

## Your Life is not About You

Glynn Harrison

### How to use this lecture

You can watch this lecture on your own or with your church, small group, youth group, family or friends.

The questions/reflections below may help you discuss and work through how to apply what you've learnt to your own life.

### Lecture outline

We live in a culture obsessed by self-definition, self-fulfilment and the pursuit of self-esteem. This lecture traces the roots of Western culture's inward turn, exposes the harms as well as the potential benefits of today's self-absorption and explores how the Christian gospel points to a better story of human flourishing.

### Questions

1. When someone says, 'I identify as...' what are they really saying? What beliefs are they affirming and denying?
2. What are the implications of atheism and Nietzsche's cry, 'God is dead...and we have killed him'?
3. You are a child of God. How can we inhabit this truth and feel it? What other Bible truths does it remind you of?
4. What generally happens to our self-esteem when we live according to God's design and find our identity in him?
5. If we are going to live confidently as an identity minority we need to safeguard our convictions and way of life. What does this look like in your situation?

### Reflection/prayer

Meditate on these metaphors from the Bible; let them shape your concept of self:

- You are the subject of a King
- You are clay in the hands of the potter
- You are a sheep, protected and provided for by the Shepherd
- You are the bride, Christ is the lover of your soul
- 'I am a Christian. I must be what I am' (Secunda, Scillitan martyr). Ask for God's help to be what you are in your home, work place, and community.
- Pray for the children and young people in your sphere of influence. Pray you would model your identity in Christ so confidently that these young ones would be compelled by the truth of the Bible and captivated by Christ, remaining faithful to him.

### Books for further reading

'A Better Story' and 'The Big Ego Trip' by Glynn Harrison.