

Seminar

The Tyranny of Self-Definition

The Cultural Water They're Swimming In

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The Question Underneath

Who am I, and would you still want me if you knew?

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Five Selves

A young person is being trained to inhabit:

- Expressive
- Curated
- Therapeutic
- Fragile
- Lonely

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The Expressive Self

"Being true to myself is the highest good."

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The Curated Self

"I have to package myself for other people to approve."

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The Therapeutic Self

"My pain explains who I am."

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The Fragile Self

"If I get this wrong, I might fall apart."

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The Lonely Self

"I have to work out who I am on my own."

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The Deeper Story Scripture Tells About the Self

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The Deeper Burden

Culture has handed our young people a job that belongs to God alone.

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The Self Is Given

- Made by God
- Known by God
- For God

The Self Is Bent

- Shame
- Hiding
- Performance
- Blame

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The Self Is Remade

- In Christ
- By grace
- Into his likeness

Biblical Pastoral Care in a Culture of Self-Definition

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Pastoral Care

1. Listen for understanding, not instant correction
2. Distinguish wound, sin, fear, limit and label
3. Give children thicker language than the culture gives

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Pastoral Care

4. Practise gentle challenge without relational panic
5. Build thick belonging before the crisis comes
6. Help parents and leaders carry this without shame
7. Keep bringing the conversation back to Christ

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Young people don't have to author themselves.

They never did.

*Our privilege is to stay in the room and help them
hear His voice.*

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