



# WHO AM I?

## THE SEARCH FOR IDENTITY

### ROMANS 12:2

23 OCTOBER 2024



# INTRODUCTION





Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

(Romans 12:1-2)





## PART 1

# WHO AM I?

## THE SEARCH FOR IDENTITY





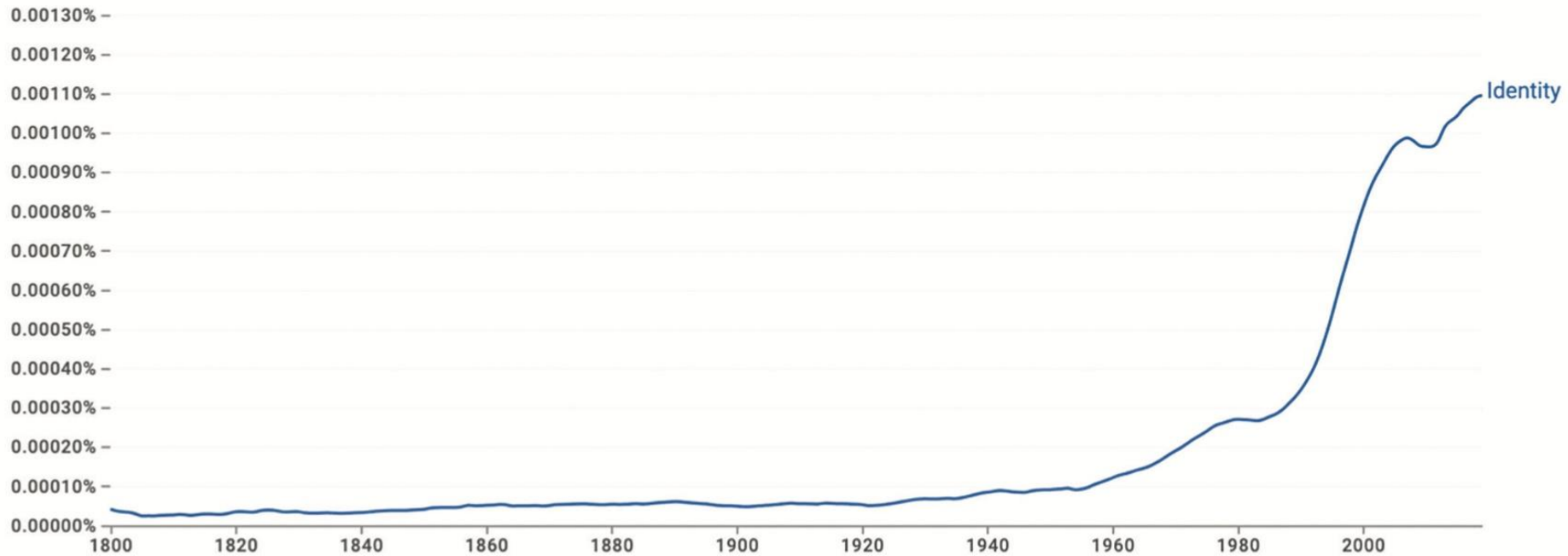
# Introduction: Identity





## Three goals







# PART 1

## Constructing the modern self: How to put you together





	YOU in 1524	YOU in 2024
Family	Large	Small
Death	Present	Hidden
Community	Strong, tight, potentially suffocating	Weak, loose, easily escapable
Your work	What your parents did; conditioned by your gender	What you've decided to do; much less conditioned by gender
Freedom of choice	Almost non-existent	Almost overwhelming
The natural world	Full of meaning	Absent of meaning
Common negative emotions	Fear, guilt	Anxiety, lack of purpose
Your identity	Chosen for you	Chosen by you



"Expressive individualism ..."







**Come into the ranks  
and fight for your King  
and Country—Don't stay  
in the crowd and stare**



**YOU ARE WANTED  
AT · THE · FRONT  
ENLIST TO·DAY**





"... in an age of authenticity"





## Authentic identity as a salvation story

	Origins	Fall	Hero	Denouement
The expressive individualist salvation story	There is a true self inside me.	Through external forces that self was lost/pushed aside.	I was liberated to rediscover that true inner self through a person/event.	I am still working through it and facing conflict, but things are materially different.



