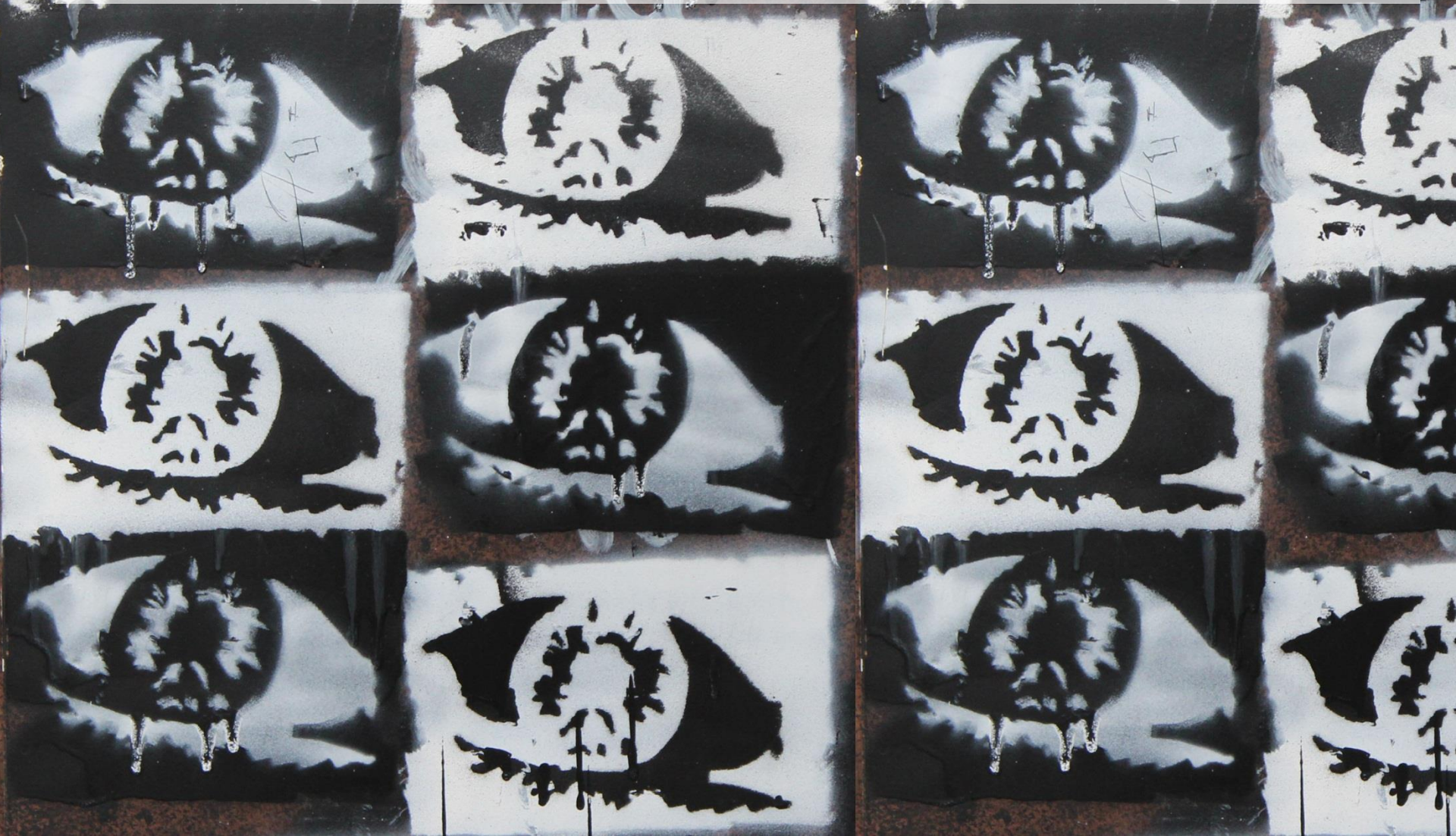


Individualism

I am the Center of the Universe



Individualism

- The belief that the individual is the primary reality and that our understanding of the universe and lifestyle should be centered in oneself.



Individualism

- Doesn't find its origins in an intellectual system, but as a type of **story** about who we should be.



