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**A ROCK
IN THE SHIFTING
SANDS OF CULTURE**



DEVOTIONAL Page 06



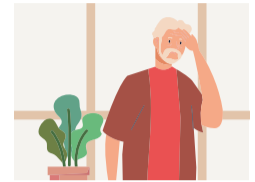
**SNARE OF PROGRESSIVE
CHRISTIANITY**



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ELDER ABUSE



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DISCOVER YOUR TRUE IDENTITY IN A CONFUSED CULTURE



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Identity has become a fluid and slippery term in recent years. Our generation is experiencing an unprecedented identity crisis. There are widely divergent views about identity and its effects on young people's lifestyles. Historically, family, school, Church, media, and entertainment have significantly shaped the essence of today's generation. These social institutions, particularly the media, accept all post-truth ideologies without proper discernment. Many Christians are suffering from a collective identity crisis due to the demise of a biblical worldview and the breakup of Christ-centered families.

The social media environment offers the temptation to project an inauthentic self. It is now more intertwined with one's identity, regardless of reality. There is an intense debate about this topic among professors, theologians, psychologists, and politicians. The fluidity of identity is becoming ever more problematic, seeing it as almost infinitely negotiable. The best booksellers, bloggers, and influencers often promote such conflicting lifestyles to the growing generation.

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Dr. Binu Daniel, Jossy Binz, Dr Joel Joseph, Priya Mathew, Pr. Philip P. Eapen, Dr. Thomas Idiculla.

**Theme for March
Spirituality and Generations:
The responsibility of
raising a godly generation**

DESIGN : WWW.FOGGENERATION.COM

Identifying the signs is not always obvious sometimes they are subtle and mixed with a lot of truth. Progressive Christianity can be persuasive and enticing, but carried out to its logical end, it is an assault on the foundational framework of Christianity, leaving it disarmed of its saving power.

- ALISA CHILDERS

FROM THE
editor

**THE
EXPERIMENTS ON
SLIPPERY GROUNDS**

The statement “I am a man trapped in a woman’s body” would have been treated as a crude joke or gibberish a couple of decades before. But now, this expression is well respected as it is deemed a meaningful reality for anyone who claims it. The world encounters a new situation that never existed in the academic or non academic realm in the past. The new generation is presented with a set of gender related vocabulary: personal pronouns and new personal identities other than ‘man’ and ‘woman’. The terms ‘nonbinary’ and ‘transgender’ are at the top of the list, predicated on another fairly new concept, ‘gender fluidity’. As the mind shapers, media, and academia join forces with the government, which ensures legislative endorsement for the new movement, the common people have no choice but to admit the new norms. The Church, which once served as a moral compass of societies in the past, especially in Western societies, is now disengaged from the public arena and relegated to the private affairs of individuals.

The triumph of the ‘modern self’ emerged from the influence of several significant philosophical worldviews. From Karl Marx, who proposed the conflict between the substructure and superstructure, to Jacques Derrida, who proposed Deconstructionism as the chief reason for this situation. One thing all these world views had in common was a denial of an external, supernatural, metaphysical authority that governs human life and gives more power to the human self. Postmodernity catalysed these philosophical developments and encouraged denying absolute truth and objective moral values, encouraging the new generation to believe the myth that truth is subjective. Therefore, everyone can create their own values, norms and choices. Sadly, a segment of those who profess themselves as Christians have joined the bandwagon and

experimenting with their new reality on the slippery landscape of progressive ideologies.

The progressivists’ uncritical application of some of the Christian faith’s crucial theological and ethical concepts to accommodate the popular culture is the first step into the slippery ground. According to them, the agape love of God is “all-embracing” regardless of one’s choices, even if they seem contrary to the Scripture. Therefore, one’s gender identity is not a hindrance to accepting them into the commonwealth of God’s love. Even though it may sound very Christian and profoundly ethical, it destroys the foundation of God’s moral tenets revealed through the Scripture. For instance, while the notion of gender fluidity is founded on the belief that gender is distinct from sex, where gender is a social construct, and sex is a mere biological marker, on the contrary, the Scripture indicates that the distinction between ‘male’ and ‘female’ is a reality of existence endowed with a profound purpose of procreation, filling and stewarding the creation (Gen 1:26-30). Even though the creation account does not address the reality of psychological and biological anomalies, it gives a much greater affirmation that every human is created in the image and likeness of God, which gives enormous room to accept and value those who have physical, mental and emotional differences without undermining the fundamental purpose of the physical distinctive everyone possess.



The progressivists’ uncritical application of some of the Christian faith’s crucial theological and ethical concepts to accommodate the popular culture is the first step into the slippery ground.”

