



BIBLE-SHAPED & COUNTER-CULTURAL

“DO NOT CONFORM TO THE PATTERN OF THIS WORLD, BUT BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND. THEN YOU WILL BE ABLE TO TEST AND APPROVE WHAT GOD’S WILL IS—HIS GOOD, PLEASING AND PERFECT WILL.”

(ROMANS 12:2)

A PEOPLE WHO...



... ARE **CHRIST-CENTRED**

... ARE **BIBLE-SHAPED**

... ARE **FAMILY**

... ARE **VIBRANT**

... **DEMONSTRATE INTEGRITY**

... **EXTEND GRACE**

... **CONNECT**



The Bible

We believe the Bible, as originally given, to be without error, the fully inspired and infallible Word of God and the supreme and final authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

ELIM FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS



BIBLE-SHAPED & COUNTER-CULTURAL

SUBJECTS WE PLAN TO COVER...

- 'One True God' - a Bible-shaped approach to other faiths**
- 'Supernaturally Speaking' - a Bible-shaped approach to spirituality**
- 'You Are What You Eat' - a Bible-shaped approach to hedonism and holistic health**
- 'Money Matters' - a Bible-shaped approach to money and materialism**
- 'Sexual Sense' - a Bible-shaped approach to love and sexuality**
- 'Who You Say I Am' - a Bible-shaped approach to identity and self worth**
- 'Light of the World' - Being a Bible-shaped People (Question & Answer)**



Q&A - 1ST DECEMBER:

**SUBMIT QUESTIONS / ISSUES YOU WOULD LIKE
ME TO TRY AND ADDRESS BY POSTING THEM IN
THE BLUE SUGGESTION BOX AT THE BACK OR
EMAILING INFO@ELIMABERYSTWYTH.COM
(NO PROMISES!)**



YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT

A Bible-shaped approach to hedonism and holistic health

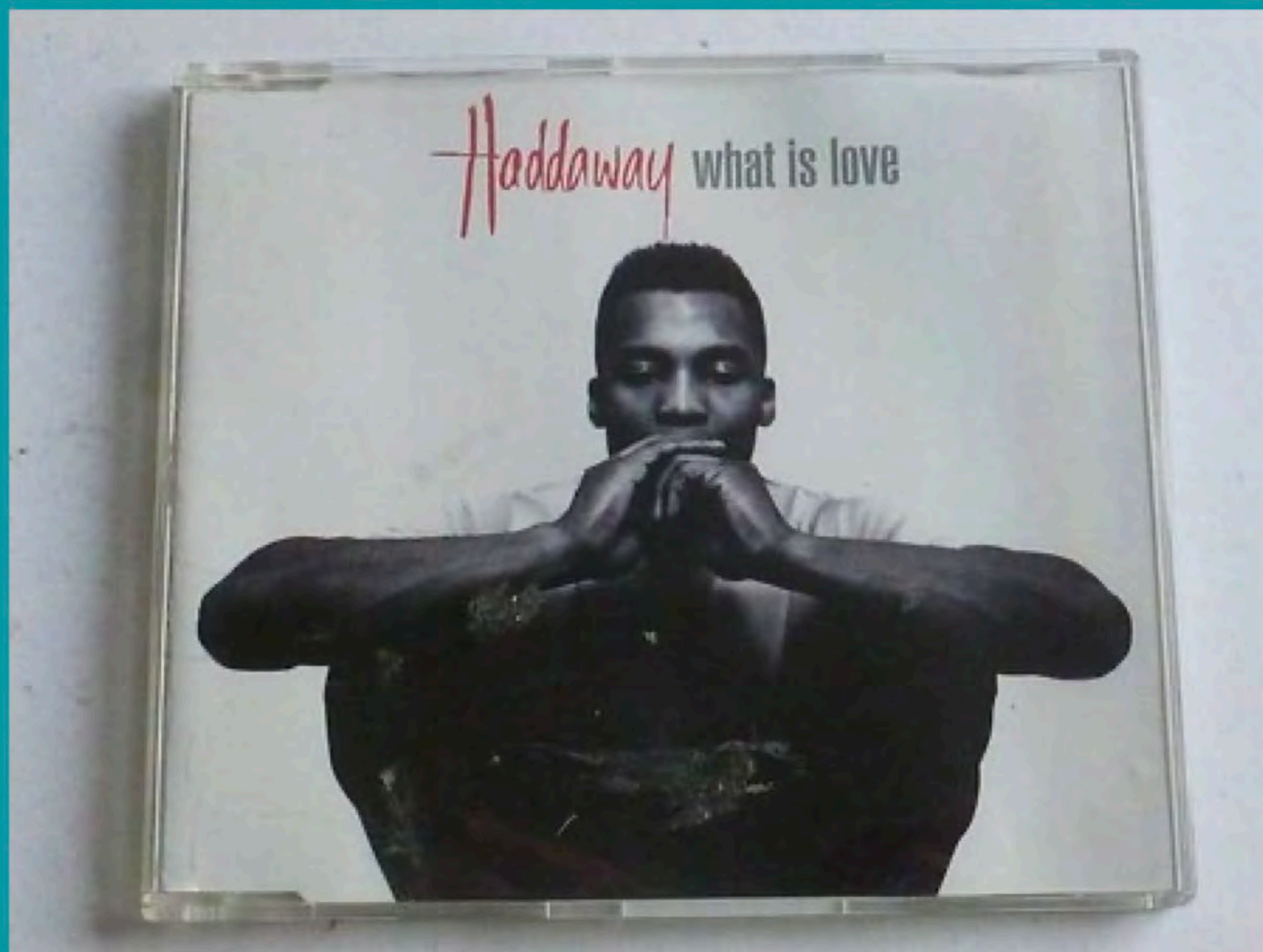


15 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. 16 For everything in the world - the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life - comes not from the Father but from the world. 17 The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.



WAIT A MINUTE...

**... DIDN'T GOD SO LOVE THE WORLD THAT
HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON?**





WHAT IS LOVE?

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The Greek words translated as 'love' in both cases even derive from the same word (agape)

The love that John is steering us away from in 1 John 2 is a love that is about getting - lust for the things of the world

The love that John attributes to God in John 3:16 is a love about giving - sacrificial and selfless



**THE PREVAILING CULTURE WE LIVE IN TELLS
US TO 'DO WHAT FEELS GOOD FOR YOU
RIGHT NOW' AND HAS MADE PRIDE A GOAL
FOR US TO ASPIRE TO**



Charli XCX, a UK singer, helped popularize the word "brat" which was named Collins Dictionary's word of the year for 2024. The word is the title of her sixth album and is used to describe a lifestyle that is confident, independent, and hedonistic. In this sense, being called a brat is likely to be a compliment. [🔗](#)



***Hedonism:
the ethical theory that pleasure (in
the sense of the satisfaction of
desires) is the highest good and
proper aim of human life.***

OXFORD DICTIONARY

IF IT FEELS GOOD...

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The basic premise is that we should get as much pleasure and comfort as we can

There are other more moralistic hedonistic philosophies

This is arguably the underlying self-centred, humanistic (in the sense of our own sense of 'self' being our ultimate guide and authority) that has prevailed for more than a generation in Western culture



“According to non-philosophers, then, a stereotypical hedonist is someone who never misses an opportunity to indulge of the pleasures of sex, drugs, and rock ‘n’ roll, even if the indulgences are likely to lead to relationship problems, health problems, regrets, or sadness for themselves or others.”

DAN WEIJERS, INTERNET ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF PHILOSOPHY
[HTTPS://IEP.UTM.EDU/HEDONISM/](https://iep.utm.edu/hedonism/)



“Sex, Drugs and Rock & Roll”

“The counter culture has its sacraments in sex, drugs and rock.”

