

# UNVEILING THE SELF

*Identity and identity formation from  
antiquity to the present*

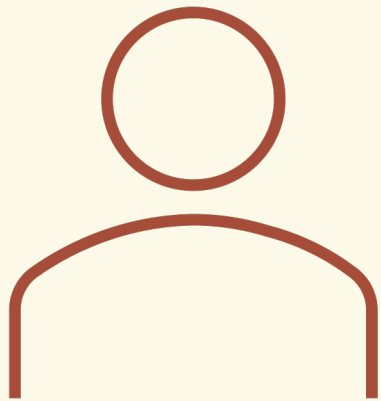
EBS — Session 1

Carlos Santos Aguirre

- I. What is IDENTITY at its core?
- II. How has IDENTITY FORMATION been done across time?

I

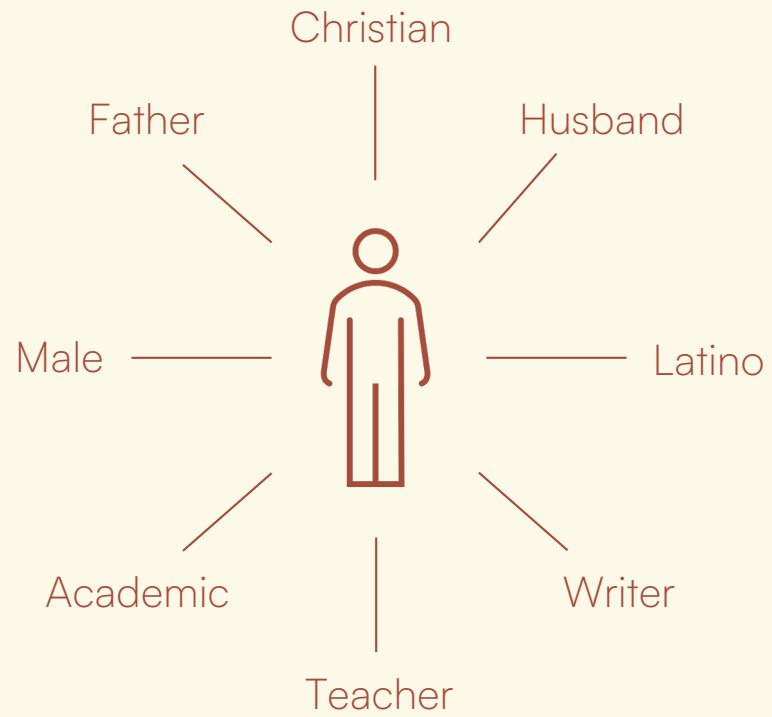
What is IDENTITY  
at its core?

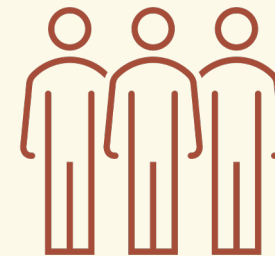
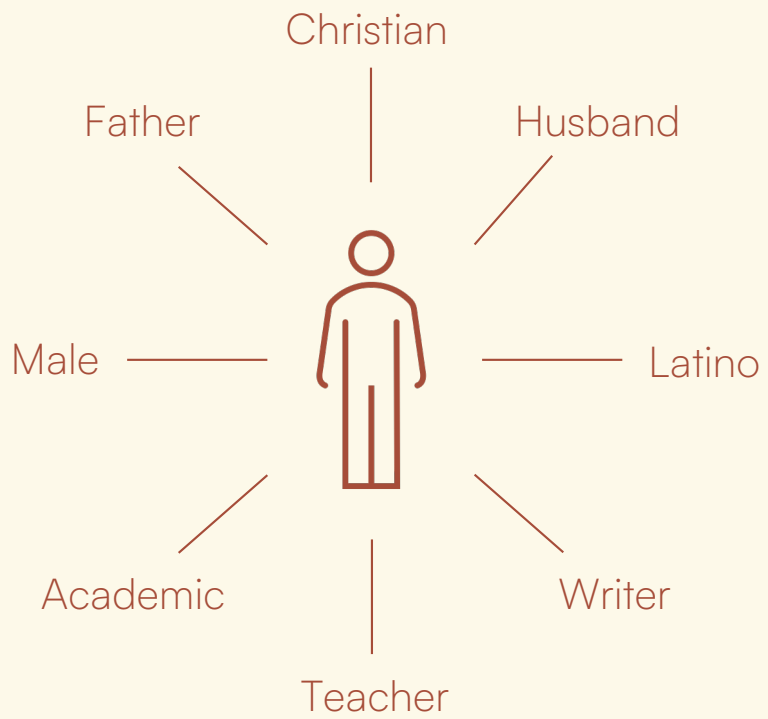