A ROCK IN THE SHIFTING SANDS OF CULTURE



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Evangelicals find themselves at a crossroads in the ever evolving landscape of societal norms, wrestling with the tension between adhering to biblical teachings and embracing contemporary ideologies. Romans 12:2 warns Christians against conformity to the patterns of the sinful world, urging believers to stand firm in their faith. Yet, there is a growing trend among some Evangelicals to approve of modern societal shifts, particularly concerning LGBTQ issues, transgender ideology, and the deconstruction of the Christian faith.

The approval of LGBTQ rights and relationships has become a divisive topic within Evangelical circles. The scriptures shaped the historic Christian understanding of marriage and human relationships, emphasizing a heterosexual union. The tension arises as some Evangelicals grapple with reconciling the long standing principles with a call for acceptance and inclusion in the face of evolving societal norms. The key to resolving that tension is acknowledging that the Laws of God do not change with the times. Neither does human biology.

Marriage was not a human idea. God, the Creator of human sexuality and marriage, must have the last word on marriage and morality. God said of man and his wife, 'And they shall become one flesh.' This is a reference to the consummation of marriage through sexual union with the potential to generate new life. The biological definition of sexual organs is not open to debate. There cannot be a sexual union between people of the same sex. Homosexual 'union' is a mere fantasy. Any homosexual 'marriage' will remain an unconsummated farce.

Transgender ideology presents another challenge. Theological perspectives on sexual differentiation are rightly rooted in the binary sexual distinction observed in human biology and attested by biblical teaching. Recent attempts at portraying gender as a spectrum have not succeeded in supplanting this time-tested foundation of human civilization.

Individuals who are confused about their 'gender identity' deserve compassion. Gender dysphoria has to be treated by mental health professionals. Other contributing factors need to be addressed. However, attempts by the state or by individuals to encourage and facilitate

"Our critique of Evangelical approval of contemporary trends must be tempered with understanding. Can we remain faithful to God's eternal Word and be compassionate towards lost sinners who are forever opening new battlefronts in their war against God?"

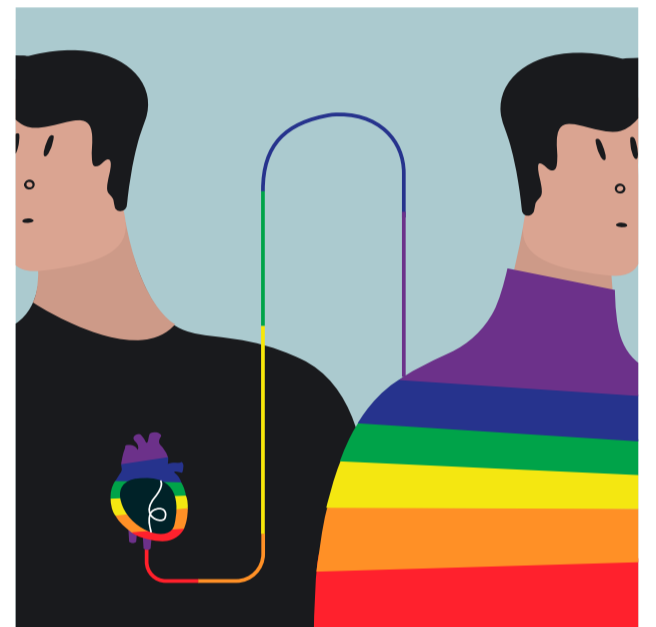
permanent physical changes in minors need to be resisted. Legal frameworks that keep parents out of the loop must be demolished. How can the state claim to be more concerned about children than the parents? What has the state done to help teenagers who regretted their decision to go for life-altering surgeries?

The deconstruction of the Christian faith is a trend that further strains Evangelical unity. As individuals' question and reevaluate their beliefs, some find themselves on a path of deconstruction, challenging long held doctrines and theological frameworks. Although some portray this process as a beneficial exercise, it creates tension within Evangelical communities that have traditionally thrived on doctrinal cohesion.

This is a wake up call for all Christian leaders who promoted anti intellectualism, opposed theological training, and refused to equip their flock against the philosophies of the world. Christians have a right to know why they believe what they believe. Members must be taught to question their faith and to find answers. Doubting Thomases have a place within the Church. If doubt-ers are guided and cared for, they will emerge strong in their faith.

The essence of the Romans 12:2 command becomes increasingly relevant in our context. The call to resist conformity to the trends of the world should serve as a guiding principle for Evangelicals navigating these complex issues. However, the challenge lies in defining what constitutes conformity. Cultural adaptation is necessary—but not at the cost of fidelity to scriptural principles.

