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# THE BARNABAS

## 2022

**Crisis Care  
Training International**

**A Ministry of**

**WEC International**

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VOLUME: 19 NO.5  
NOVEMBER 2022

DATE ISSUED:  
11/28/2022

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We're under attack! Do those words alarm you, or are you to the point that you do not even flinch because we are hearing that from so many sources today? Trauma and crisis are the latest "buzzwords" because our world is inundated with so much strife and conflict. However, if you are a Believer and follower of Jesus Christ, you are under attack by the enemy.

The enemy has often used children to further his agenda, which is very evident today. Children are being told that they can go against their parent's wishes and do what feels best to them...whether it's to explore transgenderism, be a "furry" (having animal-like characteristics), or take "safe drugs" because the state or country has more rights and say over the child than their parents. With so many voices coming from so many sides, especially when children are searching out who they are, it is no wonder their identity is being questioned. Of course, the enemy wants to distract our children and have them question who they are and are designed to be. The enemy knows how powerful children who know God can be, as evidenced throughout the Bible and history. Satan wants our children to be distracted, confused, and question their identity so they will be for him and against whom God wants them to be.

This issue of the Barnabas is looking at identity and filled with resources that families can use to help them focus on apologetics. We hope these resources will provide families with tools they can use with their children. May these resources help families combat the world and its anti-God message, feel strong in how God designed them, and stand firm for Him. May you be enriched, equipped, and encouraged as you read this issue and prepare to stand for Him!

Serving Him Together,  
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 Director of Education, CCTI



# THE KEY

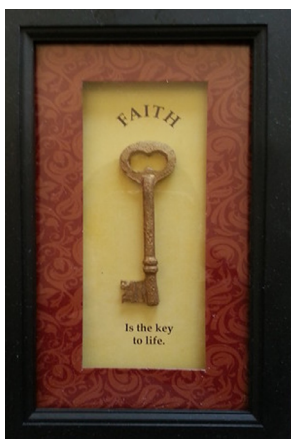
*If you would like to help CCTI continue to develop our resources,  
[please donate here](#). Thank you!*

## Why Are Children Questioning Their Identity?

Our children and youth are being fed many lies from schools, media outlets, movies, television shows, etc. As taught in CCTI's curriculum, ages twelve to eighteen are known as the Childhood Development Stage of Identity[1] as kids seek out who they are and are meant to be.

What are their real likes and dislikes, what are they good at, and how do others socially accept them?

These questions become the forefront of their minds as they navigate their daily lives. Much of the world and those who work with children know this, and they are all vying for their attention to tell them who they think they should be instead of God telling them who they were meant to be.



## My own childhood memories as it relates here.

As a child, I grew up the oldest of two daughters to my police officer father, who immensely enjoyed taking my sister and me horseback riding. Also, I enjoyed learning proficiency with firearms, construction, being outdoors, camping, etc. from my father. I was a "tomboy" and not a big fan of dolls. But I still enjoyed these things as I grew older. I also began to enjoy putting on make-up, going to dances, wearing dresses, and hanging out with the girls.

I cannot imagine how I might have responded in elementary or middle school to a counselor or teacher suggesting, "You seem to enjoy many things that most boys enjoy. Would you like to consider becoming a boy?" I do not view my childhood as one of uncertainty in my gender. Instead, I look at these experiences and opportunities I had as a way God was preparing me to become a mother of two boys so I can better relate to them! I do not believe that God wastes anything in our lives, including what experiences we have throughout our childhood.

## Back to how this all relates to children now.

Because of how society is approaching children, children are having difficulty knowing whom to trust and questioning everything. However, there is freedom in structure (1 Thessalonians 4:9-12), which is what God intended. God has a purpose and design for every one of us. He gave us families, with a mother and father, to grow up with. This was so that we could be taught His word and the boundaries needed to navigate this life well and in preparation for our eternal life. Unfortunately, as we all know, this truth is being questioned, denied, and torn apart, as it has been from the beginning when sin first entered the world.

# THE KEY



## How can we help children?

We must teach children that everything is not based on feelings or experiences, which are continuously changing and can be affected by many factors. There is only one immovable truth: God's law as delivered in His Word. We must be careful to teach children about the One True God, not the new gods and religions created daily, such as Therapeutic Moralistic Deism. As the father of lies often does, the Truth is distorted to make it sound like God, but it is not. We must

teach our children to discern truth through the study of apologetics, understand what reality is hidden in cultural lies, and teach our children how to combat these lies with God's truth accurately. When most morals and worldviews of children are set by the age of nine, and the majority of salvation experiences occur by the age of 18, we do not have time to lose![2]

## So, What Is the Key for Children Questioning Their Identity?

We see the trauma that is being created in the varying lives that are struggling with identity. One fellow teammate, who works with international students at a US Christian college, noted the following observation: *"Trauma tries to steal your identity, but it (our identity) needs to be rooted back in Christ and His purpose and plan for your life. That is the key."*

## About the author:

Amy Wilson is a child of God since age 18, a wife of 24 years, and a mother of two sons, ages 16 and 11. She has been involved with various ministries for children for over 25 years. Amy has been a part of the CCTI team since 2013 and the Director of Education for CCTI since 2019.



