

CCU + SYMPOSIUM

2023

SEPTEMBER 11-12



YEAR OF THE SELF:
**Finding Our
Identity**
IN CHRIST ALONE

For to me, to live is Christ,
and to die is gain.
Phillipians 1:21 ESV



COLORADO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY
Grace and Truth

CCU † SYMPOSIUM 2023

YEAR OF THE SELF: **Finding Our Identity** IN CHRIST ALONE

Schedule

Monday, September 11

- 6:30 p.m.** **Mr. Eric Hogue, President**
Welcome and Opening Prayer
- 6:35 p.m.** **Dr. Donald W. Sweeting, Chancellor**
Year of the Self: Finding Our Identity in Christ Alone
- 6:45 p.m.** **Clara Wind, Student**
Introduction
- Plenary Speaker: Prof. Michael Plato, Associate Professor of Philosophy**
How did we get here, why are we so self-absorbed?
- 7:20 p.m.** **CCU Choir Presentation**
"Norwegian Alleluia"
"In Christ Alone"
- 7:30 p.m.** **Introduction**
- Plenary Speaker: Dr. Ryan M. Burkhart, Dean of the School of Counseling & Professor of the School of Counseling**
Beyond Therapeutic Man: The Lost Self
- 8:05 p.m.** **Dr. Donald W. Sweeting**
Q&A Session with Speakers
- 8:25 p.m.** **Dr. David Kotter, Dean of the School of Theology, Professor of New Testament Studies**
Benediction and Closing
- 8:30 p.m.** **Event Ends**

Tuesday, September 12

- 8:30 a.m.** **Dr. Matt Jones, Associate Professor of New Testament Studies**
Welcome and Opening Prayer
- 8:40 a.m.** **Music Team: Praise and Worship**
- 9:00 a.m.** **Kenna Wilson, Student**
Introduction of the Plenary Speaker
- Plenary Speaker: Dr. David Kotter, Dean of the School of Theology & Professor of New Testament Studies**
Where does the Bible say we should be? A whole Bible approach.
- 9:55 a.m.** **Coffee Break**
- 10:10 a.m.** **Jaden Nurmi, Student**
Introduction
- Plenary Speaker: Dr. Derek Jones, Lead Pastor at Applewood Baptist Church**
The Self grounded in the gospel from Colossians
- 11:00 a.m.** **Panel Discussion with all four speakers - Prof. Michael Plato, Dr. Derek Jones, Dr. David Kotter, and Dr. Ryan M. Burkhart**
Where do we go from here? How do we live now? What does this mean for me?
- 11:30 a.m.** **Dr. David Kotter**
Q&A Session with Speakers
- 11:50 a.m.** **Dr. Kevin Turner, Professor of Youth Ministry and Theology**
Closing Remarks
- 12:00 p.m.** **Lunch Break (on your own)**
- 1:15 p.m.** **Workshop #1 (Leprino Hall)**
- 2:15 p.m.** **Break**
- 2:30 p.m.** **Workshop #2 (Leprino Hall)**
- 3:30 p.m.** **Symposium Concludes**

Details Here!



Speakers



Professor Michael Plato

Professor Michael Plato believes Christian academics are called to be modern “men of Issachar” (1 Chron. 12:32), who understand the times so that they may better instruct others. Plato was an instructor at Ryerson University, Humber College, and Seneca College. He was also a guest lecturer at the University of Toronto, the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Tyndale University. He is also a review editor for Contemporary Religion and Culture at booksataglimpse.com.



Dr. Ryan M. Burkhart

Dr. Ryan M. Burkhart is a leader in the Colorado professional counselor community. Burkhart has been instrumental in establishing a high level of professional counselor practice in Colorado through legislative efforts and advocacy. Burkhart’s legislative efforts helped establish the Licensed Professional Counselor – Candidate, or LPCC, designation in Colorado, renew and strengthen clinical supervision in Colorado, establish minimum qualifications for clinical competency and psychotherapy, pass suicide prevention legislation, and align Colorado’s professional counseling profession with national standards of practice.