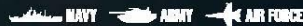


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## PART 2

**Modern identity construction:  
So how's that working out for you?**







Some real positives ...





However ...





# 1. New and novel





## 2. Underthought and under-tested





### 3. Poor outcomes





## 4. An alternative gospel





## PART 3

# "Find your identity in Christ": Problems and possibilities





# Identity and salvation in Christ







# Colossians 3-4:1 and identity formation





<sup>3:1</sup> Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. <sup>3</sup> For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.





<sup>5</sup> Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. <sup>6</sup> Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. <sup>7</sup> You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived.





<sup>8</sup> But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. <sup>9</sup> Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices <sup>10</sup> and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. <sup>11</sup> Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.





<sup>12</sup> Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. <sup>14</sup> And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.





<sup>15</sup> Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.





<sup>18</sup> Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. <sup>19</sup> Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.

<sup>20</sup> Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.





<sup>22</sup> Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. <sup>23</sup> Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, <sup>24</sup> since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. <sup>25</sup> Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for their wrongs, and there is no favoritism.







4:1 Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a Master in heaven.

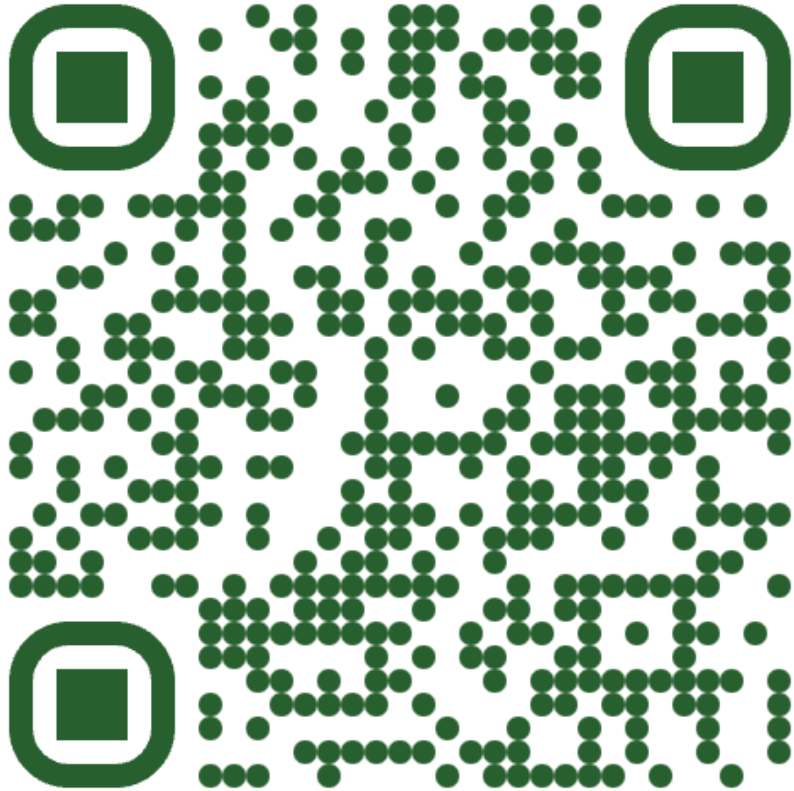
(Colossians 3:3-4:1)





