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Who Were you Before the World Told you who you Should be?

“If there was only one life vest, and you and one other person were on a sinking ship, would you give them the life vest, or keep it for yourself?”, almost every person in America has been asked the previous question in one shape or form,and almost every time the same answer has been said. Something along the lines of, “ The other person of course”. When someone says this it makes them seem selfless and caring, but actions speak louder than words, so if someone answered this truthfully it would be more like “I’m not sure, I’ve never been in that situation before”, because unless that person has been in that exact situation they cannot give an honest answer. That “brain teaser” is kind of life the question “What is more important, the individual or society?”. “You” is the individual and the other person is symbolically society. Most people say that they would choose someone else’s \_\_\_\_\_ over their own, most people are lying. So in relation to Society vs. The Individual, people always say statements etc. to make themselves look better, so one might call a person who favors the individual over society, selfish, because it makes them look selfless by favoring society. The individual is more important than society because society is what it is because of all the different types of individuals that it’s made up of, so without individuals, is there really even a society?

If society is more important than individuals, the world loses individuality. Society is made up of individuals and the definition of individual is, “ single;separate.” So if people start favoring others over themselves they eventually lose who they really are and the world loses what makes it special. Life wouldn’t be the same if everyone was equal and people didn’t care about their own beliefs. As bad as it sounds, we need discrimination and separation of classes, and inequality. Inequality is what separates the hard workers and the people who just want handouts. If society is more important than people are thinking it’s ok to be average and to not try. One of the best things about America is that it is the land of oppurtunity, and if everyone was equal then there isn’t an equal oppurtunity. Everyone, no matter what the circumstance is, has the same oppurtunity, some people just do different things with the cards life has dealt them. Society has taught it’s okay to need help, but what happens when people start to rely solely on that help?

Second of all, if the individual is less important than society, we lose things such as religious freedom. If one person converts to a certain religion because of someone else because they think it's more important than a domino effect happens and the world, over time, will contain only one religion. In many countries, religious persecution if a major issue, but America has religious freedom, but another domino effect would occur. Over time religious persecution would spread on a global scale. To so many people, religion is the most important thing to them and would be willing to die for it. So many people would die over time because it is almost certain that religious persecution would spread because history always repeats itself.In the book *A Raisin in the sun”* they lived in a place where society was more important and they slipped through the cracks because in a place where society is more important people fall. It is impossible to accommodate everyones wants and needs so inevitably people will slip through the cracks.

On the other side many people think society is more important because they believe that everyone should be accommodated. They fail to realize that everyone cannot have what they want and need, it’s just not logical. Those who believe society is more important think the Individual side is selfish. Although this argument is enticing, it fails in comparison because individuality is essential globally. If society was more important than people stop living for themselves and start living for others, and that is one of the worst things that could happen. What is the point of living if you aren’t really living, just existing?

To conclude, individuals are more important than society because individuals make up society and society isn’t society without all the different types of personalities it includes today. Everyone has something(s) that make them special and different, and if society is more important and people start living for others they lose what makes them special. So, do you remember who you were before the world told you who you should be?

Works cited

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