

## CHRISTIAN STORY

**CREATION** - my identity/purpose  
Christian story - I am designed male or female in God's image

Our identity flows from our Creator.

"Know that the LORD Himself is God;  
It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves;  
*We are* His people and the sheep of His pasture."

Psalms 100:3 (NASB)

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them."

Genesis 1:27

\* We know who we truly are in relation to whose we are.

"I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.  
Wonderful are your works;  
my soul knows it very well.  
My frame was not hidden from you,  
when I was being made in secret,  
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.  
Your eyes saw my unformed substance;  
in your book were written, every one of them,  
the days that were formed for me,  
when as yet there was none of them.  
How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!  
How vast is the sum of them!  
If I would count them, they are more than the sand.  
I awake, and I am still with you."

Psalms 139:14-18

## FALL – My problem

Christian story – I can't accurately know who I am apart from God's grace and truth.

"For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools."

Romans 1:21-22

### Psalm 36 – A Sinful Identity

1	"Transgression speaks to the wicked deep in his heart. There is no fear of God before his eyes."	We listen to ourselves.
2	"For he flatters himself in his own eyes that his iniquity cannot be found out and hated."	We _____ ourselves.
3	"The words of his mouth are trouble and deceit; he has ceased to act wisely and do good."	We _____ ourselves.
4	"He plots trouble while on his bed; he sets himself in a way that is not good; he does not reject evil."	We _____ ourselves.

"He sets himself in a way" = a biblical image of orientation

**REDEMPTION** – The solution to my problem

Christian story – I am being transformed into a new self in Jesus with my brothers and sisters.

“For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

2 Corinthians 5:21

“Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.”

Colossians 3:2-4

Rosaria Butterfield –

“Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.”

Colossians 3:9-11

Our racial and social distinctives are gifts, not essence. They are not definitional.

“The Christian who makes Christ and His love the core of his or her identity, then, discovers that we need not completely reject other identity factors. Our race and national identity, our work and profession, our family and politics and community ties can all remain intact. They are no longer the ultimate basis for our significance and security, but that does not mean they are flattened or eliminated. Rather we are free to enjoy them as God’s gifts to us, but we are no longer enslaved to them as our saviors.”

Timothy Keller

\* Jesus both rejects and redeems our previous identities.

## **RESTORATION** – My ultimate hope

Christian story – I long for the day when I am free from sin, fully satisfied in Jesus.

“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.”

Romans 8:18-21

“For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.”

1 Corinthians 13:12

“Knowing all this can give us a new way to look at our lives. The fact is, this body now, in all the ways in which it is a blessing and a burden, is not the only bodily experience we will ever have. Through Christ we are confident of a future resurrection. There will be no more physical temptations, no more spiritual or physical weakness. No more shame or affliction. No more sin. And no more death.... This is the answer to our deep fear of missing out. I don’t need to worry about squeezing every last drop of pleasure out of this physical life when I can look forward to an eternity of enjoying the new creation in a resurrected body.”

Sam Allberry