

The background of the image is an abstract, swirling pattern of dark blue and brown lines, resembling a wood grain or a nebula. The lines are curved and flow from the top left towards the bottom right, creating a sense of movement and depth. The colors are rich and saturated, with the blue being a deep, almost blackish-blue, and the brown being a warm, dark chocolate or mahogany hue. The overall effect is one of mystery and complexity.

Strange New World

By Carl Trueman

Strange New World:

- Learning Objectives for this seminar
 - Understand the historical, philosophical, and technological factors driving identity politics today.
 - Gain a Biblical Perspective on Personhood
 - Learn how to engage our culture that's often hostile to Christian beliefs.

Introduction

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- **1 Chronicles 12:32, Christians should understand the times**
- **1 John 4:1, with wisdom test every worldview and**
- **Romans 12:2. avoid conformity to the world's thinking**

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- The Western world in which we now live has a confusing and often disturbing quality to it.
- Is there something that helps to unify the changes we behold in society and to make sense of what we are witnessing?

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- Yes, there is – “The Self.”
- And the self-connects to three other concepts of relevance to my narrative: *expressive individualism*, *the sexual revolution*, and *the social imaginary*.

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- Today:
 - What is “the self”?
 - What is expressive individualism?
 - What is the sexual revolution?
 - Why do we think the way that we do?

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- *What is the “Self?”*
- The “real me.”
- The modern self assumes the authority of inner feelings and sees authenticity as defined by the ability to give social expression to the same. The modern self also assumes that society at large will recognize and affirm this behavior. Such a self is defined by what is called expressive individualism.

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- *What is Expressive Individualism?*
- The Modern Self is on where authenticity is achieved by acting outwardly in accordance with one's inward feelings.
- The Modern Self assumes the authority of inner feelings and sees authenticity as defined by the ability to give social expression to the same AND THAT Society will recognize and affirm that behavior.

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- *What is the Sexual Revolution?*
- The ongoing repudiation of all sexual codes and norms over the last 60+ years bringing us to the point where sexual acts in themselves are seen as having no intrinsic moral significance.

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- *Why do we think the way that we do?*
- The story of the modern self is not simply the story of big ideas thought by profound thinkers. It is the story of how the way we intuit or imagine the world to be.
- A complex set of factors have come to shape and reshape the way that we think about sex and our world. We have to recognize that there is a collective social intuition, a *social imaginary*, that informs the way that we intuitively relate to the world.

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- *Conclusion*
- The dramatic changes and flux we witness and experience in society today are related to the rise of the *expressive individual* self, partly as expressed through the *sexual revolution*. **This culture in some way is embedded in us. We all share the mindset, the imagination, intuition, the *social imaginary* of our current culture.**
- There is no simple single cause of this strange new world. Nor is there a simple single solution. To respond to our times, we must understand our times. Most of all we must understand our God and what he says about who we are.