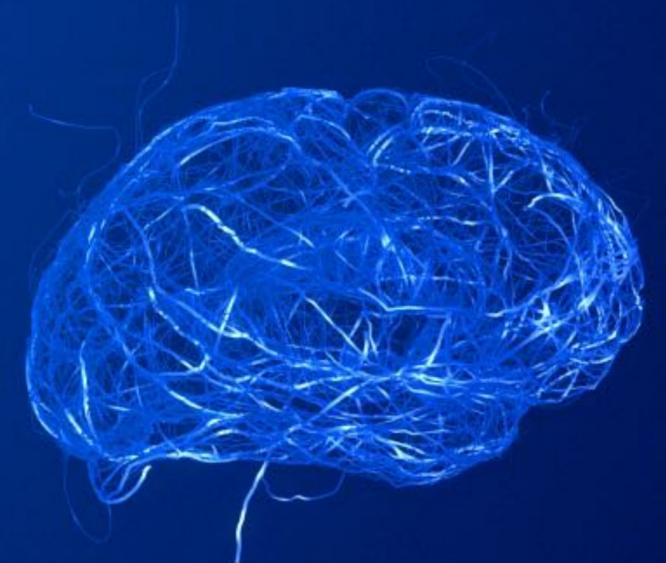


**Christianity provides a
non-oppressive basis for
identity formation**

What is identity formation?



What is identity formation?

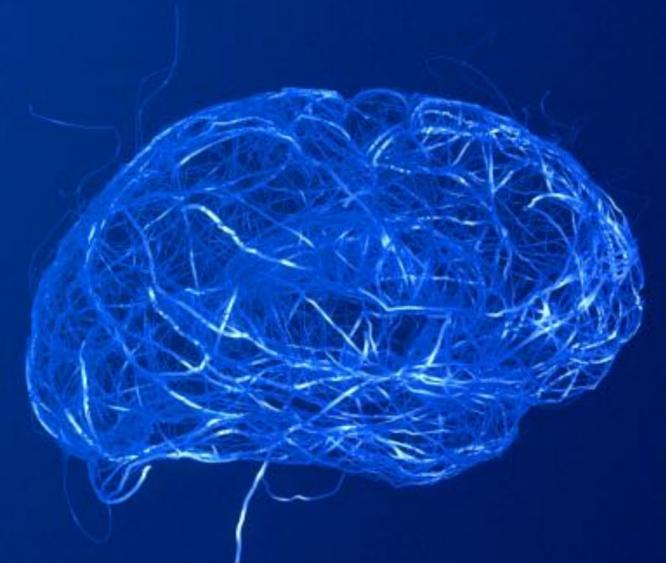
**How are we shaped by the
formation options we see?**



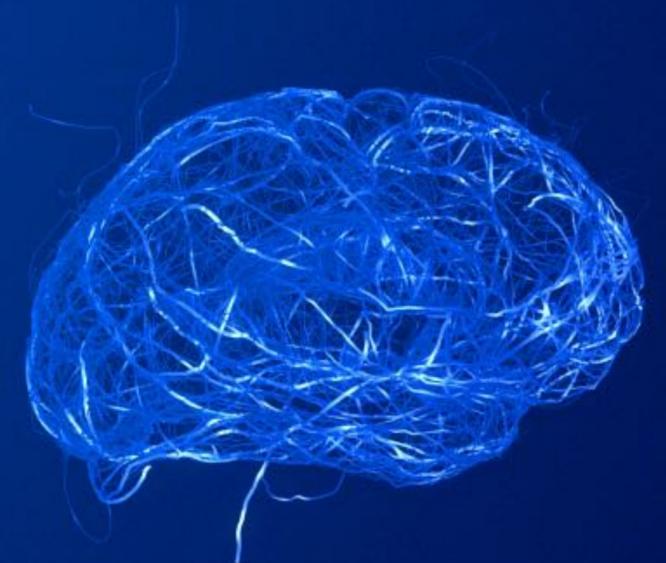
What is identity formation?

**How are we shaped by the
formation options we see?**

**How is Christian identity
formation distinct?**



What is identity formation?



**Identity formation is the
process, or processes, that
shape how we determine
our self-worth**



**What makes you
identical across all the
roles you play in life?**

Traditional Culture
perspective goes like this:
We tell you who you are

Juneteenth

a novel

by Ralph
Ellison

“We know who we are by the way we walk. We know who we are by the way we talk. We know who we are by the way we sing. We know who we are by the way we dance. We know who we are by the way we praise the Lord on high.”

Ralph Ellison

Juneteenth

**“Climb every mountain
Ford every stream
Follow every rainbow
Til you find your dream”**

Sound of Music

Modern Culture
perspective goes like this:
You tell you who you are.

**“Your worth is based on how you
feel about yourself.”**

Miley Cyrus

Crush: Hollywood’s Next Generation” by Suzi Byrne

What is identity formation?

**How are we shaped by the
formation options we see?**



**Both traditional and modern
identity formation are uniquely
crushing for people**

“People today live in what the late sociologist Zygmunt Bauman called liquid modernity. All the traits that were once assigned to you by your community, you must now determine on your own: your identity, your morality, your gender, your vocation, your purpose, and the place of your belonging.

Self-creation becomes a major anxiety-producing act of young adulthood.”

David Brooks

America is Having a Moral Convulsion

“When good writing was my only goal, I made the quality of my writing the measure of my worth. For this reason, I wasn’t able to read my own writing well. I couldn’t tell if something was good or bad because I needed for it to be good in order for it to be sane. I lost the ability to cheerfully interrogate how much I liked what I had written, or to see what was actually on the page. I could only see what I wanted to see or feared to see.”

Benjamin Nugent
The Upside of Distraction

“We still need to feel that our life matters in the scheme of things. We still want to merge ourselves with some higher, self-absorbing meaning...But if we no longer have God, how are we to do this? And of the first ways that occurred to the modern person...was the romantic solution. The self-glorification we need in our innermost being [that formerly came from God] we now look for in the love partner.” ...

Ernest Becker

The Denial of Death

“What is it we look for when we elevate the love partner to this position? We want to be rid of our faults...of our feeling of nothingness. We want to be justified, to know our existence has not been in vain. We want redemption, nothing less.

“No human being can bear the burden of Godhead.”

Ernest Becker

The Denial of Death

“You should know, everywhere I go
Always in my mind, in my heart, in my soul, baby
You’re the meaning in my life
You’re the inspiration
You bring meaning to my life
You’re the inspiration
I want to have you near me
I want to have you hear me sayin’
No one needs you more than I need you “

You’re My Inspiration

Chicago

“He wasn't my everything 'til we were nothing
And it's taking me a lot to say
Now that he's gone, my heart is missing something
So it's time I push my pride away
'Cause you are, you are
You are my everything
You are, you are
You are my everything”

You're My Everything

Ariana Grande

What is identity formation?

**How are we shaped by the
formation options we see?**

**How is Christian identity
formation distinct?**



And He [Jesus] also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt:

Luke 18 : 9

Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a
Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

Luke 18 : 10

The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: 'God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.'

Luke 18 : 11 - 12

But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, the sinner!'

Luke 18 : 13

I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.

Luke 18 : 14

Mercy



“hilaskomai”

propitiation, or substitution

For this reason he [Jesus] had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.

Hebrews 2 : 17