

The Tyranny of Self Definition

Mel Lacy

The Tyranny of Self-Definition

Helping children and young people who feel they must define themselves

Part One - The Cultural Water They're Swimming In

Five selves a young person is being trained to inhabit.

One question runs under them all:

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

1. The Expressive Self

"Being true to myself is the highest good."

2. The Curated Self

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

3. The Therapeutic Self

"My pain explains who I am."

4. The Fragile Self

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

5. The Lonely Self

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

Part Two - The Deeper Story Scripture Tells About the Self

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

1. The Self Is Given

2. The Self Is Bent

3. The Self Is Remade

The culture hands them a mirror and says, **look harder**.

Scripture offers them a Father who invites them to **come home**.

