



Christian Faithfulness in a Strange New World – SF 103

Modern Western culture is awash in issues related to 'identity'—in fact it seems every aspect of life these days is related to personal identity (sexual, political, racial, etc.). One of the key terms for describing this rapidly prevailing world-view is 'expressive individualism.'

Many people today have expressed shock and frustration, not only with the radical nature of some of the ideas that are circulating in the mainstream culture, but also with the rapidity at which they seem to be advancing. It seems like no exaggeration to call it a cultural (and sexual) revolution. How did we get here? And where do we go from here? How do individual believers and churches together live in Biblical faithfulness in this 'strange new world'?

Drawing on the work of Dr. Carl Trueman in his book, *The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self*, this class will explore several historical trends that have led us to where we are today, and we will examine these trends in light of the perspectives and values of the Bible and historic Christianity. Additionally, we will consider how many of the foundational ideas that have contributed to this cultural revolution have become widely held assumptions even among many Christians. Finally, we will give ample consideration to where we go from here as the people of God as we aspire to be "blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation...holding fast to the word of life" (Phil. 2:15-16).

We will Consider Questions such as These:

- *How do we know what we know? What is the source of Truth?*
- *How do we take thoughts concerning our identity "captive to obey Christ" (2 Cor. 10:3)?*
- *How do we continue to present the unchanging Gospel in a rapidly changing world? (Eph. 4:14; 1 Pet. 3:14-16)*
- *What are the cultural ideals and influences that might take us captive (Col. 2:8)?*
- *How did sex come to be viewed as a foundational part of a person's identity?*
- *How do we pursue the common good in a hostile culture (Jer. 29:7)?*
- *How do we abstain from the passions of the flesh as exiles in this world (1 Pet. 2:11)?*
- *How do we pass the faith on to a generation growing up in a world that is, in some ways, radically different than the world we grew up in (Deut. 6:4-9)*

Facilitators: Pastors Doug Phillips and Keith Sova

Room: Chapel | No Cost