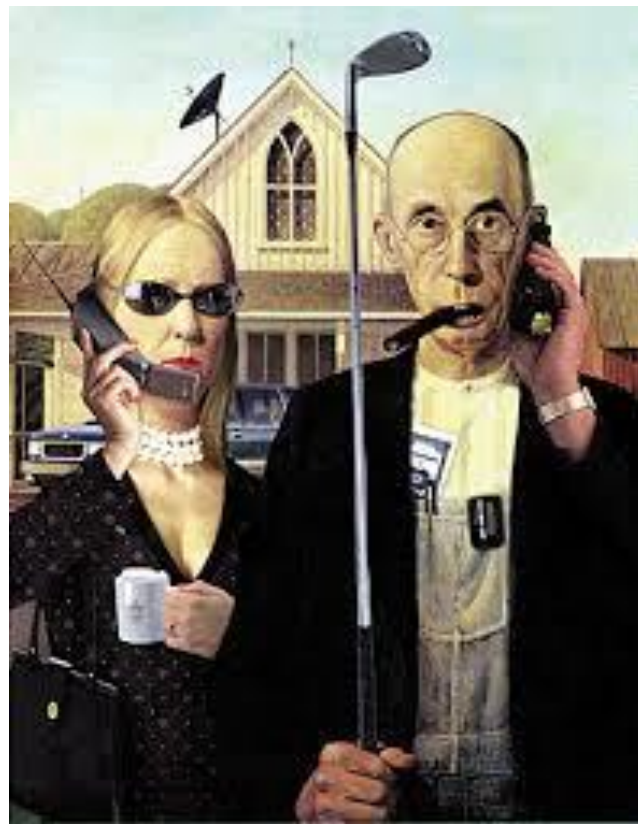
Habits of the Heart

- Utilitarian Individualism
 - Dominate force in America
 - Pleasure over Pain
 - American Dream
 - Conforms to the rules



Habits of the Heart

- Before and After... “It’s a gift to be simple...”



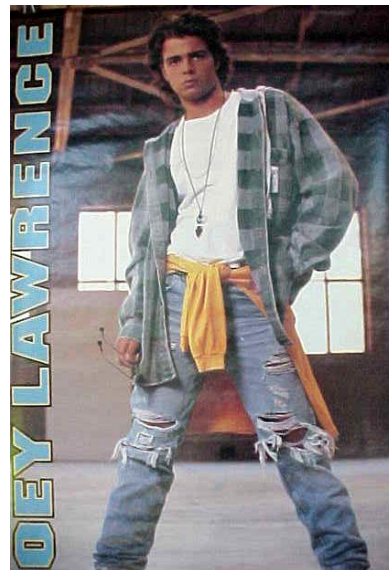


Habits of the Heart

- Expressive Individualism
 - Reaction to Utilitarian Individualism
 - Worships the freedom to express our uniqueness...
 - Rules are threats
 - “I need to be free to be me” (28).

Habits of the Heart

- Expressive Individualism (Fashion)



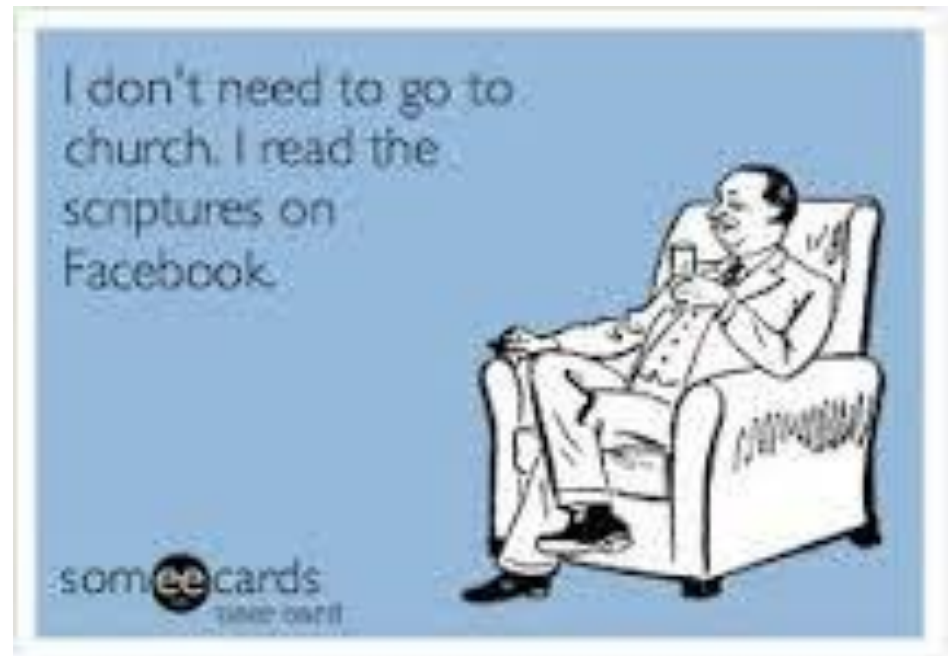
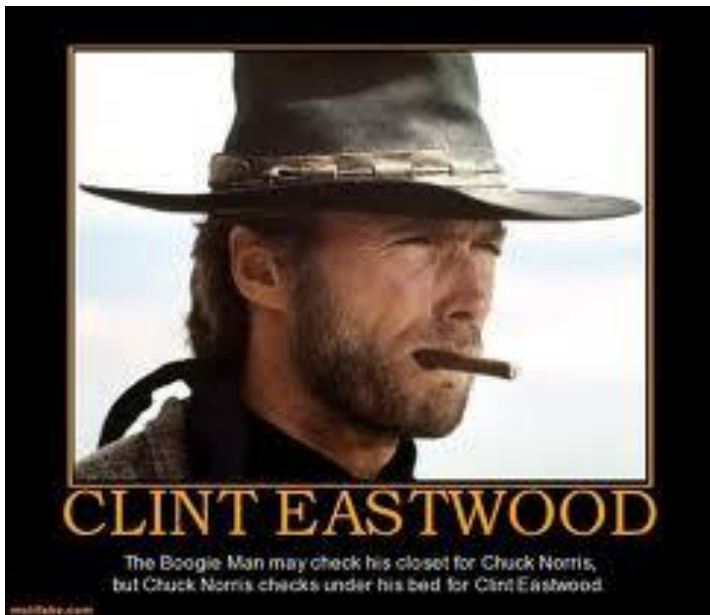
Habits of the Heart