In critiquing the approval of contemporary



trends, it is crucial to acknowledge the struggles Evangelicals experience. The desire to show love and acceptance while upholding biblical principles creates a tension that demands thoughtful reflection and nuanced discussions. That tension is evident in Jude's command: "Be merciful to those who doubt; save others by snatching them from the fire; to others show mercy, mixed with fear — hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh" (v. 22-23). Simply dismissing these concerns risks alienating individuals earnestly seeking a faithful path in a rapidly changing world.

In conclusion, the tension within Evangelical communities regarding LGBTQ issues, transgender ideology, and the deconstruction of faith highlights the delicate balance between adhering to biblical teachings and engaging with the evolving world. Romans 12:2 serves as a reminder to resist conformity to worldly patterns, but the challenge lies in discerning where the boundaries between cultural adaptation and scriptural fidelity exist. Navigating this tension requires a commitment to respectful dialogue, understanding, and an appreciation of the complexity inherent in these discussions.



PILOTING THE DYNAMIC INTERPLAY OF SPIRITUALITY AND PROGRESS : A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE!

"Balancing spirituality and progress are not a dichotomy for Christians but a dynamic interplay. Rooted in the unchanging character of God, Christians are called to steward progress wisely, guided by biblical principles, ethical considerations, and a mission to impact the world positively."

In a world propelled by technological advancements and societal changes, Christians of-ten find themselves at the crossroads of spirituality and progress. As the foundational guide for Christian living, the Bible offers profound insights into how believers can steer this intersection with wisdom and discernment, not letting one affect the other because both spirituality and progress are very important for a believer to keep up with the pace of the time.

BIBLICAL FOUNDATION: UNCHANGING GOD IN A CHANGING WORLD

God's character, promises, and principles remain constant, offering believers a source of unwavering hope and stability. On the other hand, believers should understand that, indeed, the Bible acknowledges and encourages positive change, aligning with the concept of growth, transformation, and renewal. At the crossroads of spirituality and progress, the believer's anchor is found in the unchanging character of God. As the Lord declares in Malachi 3:6, 'For I the Lord do not change.' This truth stabilizes Christians amidst the dynamic nature of progress, providing a foundation for spirituality that transcends temporal shifts. As Christians engage with the secular world, they can draw from the biblical assurance of God's immutability to foster resilience and provide a solid foundation for addressing the challenges posed by a dynamic environment. This integration allows believers

to contribute to discussions on stability and constancy in ways that resonate with theological and human experiential realities. Secular philosophy and psychology also recognize the human need for stability and constancy. In a rapidly changing world, individuals often seek anchors that provide a sense of security and purpose. Psychological studies highlight the importance of a stable sense of self and consistent relationships for mental well-being.

STEWARDSHIP: RESPONSIBLE DOMINION OVER CREATION

The concept of stewardship, emphasizing responsible management of God given resources, is deeply rooted in Scripture. In Genesis 2:15, humans are tasked with tending to the garden, repre-senting a call to responsible partnering over the creation. This principle extends to technological and societal advancements, urging Christians to engage with progress responsibly, ensuring it aligns with God's purposes and values. Mahatma Gandhi has said, "The creation has enough to provide to the needs of human beings than the greed of the human."

ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS: CONFORMING TO BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES

Biblical principles provide a solid ethical framework for Christians, guiding their actions and decisions. Key passages underscore the importance of ethical conduct, emphasizing virtues such as love, justice, honesty, and compassion. "Romans 12:2 encourages believers to 'not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.' This renewal includes evaluating progress in light of biblical principles, ensuring it aligns with justice, compassion, and the sanctity of life. Christians are called to approach progress with a discerning mind, considering its ethical implications." Secular ethical considerations often align with principles such as fairness, justice, and honesty. Philosophical perspectives, legal frameworks, and professional codes of conduct frequently emphasize the importance

of ethical behavior in personal and societal contexts.

CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT: SALT AND LIGHT IN THE WORLD

The intersection of spirituality and progress for Christians is a complex and multifaceted space where traditional beliefs and values encounter the rapid changes and advancements of the modern world. This crossroads reflects the tension between timeless spiritual principles and the dynamic nature of progress in various aspects of life. Matthew 5:13-16 underscores the role of Christians as salt and light in the world. This implies active engagement with culture and society. Progress, when approached with a missional mindset, becomes an opportunity for Christians to positively influence and shape the world around them, reflecting the redemptive purposes of God."

Balancing spirituality and progress is not a dichotomy for Christians but a dynamic interplay. Rooted in the unchanging character of God, Christians are called to steward progress wisely, guided by biblical principles, ethical considerations, and a mission to impact the world positively. In embracing this balance, believers can navigate the complexities of a rapidly changing world with a steadfast spirituality that contributes to the flourishing of both individuals and society.