A sense of self

A sense of worth

Human identity  
as sense of worth





VALIDATORS

## Pharisees

Their worth came from what they value as the most important...

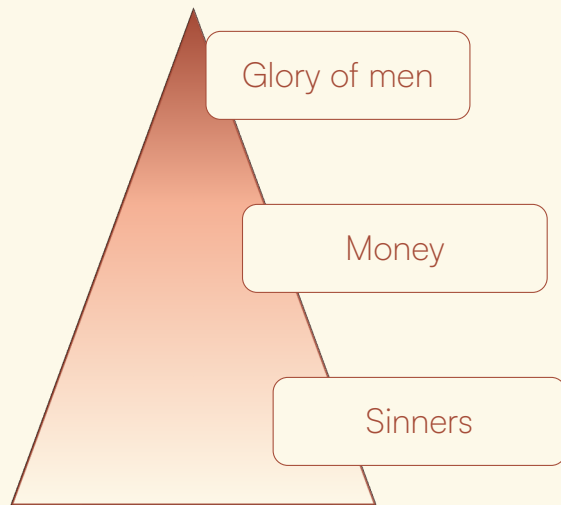
- Strict law-keeping
- Purity rules
- Social respectability
- Religious performance

## Jesus

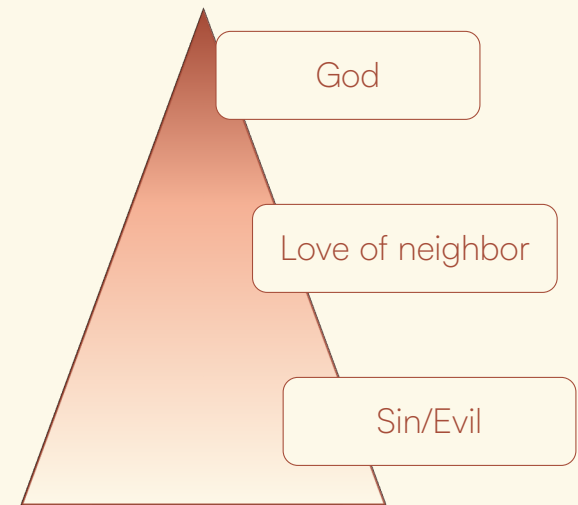
His worth came from God and from what He values as the most important...

