

Identity in Christ: How to Realise What We Imagine

The givenness of our identity 'In Christ' is the lynchpin of Christian spiritual formation and personal growth. But how can we imagine and then realise our 'identity in Christ' in ways that make a difference in today's culture? What does this look like practically? How can we teach and lead people to live this out?

Glynn Harrison is Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry, University of Bristol, UK, where he was a practising consultant psychiatrist and Chair of the Department of Psychiatry. He preaches locally and speaks widely on issues of faith and psychology, neuroscience, and psychiatry. He is especially focused on supporting men's ministries and fostering the development of Christian leaders and pastors.

I. Identity: a given or a project?

II. Identity and the Gospel:

A. Made in the Image of God: a given *and* a project

B. 'You shall be as gods': the Fall and the burden of self-invention

C. Redeemed as Children of God: a transfigured given and a renewed project

III. Realizing what we imagine:

A. The re-imagining of the self

B. Realising what we imagine (John 13: 1-17):

1. Be loved

2. Be purposeful

3. Be Powerful

Suggested Readings:

Harrison, G (2013) *The Big Ego Trip* (IVP)

Kuehne, Dale.S (1999) *Sex and the i-World*. Baker Academic

Keyes, D (1984) *Beyond Identity: finding yourself in the image and character of God*. Servant Books

Jensen, M (2010) *Martyrdom and Identity*. T & T Clark Theology

Crouch, A (2014) *Playing God: Redeeming the Gift of Power*. (Inter-Varsity)