

What is a Human?

Part 1: "The Image of God"

Rooting the dignity of humanity in the Gospel.

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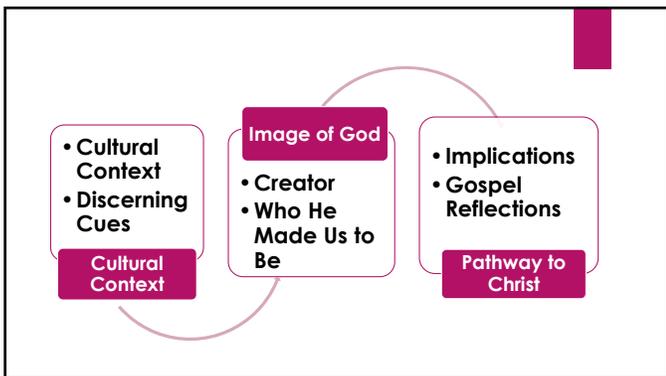
Disorienting Speed of Change

The Confusion: In overwhelming cultural change, Christians are losing confidence that God's word is *still* authoritative.

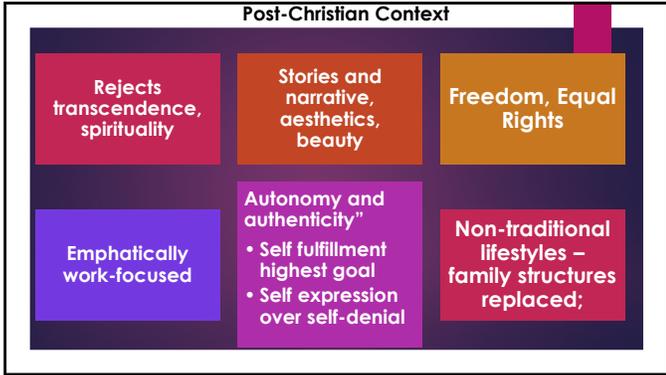
The Challenge: Maintain our rootedness in Truth with a gracious posture toward unbelievers.

The Cues behind the cause: what are the longings they are revealing to us that the gospel answers?

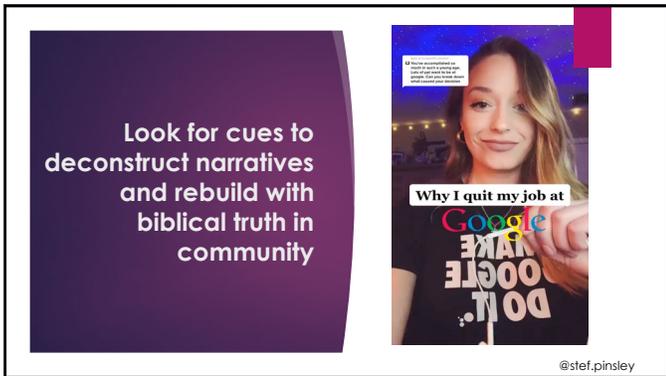
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(Transcript) Storytime:
 Why I quit my job at Google with no backup plan during Covid
 At first I really loved my job, but over time I got pretty bad anxiety and depression that got worse until finally I had to take a leave of absence because I was so wildly burnt out. My life came to a screeching halt when I was forced to figure out why I was so unhappy that it was affecting my health. It came down to, I wasn't living for myself. Most of my life I attributed value to my achievements and I did whatever got me praise and recognition. So when I actually had to figure out what made me happy I realized I needed much more freedom, autonomy, and impact. I started posting on TikTok and I started to feel like myself again. I saw the impact I was having, all the relationships I started to form, and I loved to be able to create whatever I wanted. After my leave I tried to give Google another try to see if I felt any different. I just felt more of the same. So I quit so I could begin my entrepreneurial journey; one that I felt like I just couldn't start until I fully severed ties with Google. So here I am, living at home in my childhood bedroom to save money and I'm starting from ground zero and I could not be more excited and scared.