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EMBRACING TRUTH: NAVIGATING FAITHFULNESS AMIDST SOCIETAL CHANGES

"Seeking God's guidance helps us make wise decisions in matters related to our material life, such as career choices, financial decisions, and business endeavours. God's wisdom can provide clarity and direction in navigating the complexities of the material world."

2 John 1:9 - "Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son." underscores the vital need to adhere to Christ's teachings, warning against straying from fundamental Christian doctrines and urging believers to live out their faith distinctively from worldly values.

The verse warns against deviating from established teachings of Christ, cautioning against introducing novel doctrines inconsistent with Scripture. It emphasizes the importance of remaining grounded in timeless teachings to avoid distortion of the Gospel. The correlation between abiding by Christ's teaching and having a genuine relationship with God is highlighted. Those who adhere to authentic teachings have the Father and the Son, affirming the centrality of Christ's teachings for communion with God. By adhering to His words, believers acknowledge the divine authority within them, reinforcing their connection to God the Father and Jesus Christ.

Additionally, the latter part of the verse implies the necessity of perseverance and steadfastness

in faith. It stresses the importance of persisting in the teachings of Christ, maintaining a consistent adherence to His principles, and not wavering in the face of challenges, worldly influences, or false teachings.

Another strong exhortation can be found in verses such as 2 John 1:4 in the context of a progressive society. The verse itself, which focuses on "walking in the truth," emphasizes the importance of adhering to the teachings of Christ and living a life by biblical principles. The concept of progress in society often involves changes in cultural, ethical or moral norms over time. These changes can encompass various issues, from social justice and human rights to technological advances and changes in societal attitudes toward various behaviors or lifestyles. The tension arises when societal progressiveness conflicts with biblical principles or teachings. While progressiveness in itself isn't inherently against the core tenets of Christianity, there can be instances where certain societal shifts or movements contradict or challenge biblical truths.

For instance, if societal progressiveness advocates for principles or practices that are explicitly contrary to the teachings of Christ such as promoting behaviors or ideologies that the Bible defines as sinful or morally wrong then embracing such progressiveness would indeed conflict with the biblical perspective. In such cases, believers face the challenge of navigating the tension between adhering to unchanging biblical truths and engaging with a rapidly evolving society. The key lies in discernment, understanding, and applying the timeless principles of the Gospel to contemporary issues without compromising foundational Christian beliefs.

However, certain aspects of societal progress, such as increased focus on social justice, equality, and compassion, align well with the broader themes of love and justice found in the Bible. They may view progressiveness as a means of addressing contemporary challenges and promoting values consistent with biblical teachings.

Proverbs 3:5-6 encourages us to trust God completely and not rely solely on our understanding. It advises us to acknowledge God in everything we do, promising that if we trust Him wholeheartedly, He will guide us on the right path. The verses highlight the importance of surrendering our dependence on our own wisdom and choosing to have faith in God for a life directed by His guidance. Seeking God's guidance helps us make wise decisions in matters related to our material life, such as career choices, financial decisions, and business endeavours. God's wisdom can provide clarity and direction in navigating the complexities of the material world.



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SNARE OF PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIANITY



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“Anyone who runs on ahead and does not remain in the doctrine of Christ [that is, one who is not content with what He taught], does not have God; but the one who continues to remain in the teaching [of Christ does have God], he has both the Father and the Son” (2 John 1:9,AMP).



The term 'progressive' has a broad range of meanings. As a political philosophy, progressivism seeks to advance the human condition through political reform based on advancements in science, technology, and social organization. When it comes to Christianity, as Michael Kruger rightly said, "It is a master class in half-truths that sounds appealing on the surface until a dig down deeper to really explore their foundations and implications." Progressive Christians deny or downplay the core Christian doctrines like the atonement, biblical authority or inspiration, original sin, the divinity of Jesus, the virgin birth, the physical resurrection of Jesus, the Trinity, and sinlessness of Jesus and affirm non-biblical family relationships and marriages, universal reconciliation, the gospel of social justice and critical theory, pluralism, and pantheism, panentheism or perennialism.

For a progressive Christian, the Scripture is not inspired, authoritative, or inerrant; it is an ancient spiritual travel journal. It merely records what people believed about God in the times and places where they lived. It is also viewed as contradictory and not internally coherent. Suppose the Bible is not authoritative or God breathed. In that case, the claims it proposes are nullified, and anyone can interpret it according to their choice, which is against the traditional Christian view. For a Christian, the Bible is the true Word of God through which God reveals Himself to man, and the children of God are expected to modify their lives according to its teachings.