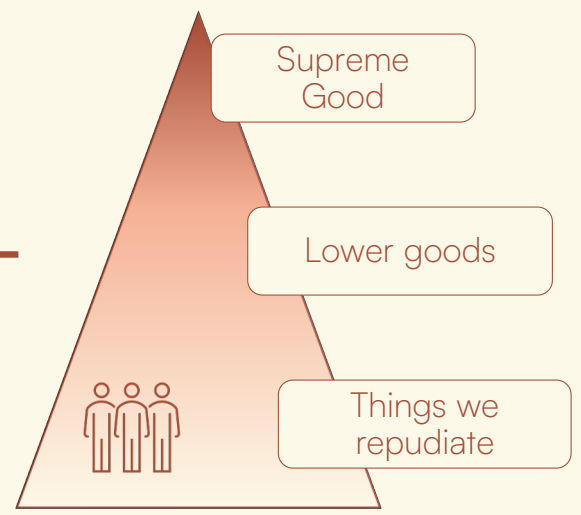
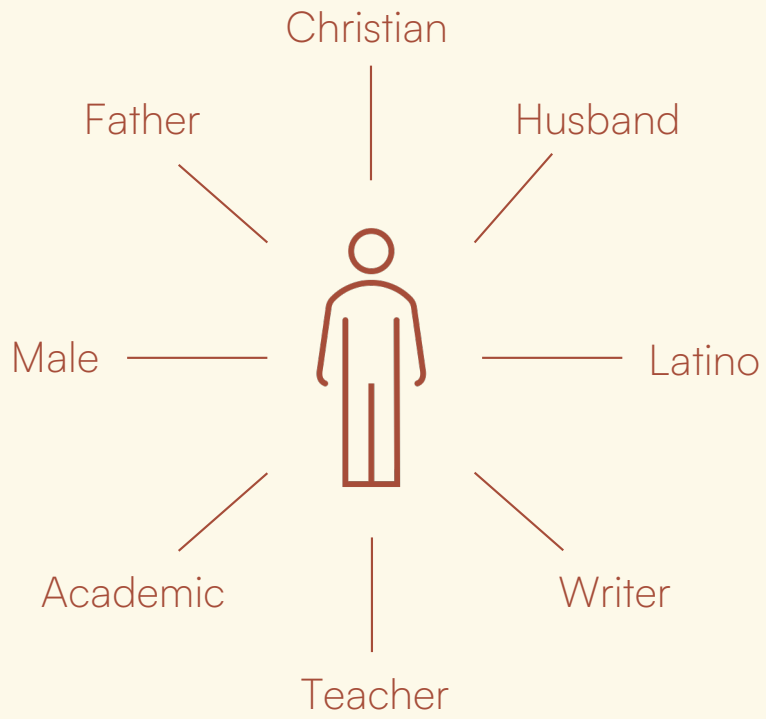
- Love of neighbor
- Justice
- Mercy
- Faithfulness

## Pharisees



## Jesus



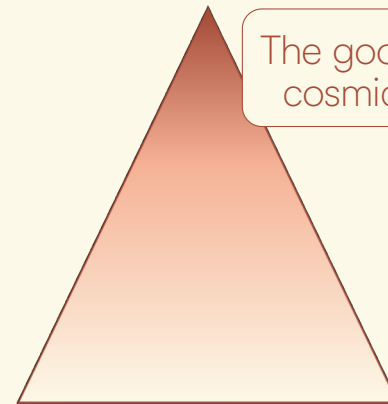
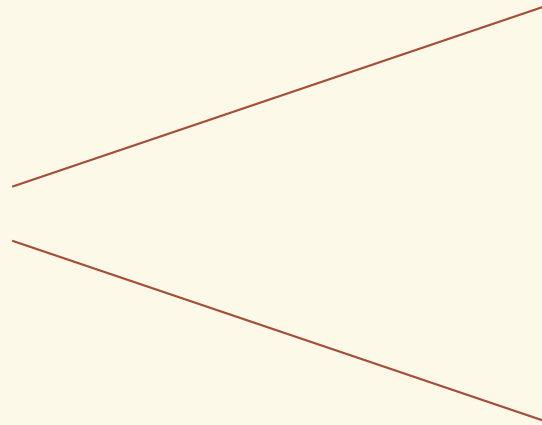
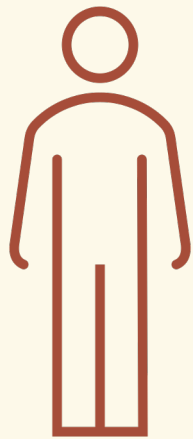


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How has IDENTITY FORMATION  
been done across time?