LIFE MAGAZINE, 1969



CONSUMER CULTURE

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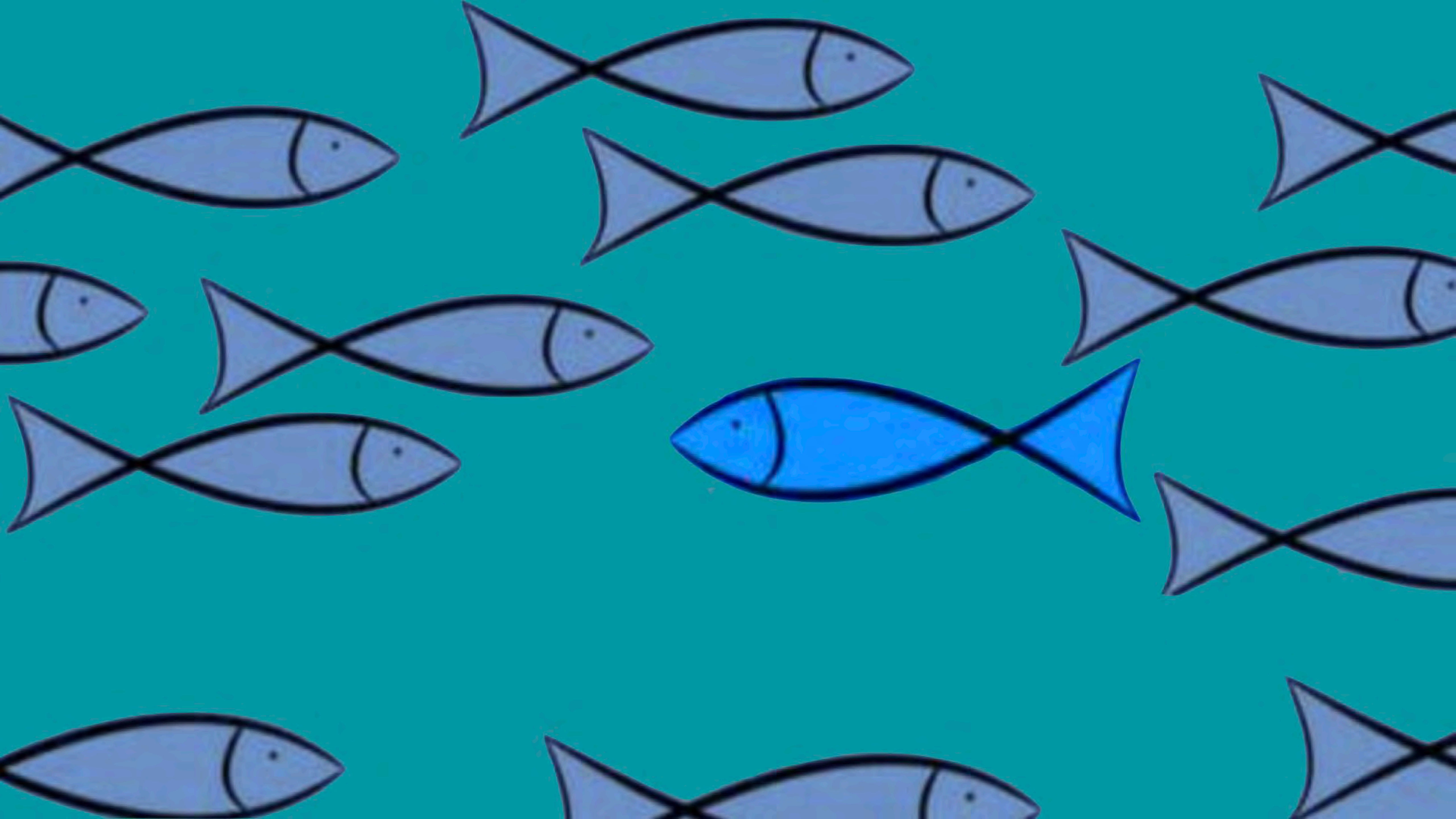
This way of life believes the keys to fulfilment and happiness are in the hands of serving oneself with momentary pleasures - 'consume, enjoy, get what you can'

It has even seeped into church culture - 'I didn't get anything out of the worship today?'