The progressive Christian doctrine tends to downplay the deity of Jesus. Jesus is considered a model and exemplar for living rather than an

object of worship. For them, Christianity is not a set of beliefs; they believe that there is no 'orthodoxy'; instead, there is only 'orthopraxy,' the correct way to live our lives. But Christianity is a religion of grace, not a religion of merit. It is not primarily what we do but what God has done in Christ (1 John 4:10). For progressive Christians, Jesus' sacrifice on the cross is horrific or unnecessary. The blood sacrifice of God's Son is perceived as an indictment of God's character, turning the event into a 'cosmic child abuse.' But Jesus' voluntary substitutionary atonement on behalf of humanity to make them righteous with God is an indispensable doctrine of Christianity (1 Pet. 2:24; 3:18). He who knew no sin became sin for us so that in Him, we might become the righteousness of God (2 Cor. 5:21). It reveals God's unfailing love for man. Placing our faith in Christ's work on the cross is what is required of a man to be saved.

The doctrine of the original sin is denied in Progressive Christianity. Instead, it is taught that sin is not what separates us from God but our self-imposed shame. They perceive that we are never separated from God but are loved and accepted by God just as we are. But the Bible clearly teaches that sin separates us from God (Isa. 59:2; Eph. 2:12), and we need a Savior to restore that broken relationship. Though progressive Christian teachings of social justice, care for the poor and the oppressed, and the environmental stewardship of the earth are appealing, it is nothing but Jesus' way of "loving our neighbor as ourselves." It is the result of the outworking of our faith. If we observe keenly, we can understand that progressive Christianity is an assault on the fundamental framework of Christianity. It is filled with half-truths. But half-truths can often be great lies and distort people from the saving power of Christ Jesus.

"If we observe keenly, we can understand that progressive Christianity is an assault on the fundamental framework of Christianity. It is filled with half-truths. But half-truths can often be great lies and distort people from the saving power of Christ Jesus."



ELDER ABUSE

Elder abuse is an intentional act or failure to act that causes or creates a risk of harm to an older adult. An older adult is someone aged 60 or older. The abuse occurs at the hands of a caregiver or a person the elder trusts 90% of the time, most probably a member of the family. Two-thirds of abusers are adult children or spouses.

What are the types of elder abuse?

Common types of elder abuse include physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional or mental abuse, neglect, and financial abuse. Elder abuse is common. Abuse, including neglect and exploitation, is experienced by about 1 in 10 people aged 60 and older who live at home. From 2002 to 2016, more than 643,000 older adults were treated in the emergency department for nonfatal assaults, and over 19,000 homicides occurred. Compared with women, men had higher rates of both nonfatal assaults and homicides.

What are the signs of elder abuse?

- Personality changes
- Whimpering, crying, refusing to talk
- Unexplained or repeated bruises, fractures, burns and sores
- Weight loss
- Unkempt appearance
- Poor personal hygiene
- Dirty, disorganised living space
- Confusion, excessive sleeping, signs of inappropriate sedation (too much medicine)

What are the consequences?

Elder abuse can have several physical and emotional effects on an older adult. Victims are fearful and anxious. They may have problems with trust and be wary of others. Many victims suffer physical injuries. Some are minor, like cuts, scratches, bruises, and welts. Others are more serious and can cause lasting disabilities. These include head injuries, broken bones, constant physical pain, and soreness. Physical injuries can also lead to premature death and make existing health problems worse.

How can we prevent elder abuse?

Several factors may increase or decrease the risk of perpetrating and/or experiencing elder abuse. To prevent elder abuse, we must understand and address the factors that put people at risk or protect them from violence.

- Listen to older adults and their caregivers to understand their challenges and provide support.
- Report abuse or suspected abuse to local adult protective services, long-term care facilities, or the police. Find your state's reporting numbers, government agencies, state laws, and other resources.
- Educate oneself and others about how to recognise and report elder abuse.
- Learn how the signs of elder abuse differ from the normal ageing process.



- Check-in on older adults who may have few friends and family members.
- Support overburdened caregivers, such as help from friends, family, or local relief care groups; adult day care programs; counselling; and outlets intended to promote emotional wellbeing.
- Encourage and assist persons (either caregivers or older adults) having problems with drug or alcohol abuse in getting help.

Many older adults require care and are vulnerable to violence perpetrated by a caregiver or someone they trust. We need to listen carefully to older people and caregivers. Recognise the signs and raise awareness of elder abuse. Step in and try to intervene if you suspect elder abuse.