01

# Identity formation in ancient societies

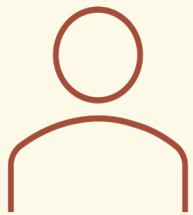


The good in the cosmic order



02

Identity formation  
in modernity



Stage 01: Early Modernity (1500-1600)

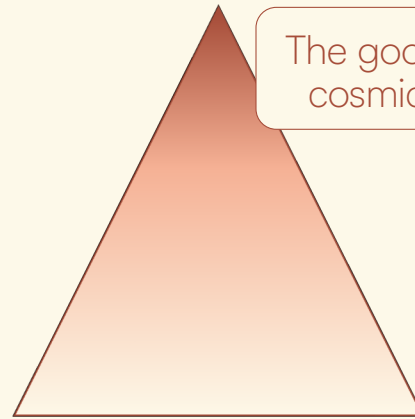
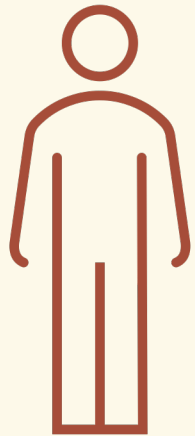
Stage 02: The Romantic Period (1780-1850)

Stage 03: Postmodernity (1945 — Present)

Stage 01

Early Modernity  
(1500-1600)

# Early Modernity (1500-1600)

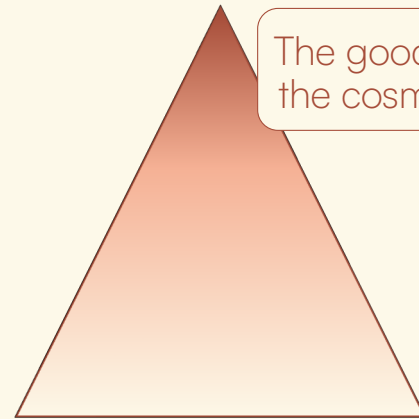


The good in the  
cosmic order



“The book of nature is written in the language of mathematics.”

—Galileo Galilei

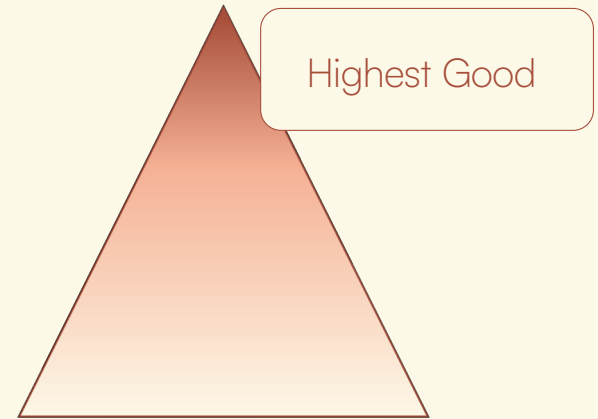
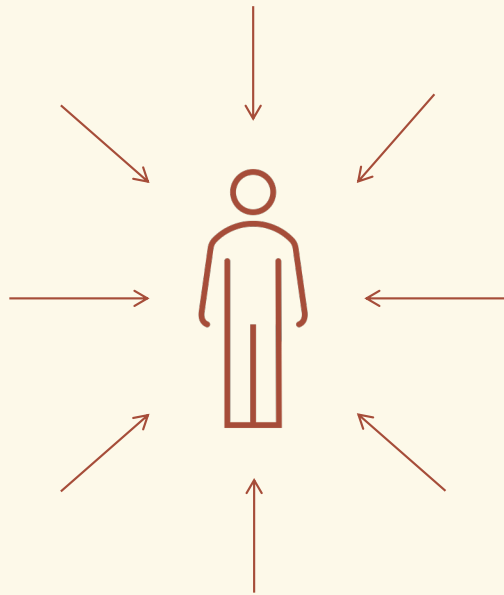


