

Session 1

IDENTITY

# Identity Formation

# 'Sense of self'

- Who I understand myself to be
  - *Self-concept*
  - *Self-image*
  - *Self-perception*

# 'Identity'

- How I present myself to others
  - Past identities
  - Future identities

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# 'Identity'

- Personal realities
  - Male or female
  - Black or white
  - Young or old
  - etc

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# 'Identity'

- Theological realities
  - A creature
  - Made in the image of God
  - etc

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# 'Identity'

- Experiential realities
  - Things that have happened to us
  - Family
  - Life events
  - etc

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# 'Identity'

- Shaping our behaviour
- Altering our perception

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# Union with Christ

- What relation to other aspects of our identity?
- What should we expect about difference?

# Identity Formation

1. Identity and the stories others tell us
2. Identity and the stories we discover inside ourselves
3. Identity and the story God gives us

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# Views of identity

## Traditional identity

'Outside-in'

Shaped by my  
family / culture

## Modern identity

'Inside-out'

Shaped by my  
feelings

Conceal,  
don't feel



Conceal,  
don't feel



Let it go!



# Cultural Voices

- *Be true to yourself*
- *You can do anything if you put your mind to it*
- *It's your life, don't let anyone else tell you how to live it*

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# Problems with modern identity

- It's exhausting
- It's frightening
- It's incoherent
- It's isolating

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# Matthew 7:7-11

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

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# Matthew 7:7-11

Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

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# Matthew 10:34-39

“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a person's enemies will be those of his own household.

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# Matthew 10:34-39

Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

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