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Continued from Page 01

COVER STORY

DISCOVER YOUR TRUE IDENTITY IN A CONFUSED CULTURE

Critical theory today is an umbrella term for a cluster of social theories such as postmodernism, critical pedagogy, feminism, black feminism, queer theory, etc. The most common critical theories, such as the social binary, oppression through ideology, lived experience, and social justice, claim that society is divided into dominant and oppressor groups. The primary group includes race, class, gender, sexuality, ability status, religion, and nationality. The specific forms of oppression include sexism, racism, classism, and heterosexism. The minority groups are people of colour (POC), people with low incomes, women, and LGBTQ. The dominant group includes whites, the wealthy, men, and heterosexuals, and they control, oppress, and maintain power by imposing their ideology on everyone (hegemony). Critical theorists now include how the dominant group sets its norms, values, and ideas on society to justify its interests. Critical theory tries to solve social problems and promises to resolve the identity crisis caused by oppression, justice, diversity, and equity. However, such theories are so critical of the existing societal structures and institutions, such as families and churches, and see these institutions as problems rather than agents of solutions. Despite all these efforts, youth are becoming more insecure, rootless, aimless, and desperate to discover who they are.

Societal laws and culture can occasionally marginalize people unintentionally. Where the Bible is silent, we can be flexible about our culture or traditions out of love for those outside our culture. However, many critical theories and programs are not consistent with Christian principles. For example, the terms racism and sexism are considered oppressions right alongside heterosexism or religion. The time has come for honest reviews of these theories from a Christian Biblical perspective. The focus is to provide a balanced biblical response to today's challenging issues affecting our generation in faith, identity, relationships, and much more.

The Knowledge of God Defines Our Identity

Our true identity is not based on our performance, perception, or opinion of ourselves. It is found in the Lord Jesus Christ and His love for us. Understanding our identity in God starts with experiencing who He is and what He says about us. The fundamental reason for today's identity crisis is that people still need to remember who they are. However, people have rejected the God who created them. Consequently, hardened hearts have sunk into confusion and despair affecting their identity. Knowing God and intimacy with Christ begins with a greater understanding of our identity. The faith and the divine knowledge of God is essential for developing one's identity.

The Image of God Is Our True Identity

Imago Dei (the divine image of God) is the Latin word used to describe all humankind's inherent value and dignity. We can understand the image of God in three ways: 1) Resemblance—nature and characteristics that we possess and serve to resemble God—such as spiritual, rational, relational, and immortal aspects that make us like God. 2) Relational—Interpersonal relationships, honesty, communications within the family and Church that best reflect the divine life among the divine persons of the Trinity. 3) Representatives—to fulfil God's plan like an ambassador representing God on Earth.

Building Identity through Christ-Centered Families

Children must be raised in a Christ-centered family environment, and parents must be models for their children. God wants us to prosper in family life, relationships, and personal growth. We are God's handiwork, intentionally created in Christ Jesus for a purpose (Eph. 5:1).

Developing Identity through Bible-Based Fellowship

We must be part of a Bible based church. Bible based churches are like rivers with unique

directions, where the Holy Spirit carries us along with the current and directs us godly. Many large churches are like oceans, with no current. Other churches go in any order and shift focus with every change of winds. We must surround ourselves with faith-based, positive minded people. Godly people always empower others to lead Christ like lives to pursue their dreams. Also, church leadership must be more transparent and accountable. Churches must impart a Christian worldview through Sunday school, bible study, and prayer groups to affect our generation and build Christ like servant leaders.

Restoring our identity with the Intimacy with Christ

The teachings of Christ are radical and countercultural. Most people know God using their knowledge, memory, understanding, and will. The human relationship with God can be experienced in three different ways: 1) a natural aptitude for understanding and loving God; 2) the imperfect habits of knowing and loving God by conformity with grace; and (3) acting perfectly in knowing God, according to the likeness of his glory. We must relate God with our faith, rational mind, and Holy Spirit to experience intimacy in Christ. Knowing our identity in Christ affects our heads, hearts, and hands.

The world asks us to look within ourselves to establish our identity by 'deconstruction' or "rethinking" and questioning our identity. The time has come to lead our lives by the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ as it changes our lives with meaning and purpose. We must understand our identity to live a purposeful life and give glory to our God. The gospel defines the truth and designates a foundation for our morality; it reorders our priorities, realigns our authorities, and transforms our lives with blessed hope. We must always allow the world to influence us and thus remember our identity in Christ. Let us choose to humble ourselves and ask the Holy Spirit to help us live out our identity in Christ.