The good/truth in  
the cosmic order

Stage 02

The Romantic Period  
(1780-1850)

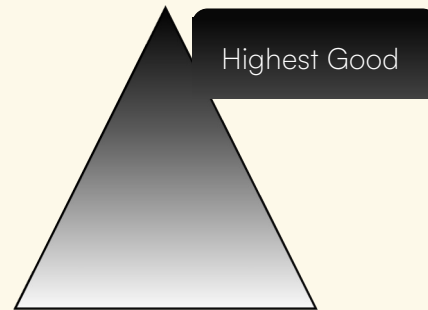
# Antecedents



# Radical Inwardness



Rousseau



The good is inside me



The validator is me through my nature

“Their [external ideas from others] noisy voices drown her [Conscience] words, so that she cannot get a hearing; fanaticism dares to falsify her voice and to inspire crimes in her name. She is discouraged by ill-treatment; she no longer speaks to us.”

—Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *On Education*

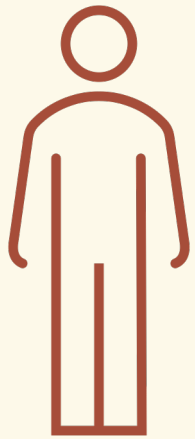
“The affinity between nature and ourselves is now mediated not by an objective rational order but by the way that nature resonates in us.”

—Charles Taylor, *Sources of the Self*

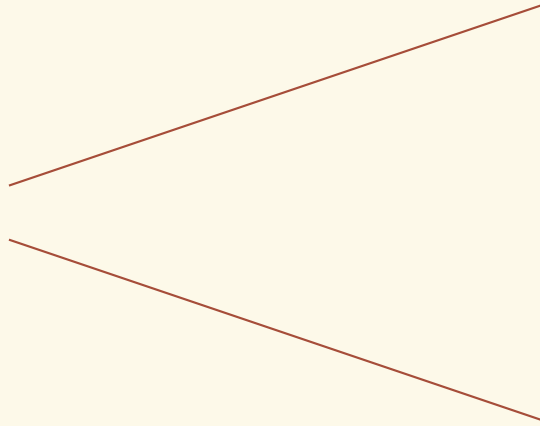


Stage 03

Postmodernity  
(1945 — Present)



Postmodern  
self

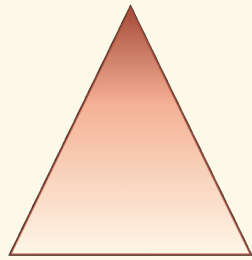


Good is a  
construction

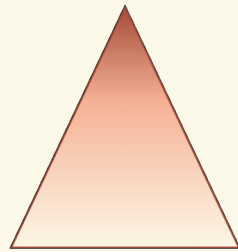


I am the ultimate  
validator

Ancient Societies



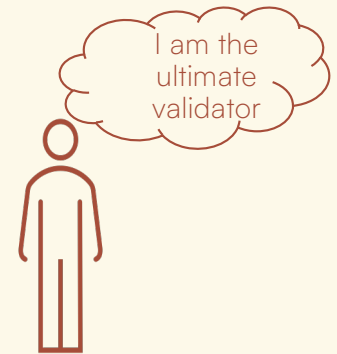
Early Modernity  
(1500-1600)



Romantic Period  
(1750-1850)



Postmodernity  
(1945-Present)



## Ancient Identity Formation

The place of the good is outward.

The validator of my identity is other people.

Our worth is based on fulfilling our duties.

## Modern Identity Formation

The place of the good is inward.

The validator of my identity is myself.

Our worth is based on fulfilling our desires.

Two Key TAKEWAYS

01

Seek validation from the right validator

<sup>16</sup> As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup> And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

Matthew 3:16-17 (NVI)

02

Christian identity is not achieved but  
received as a free gift

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.

1 Corinthians 15:10

# Q&A

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Follow my work