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**There is no one but me who can say who I am
Or what I'm living and striving here for.
The human condition, we're unhappy animals
Rich in things, but in our minds, we are poor.**

- Arch Hades (excerpt from "Nausea")

@archhades 3.20.21

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The Image of God

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God is Creator

- ▶ Who is God? Father, Son, and Spirit
- ▶ What is His desired outcome ("telos") for man?
- ▶ How did God design us to fulfill them?
- ▶ What are the implications of being created in the image of God?

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The 'Why' of Creation

For God's glory or human flourishing?

Supernatural Telos

Human Nature, Grace & Glory

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Humanity: A Personal Bodily Self...
Not a Person *with* a Body!

BODY	↔	SOUL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Essential to <i>Imago Dei</i> ▶ Not inferior! <p>Paul has a lot to say about the body</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Rationality, Will, Intellect ▶ Emotions ▶ Affections (<i>splanchna</i>=chest) Col 3 ▶ Passions (<i>koilia</i>=belly) Phil 3

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Who did God make us to be?

3 Proposals

- ▶ Functional: Priestly Ruler (ANE view includes priestly)
- ▶ Relational: Sonship
- ▶ Christological

- ▶ What about unbelievers?
- ▶ Those with disabilities, the unborn, mental impairments, etc?

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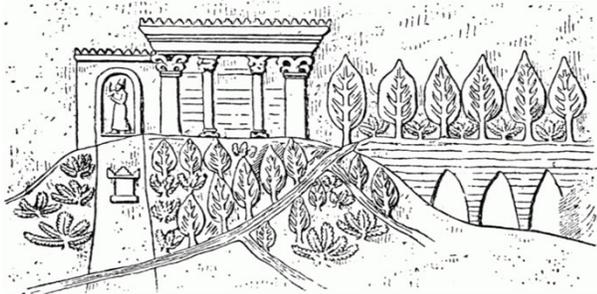
Priestly Ruler

- ▶ Eden as Sanctuary
- ▶ "Image and Likeness"
- ▶ Regent and Representative



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A TEMPLE AND HANGING GARDEN AT KUYUNDJIK AT NINEVEH, THE GARDEN OF SENNACHERIB



<https://gateofnineveh.wordpress.com/2012/02/15/assyrian-agricultural-technology/sennacheribsgarden/>

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Relational/Sonship

- ▶ Kin of God?
- ▶ Son by nature, sons by grace
- ▶ Tracing Sonship through OT & NT



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Jesus – The Son is the Image of the Invisible God

- ▶ The Incarnation
- ▶ Our conformity to Him
- ▶ Physical & Spiritual Body
- ▶ Co-Heirs



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What about the Last, Lost & Least?

If it requires "function" what about those with cognitive or physical impairments? Unborn?

What about people who reject Christ? How can they be in His image?

Reflection

How does your treatment of others serve God's telos?

Which aspects of the Gospel would resonate with Arch and Stef?

After reading Psalm 8, consider also: What is God that He is mindful of man?

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O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens... When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You have given him dominion over the works of your hands you have put all things under his feet...O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Psalm 8:1-6,9

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For Discussion this Month:

The Image, Identity & Gospel Pathways

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Poetry that Points to Transcendence

AMANDA GORMAN

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"The Miracle of Morning," by Amanda Gorman

I thought I'd awaken to a world in mourning.
 Heavy clouds crowding, a society storming.
 But there's something different on this golden morning.
 Something magical in the sunlight, wide and warming.

I see a dad with a stroller taking a jog.
 Across the street, a bright-eyed girl chases her dog.
 A grandma on a porch fingers her rosaries.
 She grins as her young neighbor brings her groceries...

We ignite not in the light, but in lack thereof,
 For it is in loss that we truly learn to love.
 In this chaos, we will discover clarity.
 In suffering, we must find solidarity.

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"The Miracle of Morning," by Amanda Gorman

For it's our grief that gives us our gratitude,
Shows us how to find hope, if we ever lose it.
So ensure that this ache wasn't endured in vain;
Do not ignore the pain. Give it purpose. Use it.