**YOU ARE A BEAUTIFUL CREATION... PERFECTLY IMPERFECT... A
WORK IN PROGRESS... YOU HAVE EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO FULFILL
YOUR PURPOSE... DON'T DILUTE YOURSELF FOR ANY PERSON OR
ANY REASON... YOU ARE ENOUGH... BE UNAPOLOGETICALLY YOU.**

- STEVE MARABOLI



Trump wins Nevada caucuses

Donald Trump won Nevada's Republican presidential caucuses, a victory that was effectively guaranteed when his lone remaining well known rival, former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, chose not to compete for the state's delegates. The former president has now won all three Republican contests so far — adding the Silver State to Iowa and New Hampshire — as he moves closer to the GOP's 2024 presidential nomination. Thursday's caucuses in Nevada came two days after the state held primaries — with President Joe Biden dominating the Democratic contest and "none of these candidates" finishing first for Republicans, ahead of Haley.



World News

Musk moves incorporation of Neuralink to Nevada

According to the business portals of both states, Elon Musk's brain chip implant company, Neuralink, changed its location of incorporation from Delaware to Nevada. The development comes about a week after Musk said Tesla would hold a shareholder vote to transfer its state of incorporation to Texas from Delaware after a judge invalidated his \$56 billion pay package. However, switching Tesla's state of incorporation could come with hurdles, such as investor lawsuits, mainly if it was seen as a move to secure his pay package, legal experts said. Musk said last week that Neuralink had implanted its first brain chip in a human patient recovering well after the procedure.

TikTok loses its bid to overturn Gatekeeper status

ByteDance's TikTok has lost its bid to suspend its designation as a gatekeeper, which makes it subject to onerous obligations under EU rules after Europe's second top court dismissed its request because it failed to show the urgency for such a move. TikTok took its grievance over the designation to the Luxembourg based General Court in December and asked for an interim measure after being tagged as a gatekeeper under the Digital Markets Act (DMA) in September last year. It said complying with the EU rules would lead to the disclosure of highly strategic information concerning its user profiling practices, which is not public. The Court rejected its request to suspend its designation. "ByteDance has failed to demonstrate the urgency required for an interim order to avoid serious and irreparable damage," judges said. "ByteDance has not shown that there is a real risk of disclosure of confidential information or that such a risk would give rise to serious and irreparable harm," they said.



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Hyundai Picks JP Morgan and Citi to advance its India IPO

According to sources with direct knowledge, Hyundai Motor has appointed investment bankers JPMorgan and Citi to advise on its at least US\$3 billion India IPO, accelerating listing plans in the world's third largest auto market. The company plans to file regulatory papers in India by May to June for approval, said two of the three sources, all of whom declined to be named as the talks are private. Hyundai, the second biggest automaker in India with a 15 per cent market share, is in the initial stages of considering an IPO in India that would value its local operation at up to US\$30 billion. The IPO could be India's largest. Such a fundraising by Hyundai would put the valuation of its Indian operation at more than half its market capitalization of around US\$47 billion in Seoul. Some domestic Indian investment banks are also likely to be appointed for the IPO in the coming months, the two sources added.

China pushes pro-Beijing content disguised as news websites.

More than 100 websites disguised as local news outlets in Europe, Asia, and Latin America are pushing pro-China content in a widespread influence campaign linked to a Beijing public relations firm, digital watchdog Citizen Lab has found. Spread over websites in 30 countries, the propaganda material is interspersed with news aggregated from local news outlets and Chinese state media, according to a Toronto-based group research report released on Wednesday (Feb 7). "While the campaign's websites enjoyed negligible exposure to date, there is a heightened risk of inadvertent amplification by the local media and target audiences, as a result of the quick multiplication of these websites and their adaptiveness to local languages and content," researcher Alberto Fittarelli said in the report. The sites' content sways between conspiracy theories, often about the United States or its allies such as a piece blaming American scientists for "leaking" COVID-19 to articles attacking Beijing's critics. It is rare for researchers to link such operations to specific entities. Citizen Lab said the campaign began in mid-2020 and traced the network to public relations firm Shenzhen Haimaiyunxiang Media Co Ltd, also known as Haimai.

Expedia share sink after 2024 revenue warning

Shares of Expedia plunged 13 per cent in premarket trading on Friday (Feb 9) after the online travel firm said it expected 2024 revenue growth rates to be moderate as air fares soften from their post pandemic highs. Late on Thursday, the company said Chief Executive Officer Peter Kern will step down from his position and be replaced by company insider Ariane Gorin. Booking Holdings, Tripadvisor, Trivago, and Airbnb were down between 1 per cent and 4 per cent in premarket trading on amplified concerns about moderating booking and uneven domestic travel demand following a rebound from pandemic lows. On Thursday, Expedia warned that air travel revenue was under pressure due to a fall in average ticket prices. "On a macro level, we expect travel demand to remain relatively healthy, but we expect growth rates across the world to decelerate," outgoing CEO Kern said on the company's earnings call.

