

5. Jesus also counters this perspective (see question 3). Read the following passages and complete the statement.

Matthew 5: ¹¹ "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me."

When we follow Jesus, we give up the right to...

Mark 10: ⁴² Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ⁴³ Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant..."

When we follow Jesus, we give up the right to...

John 14: ²³ Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching."

When we follow Jesus, we give up the right to...

Matthew 16: ²⁴ Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it."

When we follow Jesus, we give up the right to...

6. What most compels you to trust God to map your life and determine your destiny?

7. How can you be more discerning about the sources you look to for wisdom and direction?

8. How can we guard against bending God's message in Scripture to support our perspectives, whether political or based on our economic class or based on our ethnic/national/racial identity?

The First Page (A Series on Genesis 1)

"5 Ways God is Not Like Us (Thank God!)" (Part 4)

Genesis 1:1,26-28

Because God created us in his image for his purposes, only God can show us the best path to our best _____.

How's Your Sense of Direction?

When it comes to life, the landscape is too _____ for any human mind to see it or map it.

Look In, Look Out, Look Up

"Desire determines _____"

- How do we _____ which of our desires to pursue?
- How do we determine which desires are good and which are _____?
- What happens to all of our relationships when we're all pursuing our own desires and expecting everyone to fall in line and support _____?
- What if your heart is lying to you or simply _____?
- What if your desires can only be fulfilled by _____ others?

Why Look Up First?

1. When it comes to the complexity of a person's life, only God has that bird's eye view of the landscape and is able to _____ out the best path.
2. In Genesis 1, God the Creator is also God the _____.
3. God is love, experienced perfect love and _____ for all eternity past within himself (as Father, Son, and Spirit, lacking nothing), and created us to share in and experience that love with him.
4. When humanity rebelled and introduced _____ into the earthly realm, he devised a plan to make us right with him by becoming one of us and paying the just and righteous penalty for the reign of evil we unleash with each sin we commit.
5. His desires for you are _____ for you than your desires for you.

Resources:

- Hidden Brain Podcast, "Watch Your Mouth" episode. <https://hiddenbrain.org/podcast/watch-your-mouth/>
- Trevin Wax, "Rethink Yourself" Video Talk. <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/video/rethink-self/>
- Trevin Wax, [Rethink Your Self: The Power of Looking Up Before Looking In](#).
- Thaddeus Williams, "Expressive individualism is a bust." <https://wng.org/opinions/expressive-individualism-is-a-bust-1660823054>

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Think of your workplace, school, political party, social media feeds, or news and entertainment sources. What are some of the ways the "look in" first approach to life is expressed?
3. Conventional wisdom says, "No matter what, be true to yourself, "Follow your heart," "You do you," and "Chase your dreams." How does Genesis 1 counter this perspective?
4. How would you explain some of the logical problems with these slogans (see question 3)?