Gen Talk   
The “Self” Day

***11 October 2025***

Talk 1: WHAT IS MY SELF-UNDERSTANDING? HOW DID I GET HERE?

# We can have *some* understanding about the generations but no clear sight without God and His gospel. What is “*the self*”?

## “God is doing his own thing, I’m doing mine”

## “I am... ME.”

## SO KENAPA THIS SELF-UNDERSTANDING? We don’t think theologically - we don’t see as we should, as God sees, in Jesus Christ through His gospel by the Spirit.

### We are pretty idolatrous and therefore, indulge in the blindness we left or we never really left that ‘life’.

### Aggravated by / Exposed by / Because Of / Reflected In These Shifts

#### Shift 1: Factors of modernity: Many choices, Technology that displays all of those choices and markets them, parenting, education (and many more factors) 🡺 Identity found inwardly – Psychological man[[1]](#footnote-1) (Fellow Workers Conference 2022)

#### Shift 2: Utilitarian and Pragmatic mindset[[2]](#footnote-2)

#### Shift 3: “Delayed adulthood”, Entitlement to the above, Expressive Individualism, Narcissism increased 🡺 Aggression and anti-social behaviour increased (Twenge)

# Is it that big of a deal?

### Our self-understanding is twisted because of sin and of much confusion caused by the well-intentioned ways people have tried to protect and comfort us e.g. “adulting”.

The noble type of person feels that *he* determines value, he does not need anyone’s approval, he judges that “What is harmful to me is harmful in itself,” he knows that he is the one who gives honor to things in the first place, he *creates values*. He honors everything he sees in himself: this sort of morality is self-glorifying. (Nietzsche’s *Beyond Good and Evil*, 154 cited in the Conclusion of Beale’s *We Become What We Worship*)

# We can share in Jesus’ own self-understanding as a son to His Father because of His promised Spirit through the gospel of Christ.

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**Talk 2: Authenticity**

# “Am I being authentic to myself?”

# “Just be yourself.”

# “Don’t judge me.”

# From Psychological Man to Crucified & Resurrected Man, i.e. a Christ-IN-an

**Talk 3: Idealism And Cynicism**

# When GenZ meets Gen3

# Idealism – “This is fine”, but is it?

# Cynicism – “it do be like that”

# Idealism and Cynicism – two sides of “I don’t want to get hurt”.

# You can only truly be safe in Christ

1. *“psychological man”—a type characterized not so much by finding identity in* ***outward directed activities*** *as was true for the previous types but rather in the* ***inward quest*** *for personal psychological happiness. (Reference: sociologist Philip Rieff, featured in Carl Trueman’s The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self)*  [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. **Utilitarian** – driven by usefulness, benefits (**Pragmatic** - based on practical considerations) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)