[1] Eric Erikson Psychosocial Stages of Development <https://www.verywellmind.com/erik-eriksons-stages-of-psychosocial-development-2795740>

[2] National Association of Evangelicals, "When Americans Become Christians" (Spring 2015)



# WHAT IS OUR CHRISTIAN IDENTITY IN THIS ANONYMOUS AGE?

*What is Our Christian Identity in this Anonymous Age? Our children's identity is under attack! Read more about how caregivers can better equip themselves for the battle.*

*We are grateful for organizations like the [Colson Center](#) who share resources with us, like the attached article, to help us further identify and spread God's truth for His children.*

## Where We Stand Right Now In This Moment with Our Christian Identity in the Anonymous Age

Last week, A friend forwarded me a letter circulating in his community. It called for him to apologize for his race and placed on him the burden of hundreds of years of institutional racism and past injustices.

There was no room for dissent, no room for disagreement. Agree in every way or stand condemned. That's not uncommon in this cultural moment.

There's an incredible intensity. And, as my friend put it, incredible absolutism for each and every issue, not just the race issue. It seems that the entire world is at stake with what we think and what we say. Despite near-constant calls to have dialogue and conversations, too often tempers flare. And the whole thing devolves into a diatribe, with echo chambers reinforcing what each side has already thought. And for Christians, these moments threaten to steal our understanding of where we fit in a greater story.

## How Does God Fit Into This Story?

God is writing a great story for the whole world, and Scripture reveals that story. It's the story of creation to new creation, from the heavens and earth to the new heavens and new earth. We're somewhere in that timeline, in this tale of creation, fall, redemption, and restoration.

It is important to ground ourselves in the truth that we have been created by a good God and have been created good as part of a marvelous story of redemption and renewal. Even though in the fall of Adam, so much of God's good creation has been twisted and frustrated and is now in need of reorientation and healing.

The story is clear, that God has worked in history, in Christ, to renew His creation and to make people new, to help them understand their role in the grand story of the renewal of all things.



Continued...

# WHAT IS OUR CHRISTIAN IDENTITY IN THIS ANONYMOUS AGE?

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## How Do We Become a Part of God's Story Now?

As we see this story correctly, as we become part of this story, we learn to find our moment in the larger story. Then suddenly we can have the clarity that we all need, particularly in this confusing cultural moment.

Right now, one of the most confusing things in our moment is all the bad ideas that we hear all the time about who we are, and what it means to be human. The deepest conflicts at this moment aren't moral ones. It's not a disagreement about what's right and what's wrong, even though certainly our views on that as a culture have dramatically changed. The deeper confusion is about who we actually are.

On one hand, you have Scientism's view of what it means to be human, which has dominated academia and the cultural imagination in so many ways for a century or more now. This says that we're essentially the result of mindless, costless, purposeless processes. There's no Higher Power that had us in mind, and we're not headed toward any sort of goal or purpose in history.

On the other hand, you have this postmodern construct that says that you and I are whatever we choose to be. It says that the number one responsibility to be human is to express our "true selves." And the number two responsibility is to accept other people's "true selves." But those true selves might be completely disconnected from reality. They may also be disconnected from biology, from bodies, from families, from anything other than our own self-determination. This has become a breaking point in our culture. But of course, we're not the first generation to face something nearly as challenging.



**Module 2: Street Children Digital**  
Digital Download

\$25.00

Add to cart

## We Aren't The First Generation...

The Apostles, Peter, and Paul experienced the decadent Roman Empire. St. Patrick faced a pre-Christian Ireland. Christians throughout history have found themselves in the rockiest of social soils. And at some level, they have been able to survive and even thrive. How? By remembering what is ultimately true, what is ultimately good, and who they ultimately are in creation.

These Christians have stayed the course through Christ. How? By remembering that the Christian worldview is big enough for the challenges they faced. That reality is still true today.