We'll observe how the burdens braved by humankind
Are also the moments that make us humans kind;
Let each morning find us courageous, brought closer;
Heeding the light before the fight is over.
When this ends, we'll smile sweetly, finally seeing
In testing times, we become the best of beings.

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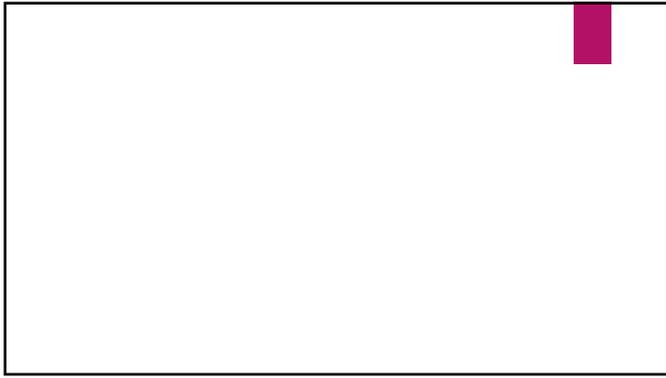
Thank you to our partners!



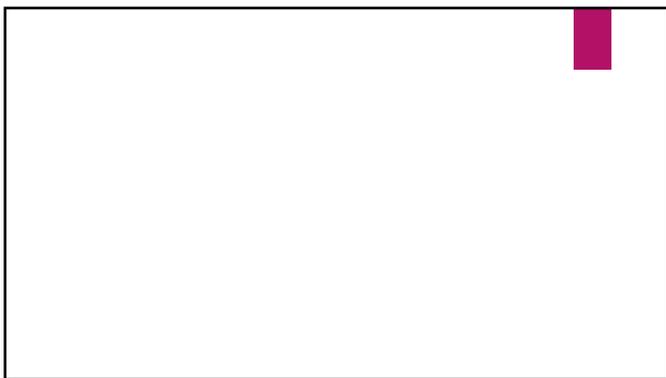
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A Quick Tool:
Distinguishing between
God-Created and Self-Constructed

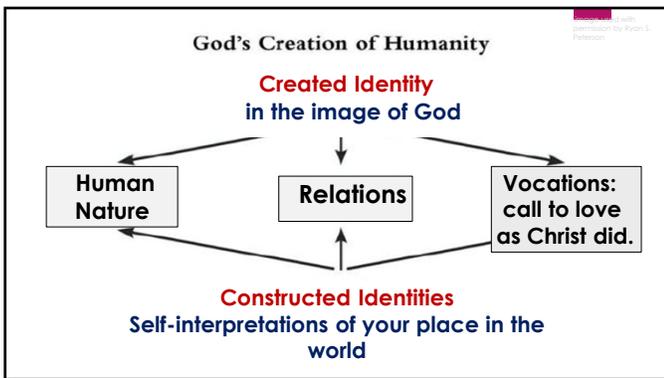
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“...feeling that one knows oneself is based (in part) on an assumption of stability... Identities are not the fixed markers people assume them to be but are...constructed in the moment.” -

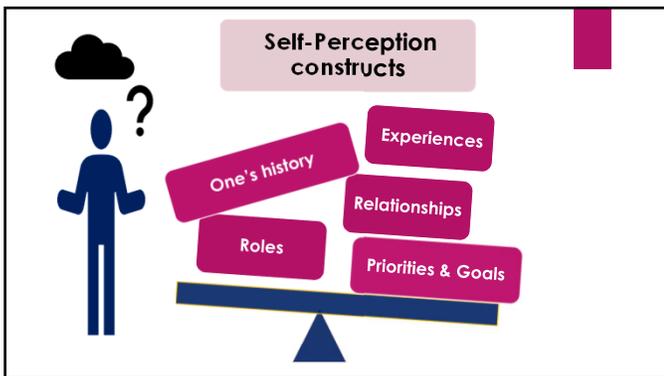


Oylerman, Elmore, and Smith, "Self, Self-Concept, and Identity," *Handbook of Self and Identity*, 2nd ed., ed. Mark R. Leary and June Price Tangney (New York: Guilford, 2012), p.70

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