- Expressive Individualism (Music)



Habits of the Heart

- Christianity





I am the Primary Reality of the Universe

- Sacrificial self-benefiting interests
- Self-Centeredness
- Social and Religious Institutions are a Threat
 - Utilitarian Individualism
 - Expressive Individualism



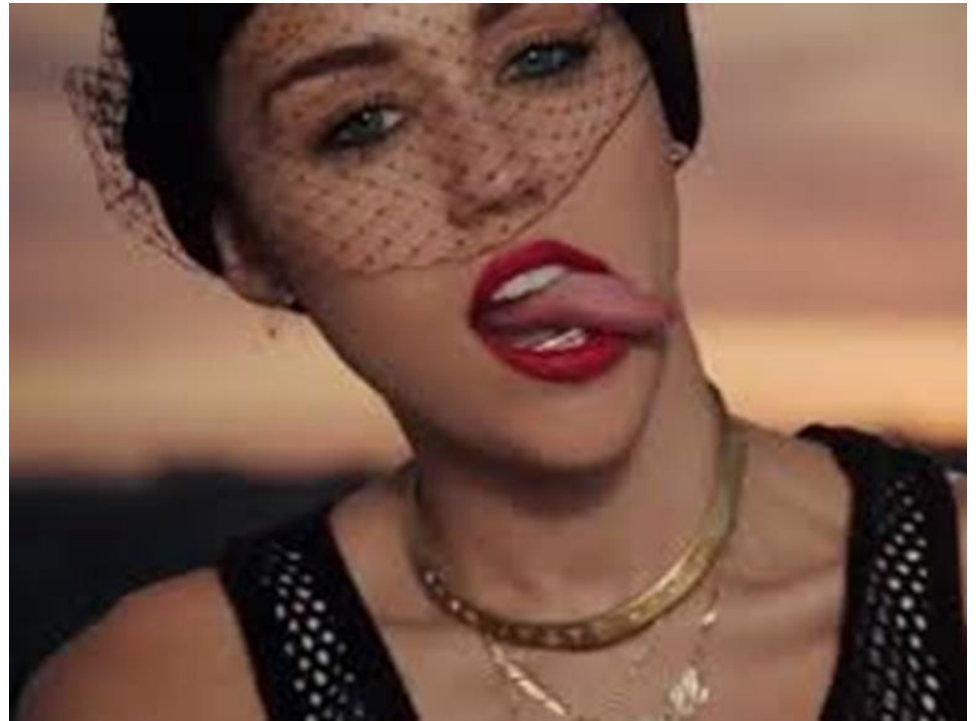
My Ends Justifies My Means

- Speeding
- Cheating on your assignments, tests, hours at work, taxes
- Not listening to a people group, moving a people group into the gettos, getting rid of a people group
- Climb the corporate ladder despite the: other employees, the environment, the poor, etc.

I am My only Moral Conscience



My goals determine what I find valuable...
Who is to judge?





Freedom and Fullfillment are My Right

- Basic Virtues of Classical Thought
 - Prudence
 - Courage
 - Moderation
 - Justice
- Individualism: Freedom is the cardinal virtue
 - Justice...
 - Goodness...
 - Traditional Values...

Performace Defines our Value





The Truth in Individualism

- “Individualism acknowledges the extent of our freedom and the responsibility that comes with freedom” (Wilkins and Sanford, 34).
- “Individualism affirms my need to make a difference” (35).
- “Individualism recognizes the strength of chosen beliefs” (36).



The Potential Problems of Individualism

- “Individualism is constructed on a flawed view of reality” (37).
- Individualism is constructed on a flawed view of human nature” (38).
- “Individualism has a flawed view of freedom and achievement” (39).



Works Cited

Wilkins, Steve and Mark Sanford. *Hidden Worldviews: Eight Cultural Stories that Shape Our Lives*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2009.