# WHAT IS OUR CHRISTIAN IDENTITY IN THIS ANONYMOUS AGE?

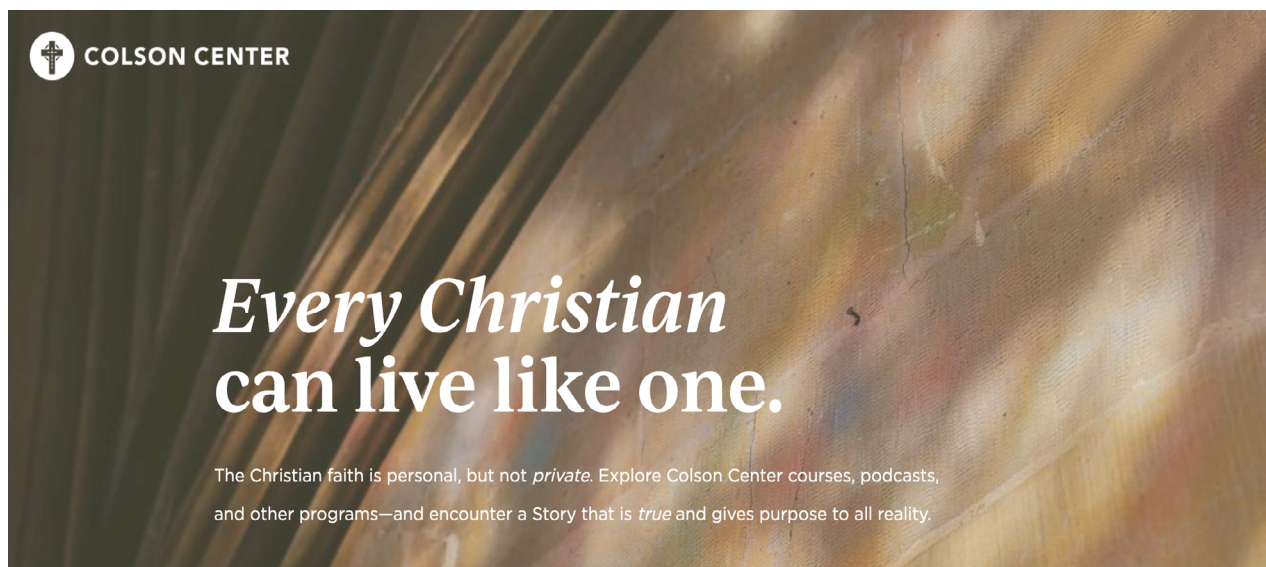
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## How the Christian Worldview Can Help with What is Our Christian Identity in this Anonymous Age

The Christian worldview is big enough for all the experiences in the world, both the problems and the glories. It is big enough for the groaning and the graces, the things that make us stand in awe and the things that make us weep in despair. In fact, if we have a clear view of Christian history. We also have a clear view of the sovereignty of God, and the authority of Christ over all of creation. It is moments like these, as confusing and crazy as they are, that can get us excited. We know that God is bigger than any cultural moment. We also know that God is revealing Himself to us in new and powerful ways.

This commitment that Christ has made, to reveal Himself in the world, is what drives and grounds the Colson Center in almost everything we do. This is especially true in our rhythm of routine short courses. The newest series is coming out of the Wilberforce weekend, where we focused all of our attention on this idea of the image of God. We want to take that to an even deeper level.

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### Author:

John Stonestreet  
President of the Colson Center





## Upcoming Trainings February 2023 Classes

The following three courses will be offered:

**Module 1:** Trauma and Crisis Care

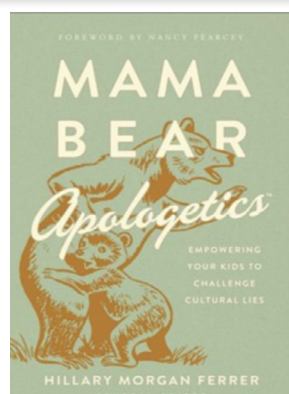
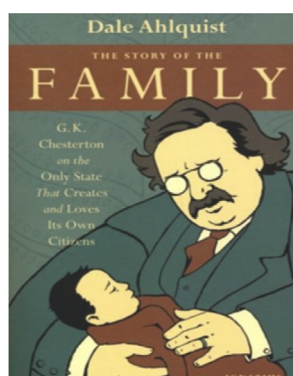
**Module 6:** Counseling Youth and Children in Crisis

**Module 7:** Restoring Hope to Children with Disabilities

If there is a training that you are interested in, please email [denise@ccti-wec.org](mailto:denise@ccti-wec.org) for an application and details.

## Books and Articles:

<https://americanreformer.org/2022/02/stop-finding-your-identity-in-christ/>



Continued...





## Podcast and Videos:

### Breakpoint

<https://www.breakpoint.org/christian-schools-and-gender-identity-how-to-reason-in-the-pro-choice-heartbeat-bill-debate/>

### Little Demon: Warning from The Creation Museum

<https://youtu.be/H5vfUb0Xr7c>

### Focus On The Family: Responding with Grace on Divisive Issues

<https://www.focusonthefamily.com/?s=Responding+with+Grace+on+Divisive+Issues>

## Websites:

<https://www.breakpoint.org/#identity>

[focusonthefamily.com](https://www.focusonthefamily.com)