Christ's teaching and way of life show us the road to true whole-life health and eternal fulfilment



35 In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "





KINGDOM LIVING MEANS GIVING

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The Apostle Paul quotes words of Jesus, from an unknown source, that would cut right across today's culture

A Bible shaped life will be counter-cultural in this matter

We are told to We are encouraged to 'look after number one' and believe that 'charity begins at home'



**“Is it just me, or do
the people who say
“charity begins at
home” usually seem
to be implying that it
should end there?”**

MELINDA COUSINS

[HTTPS://MELINDACOUSINS.COM/2014/01/29/CAN-WE-PLEASE-STOP-SAYING-CHARITY-BEGINS-AT-HOME/](https://melindacousins.com/2014/01/29/can-we-please-stop-saying-charity-begins-at-home/)



GIVE, GIVE, GIVE

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Our hedonistic, capitalist and consumerist culture tells you to do all you can to get, get, get

The King of Kings has shown us the way of the Kingdom of God is to do the opposite

Our goal in this life is not to accumulate all we can but to follow the way of the Saviour who gave it all for us



9 I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. 11 'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.



FULLNESS OF LIFE

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Our route to fulness of life and whole-life (holistic) health is in being in the fold of the Good Shepherd

He wants us to know eternal health, joy, peace and shalom wholeness in mind, body, soul and spirit

So much so that He died an agonising death upon the cross that we might be saved



**THE WAY OF JESUS SAYS NO TO HEDONISM
AND YES TO WHOLE LIFE HEALTH**



3 The tempter came to him and said,
"If you are the Son of God, tell these
stones to become bread." 4 Jesus
answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not
live on bread alone, but on every word
that comes from the mouth of God.'



BREAD OF LIFE

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Jesus quotes Deuteronomy 8 from before the Israelites went in to take the promised land

They needed reminding what God had done for them before and where their true strength came from

Jesus applies this as His response to the devil's attempt to tempt Him in the wilderness



**JESUS WAS MORE HUNGRY TO DO THE
FATHER'S WILL THAN HE WAS TO FEED HIS
DESPERATELY HUNGRY BODY**



34 'My food,' said Jesus, 'is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.'



**HOW CAN WE OVERCOME THE ENEMY'S
TEMPTATION AND DESIRES OF THE FLESH?**



6 But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: 'God opposes the proud but shows favour to the humble.' 7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

BIBLE SHAPED

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Submission to God - allowing the Bible to shape your life

Resistance of the enemy - being equipped with the Bible

Leaning into His grace - remaining humble and grateful



Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.



2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

RENEWED MIND

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Living in response to His mercy

Offering our whole selves sacrificially to serve and worship God - our bodies are His temple and should be holistically given to Him

Attending to and attaining to His will as the scripture shapes our thinking and becomes our food too!



16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.



SPIRIT LED

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Walking by the Spirit who led Jesus into the wilderness

**Knowing that this same Spirit raised Jesus from the dead
and is alive in us as His temple**

Being shaped by the Spirit and cultivating His fruits

NOVEMBER

Saying **NO** to the flesh and the enemy

Saying **YES** to the power of The Spirit



**Our annual opportunity to fast and pray together at Elim Aberystwyth
Ask The Lord to inspire you as to when and how to fast during the month**



32 Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."



34 "Sir," they said, "always give us this bread." 35 Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."



**JESUS IS THE BREAD WE NEED AND THE ONE
WHO GIVES US FULLNESS OF LIFE**