Dr. David Kotter

Dr. David Kotter serves as the dean of the School of Theology, but he began his career at Ford Motor Company as a financial analyst at its world headquarters and eventually as a plant controller at a manufacturing plant in Spain. After graduating summa cum laude from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, he was invited to join a church-planting team for CrossWay Community Church and served as the pastor of discipleship for seven years.

Kotter’s primary research is focused on the areas of intersection between theology and economics. He has been invited to lecture on related topics around the United States as well as Asia and Europe. Kotter has contributed to five books along with numerous journal articles and book reviews. He is also active in biblical archaeology and has taught on five summer expeditions for CCU students to dig at Tel es-Safi (Gath), Shiloh, and throughout Israel.

Dr. Kotter co-founded the Faith and Work Project to train future pastors in the principles of economics and finance. He also writes as a senior research fellow for the Institute for Faith, Work and Economics.

More Info:





Dr. Derek Jones

Dr. Derek Jones was born and raised in Aurora, Colorado, and accepted the Lord when he was 17 years old. While attending CSU, God provided an opportunity to minister within the local church. Soon after, he felt God calling him to full-time ministry, and he has been serving ever since. Derek has served at three different churches in Ft. Collins, Boston, and Denver and recently completed his 20th year of ministry. A lifelong Colorado sports fan, he believes sports is one of the best evangelism tools. As someone who began ministry at the age of 19, Derek has a heart to empower young leaders to use their gifts to serve the local church and build God's kingdom. He and his wife, Firdaus, have been married for 15 years and have 3 boys.



Dr. Donald W. Sweeting

After serving as Colorado Christian University president from 2016-2022, Dr. Donald Sweeting was appointed by the Board of Trustees as Chancellor of the University. As chancellor, Dr. Sweeting is responsible for amplifying the University's educational mission, convictions, and strategic priorities inside and outside CCU.

Before coming to CCU, Dr. Sweeting served as the president and professor of Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando from 2010-2016. As an ordained minister in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC), Sweeting served as senior pastor of Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church in Greenwood Village, a Denver suburb, for 12 years and for 11 years as the founding pastor of Chain of Lakes Community Bible Church in northern Illinois. Sweeting also served as an assistant to Chuck Colson with Prison Fellowship in Washington, D.C.

Sweeting studied Bible and Theology at Moody Bible Institute, earned his B.A. degree in History from Lawrence University, a B.A./M.A. degree from Oxford University in England, and his Ph.D. in Historical Theology from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. He also speaks and preaches around the country and has published numerous articles for well-known magazines and scholarly journals. He has co-authored several books, including *How to Finish the Christian Life: Following Jesus in the Second Half of Life*.

Scan for info:



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YEAR OF THE SELF: **Finding Our Identity** IN CHRIST ALONE

Workshops | 1:15 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.

All workshops will be available at both times



Dr. Ray Mitsch

Unanchored: Who are you?

Leprino, Room 170

If someone were to ask you who you are, how would you answer? We live in a world where we are bombarded by a variety of sources that are more than happy to define us. So, how do we respond? Is it possible to live in such a way that we can know who we are anchored in our identity in Christ?



Dr. Jonathan Dimos

The Great Social Experiment: How Social Media is Impacting the Self

Leprino, Room 172

This workshop will take a look at what we do and don't know about how social media is changing our brains, relationships, and society. We will discuss how the church might best respond to these changes.



Dr. Kathryn Palermo

God's Masterpiece – Caring for your Soul

Leprino, Room 104

"God's Masterpiece – Caring for your Soul" is a 45-minute workshop that fosters a nurturing and supportive environment for participants to explore the connections between self-care and spirituality. The workshop combines insightful discussions, hands-on activities, and group exercises to create a well-rounded and meaningful experience. It is designed to provide students with a deeper understanding of how caring for oneself aligns with Biblical teachings and how it can empower them to better serve others.