Investment banks brace for job cuts as China woes continue

Job cuts at Western investment banks in Asia are expected to increase this year as revenue pressures rise due to deepening economic and market turmoil in China, even as deal prospects brighten in Japan and India, headhunters and bankers said. They added that a new round of staff cuts that began in late 2023 on the Chinese mainland and Hong Kong, critical regional investment banking hubs, will gather pace in the coming months. US boutique bank Lazard announced internally last month it would close its Beijing office, resulting in some employees being laid off while others were to be relocated to Hong Kong, two people with knowledge of the move said. Its European peer Rothschild disbanded its Shanghai based team in the fourth quarter, two separate people with knowledge of the matter said. Last month, Bank of America announced job cuts for more than 20 Asian bankers. China's stock markets, hovering around five year lows, and the country's weaker than expected recovery from the pandemic have deepened investor worries and soured companies' domestic demand outlook. Geopolitical tensions have also driven foreign investors away. "If the deal flow continues the way it has been in 2023, the market could expect some more cuts," said Sid Sibal, vice president of Greater China and head of Hong Kong at recruitment firm Hudson.

World News

Finnair asks passengers to voluntarily weigh themselves

Almost everything that gets onto a commercial plane fuel, checkedin baggage, cargo and meals is weighed. For passengers and their cabin bags, most airlines use average data. But Finland's national carrier, Finnair said on Friday (Feb 9) that it started asking passengers this week to voluntarily and anonymously hop onto a scale with their hand luggage at the country's main airport in Helsinki, the airline said on Friday. The aim is to get their figures. "We will need data for both the winter season and for the summer season in the winter season, people typically have heavier clothing, which impacts weights," Finnair spokeswoman Päivyt Tallqvist said, adding that the survey would last until May. Passengers boarding onto European and long haul flights won't be "penalized for their weight," and "the numbers are kept discreet, away from prying eyes," she added. So far, about 800 people have joined the survey, and those who agree to participate receive a small gift a reflective baggage tag, Tallqvist said. Tallqvist said airlines can use official European Aviation Safety Authority data or do their standard weight measurements. Finnair has chosen the latter, but safety authorities require that the survey be renewed every five years. The last time Finnair weighed passengers was in 2018. In June, New Zealand's national airline also weighed passengers before boarding. "We hope to have a good sample of volunteers, both business and leisure travellers, also this time, so that we can get the most accurate information possible for important balance calculations," Satu Munnukka, head of ground processes at Finnair, said in a statement



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India to suspend free border movement with Myanmar

India's interior minister said on Thursday (Feb 8) that he had "recommended the immediate suspension" of a free movement border agreement with Myanmar, from where thousands have fled since fighting between the junta and its opponents surged last year. Amit Shah said the foreign ministry was already "in the process of scrapping" the deal, which allows those living in border zones to venture a short distance into their neighbouring nation's territory without a visa. Many in the border zones share close cultural and religious ties. Shah said it was necessary "to ensure the country's internal security and maintain the demographic structure" of regions bordering Myanmar. That includes India's restive Manipur state, where more than 200 people have been killed since clashes broke out last May between the predominantly Hindu Meitei majority and mainly Christian Kuki community. Many of those who have fled to India from Myanmar share ethnic ties with the Kukis. Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh, from the ruling Hindu-nationalist Bharatiya

Janata Party (BJP), said on Thursday in a post on X that ending free movement was key to "curbing illegal immigration and strengthening our internal security".

Supporters of ex-Pakistan PMs and bitter rivals claim poll victory

Former Pakistani prime ministers and bitter rivals Nawaz Sharif and Imran Khan on Friday (Feb 9) declared victory in elections marred by delayed results and militant attacks, throwing the country into further political turmoil. Sharif's party won the most seats by a single party in Thursday's election. Still, supporters of imprisoned Khan, who ran as independents instead of as a single bloc after his party was barred from the polls, won the most seats overall. Former Pakistani prime ministers and bitter rivals Nawaz Sharif and Imran Khan on Friday (Feb 9) declared victory in elections marred by delayed results and militant attacks, throwing the country into further political turmoil. Sharif's party won the most seats by a single party in Thursday's election. Still, supporters of imprisoned Khan, who ran as independents instead of as a single bloc after his party was barred from the polls, won the most seats overall. Sharif's announcement came after more than three-quarters of the 265 seats had declared results, more than 24 hours after polling ended on Thursday when 28 people were killed in militant attacks. Analysts had predicted there may be no clear winner, adding to the woes of a country struggling to recover from an economic crisis. At the same time, it grapples with rising militancy in a deeply polarised political environment. The results showed independents, mostly backed by Khan, had won the most seats - 98 of the 245 counted by 18.30 GMT. Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) won 69, while the Pakistan People's Party of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, the son of assassinated premier Benazir Bhutto, got 51