# Conclusions





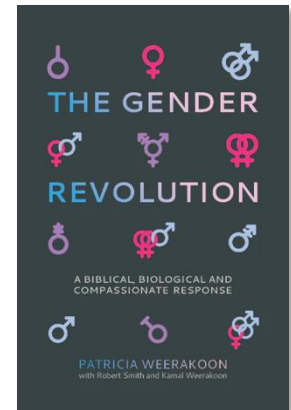
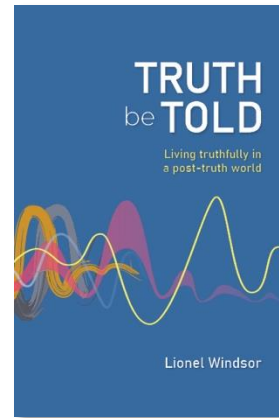
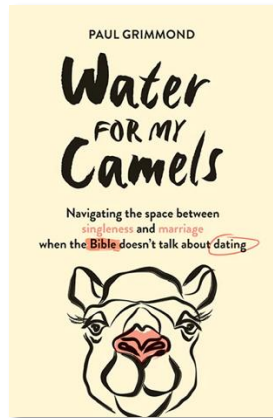
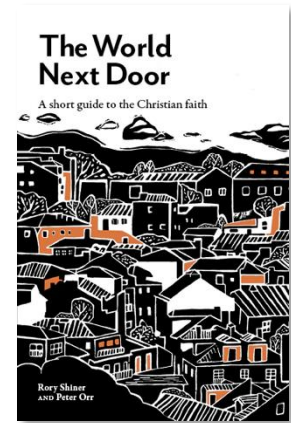
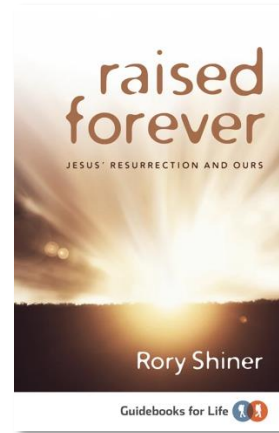
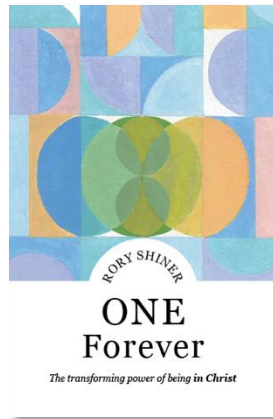
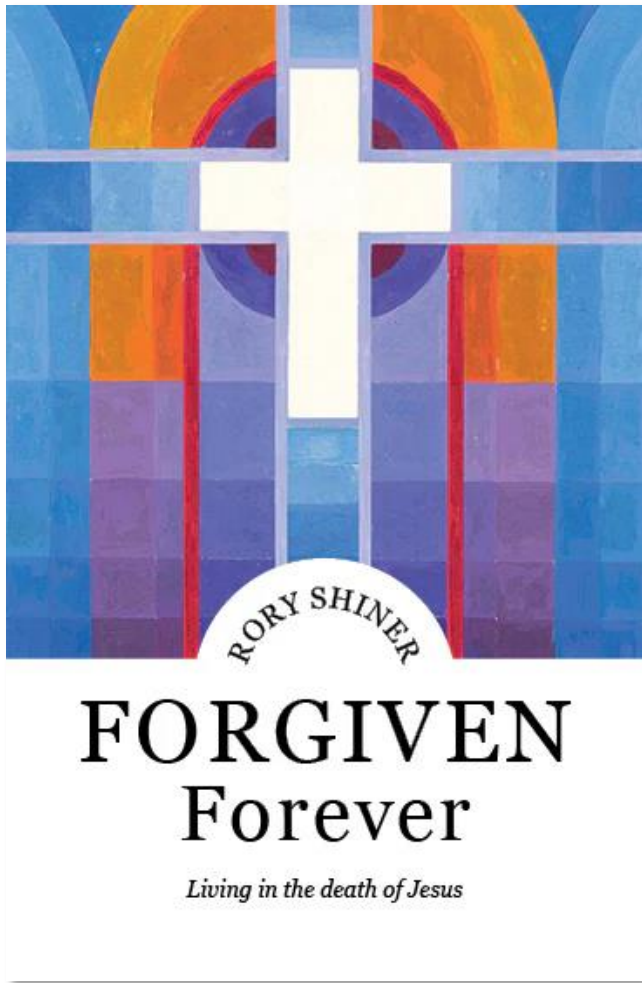
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**Speaker:**  
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## PART 2

# Q&A



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