Dr. Stephen Shumaker

An Odyssey to Genesis and Jesus: Personal Identity and the Foundations of Western Civilization

Leprino, Room 106

Personal identity — particularly its fluidity — is a profound cultural concern today. But this is hardly new as it appears that Homer in his great epic, *The Odyssey*, thoroughly explores both the problems and potential of human fluidity in his hero, Odysseus, and how such fluidity can be grounded within a natural order. The Bible also begins with a concern for fluidity at the foundation of God's created order, but offers hope for human flourishing, first with a declaration of man being made in the image of God, and ultimately, with our redemption and conformity with that image of God in Jesus Christ. This foundational vision of human identity is never more relevant than for today.



Dr. Seth Rodriguez

Subjects of the King of Kings: Finding Our Identity in Christ as King

Leprino, Room 202

As Americans, we live in a democracy where we elect our leaders, replace them when they are no longer popular, and hold them accountable to lead in the way we wish. As citizens of heaven, the situation is completely different. The kingdom of God is just that: a kingdom. Our leader is a king. In fact, he is the King of Kings. As our king, he demands our undying loyalty. And yet, as our king, he provides us with unending protection and security. This workshop will explore the idea of the Messiah as king in both the Old and New Testaments and what it means to live as a subject under the rule of a king. The workshop will attempt to bridge the cultural gap between ancient believers who lived under a monarchy and modern believers who live in a democracy, bringing into sharper focus our identity as subjects of the King.

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Dr. Bryan Crutcher

In Jesus' Name I Play: Pursuing Identity as a Christian Athlete and Competitor

Leprino, Room 206

This workshop will highlight the concept of identity in athletics and other competitively-oriented environments. We will discuss how success, failure, and living up to expectations can create pathways to perceived identifiers like anxiety, depression, and perfectionism that describe and challenge how we view ourselves. Through examining the common ways in which identity is driven in the world of athletics and competition, we will explore how rooting ourselves in Christ alone is the only avenue to true victory. The goal is to equip people to use the power of the *Gospel* to cement our identity in Christ within the competitive environment.



Prof. Susan Pahlau

Identity Exchange: Moving from the False to the Real to the True

Leprino, Room 305

Come experience spiritual formation exercises to help uncover who you are to Jesus! In this workshop, based on Jamie Winship's book *Living Fearless*, you will learn how to trade in your false self rooted in fear, guilt, or shame, for what is real and true in Christ.



**Dr. Debora Scheffel and Pam Beningo
(Director of the Education Policy Center,
Independence Institute)**

***Questioning the Core of our Children's
Identity: Public Education's Influence on the
Cultural Narrative***

Leprino, Room 307

Since the last compulsory education laws in the United States were passed in the early 20th Century, public education has traditionally existed to develop a productive workforce, to create an informed citizenry, and to provide the conditions for social mobility. However, our culture has witnessed a clear shift from the traditional mindset regarding school's purpose to one that focuses on socialization and student identity, encouraging students to dig into and share who they are and be affirmed in their identity. This shift in focus as to the purpose of education has resulted in schools being reframed as identity playgrounds for children. As Christians, it is essential to understand the fallacies of this trend and provide a clear alternative based on Scripture to ensure the next generation finds its identity in Christ.



Prof. Mark Dorn

***Embracing Our Identity as Longing Pilgrims:
Our Inner and Outer Journeys***

Leprino, Room 304

Two recurring themes emerge in Scripture related to our identity — the theme of longing (our inner journey) and the theme of pilgrimage (our external journey). This workshop will explore the importance of embracing our own longings in deepening our identity as worshippers and Christ-followers as well as the importance of finding meaning in our outer journeys and experiences in this world. This workshop will explore Prof. Dorn's thoughts in his recent book *Life on the Road: Longing and Pilgrimage on the Way to God*.

