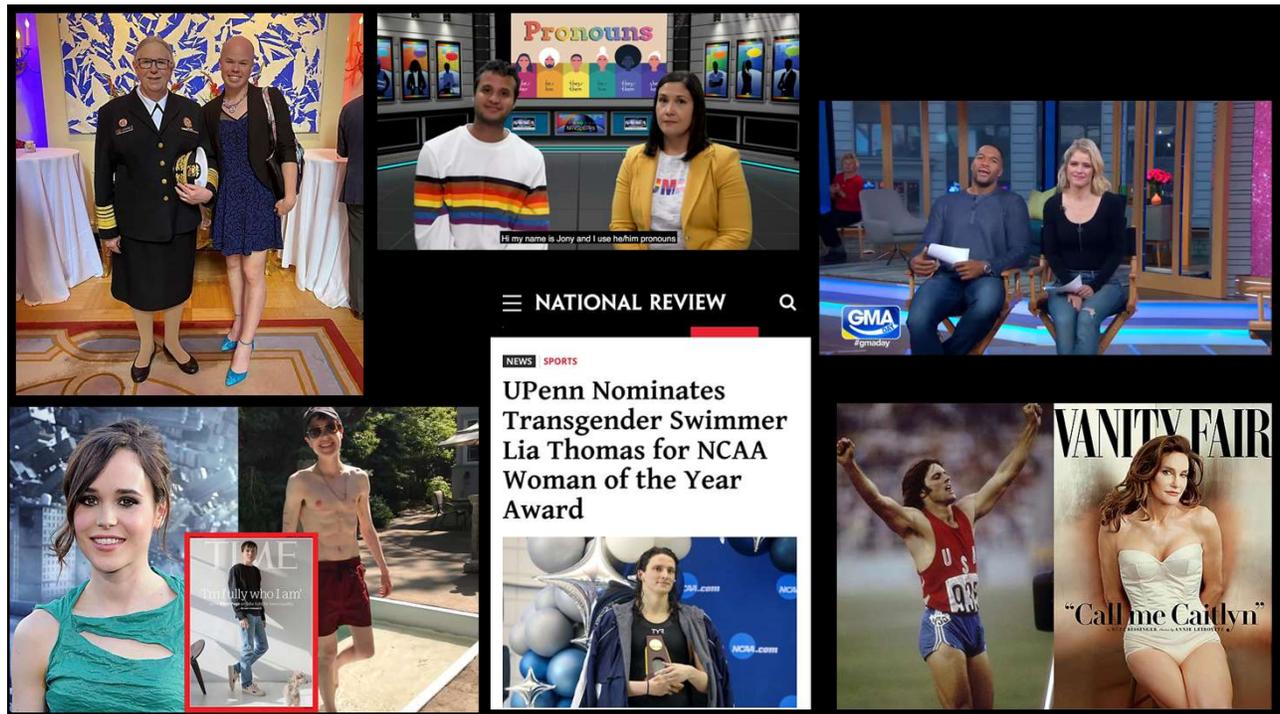




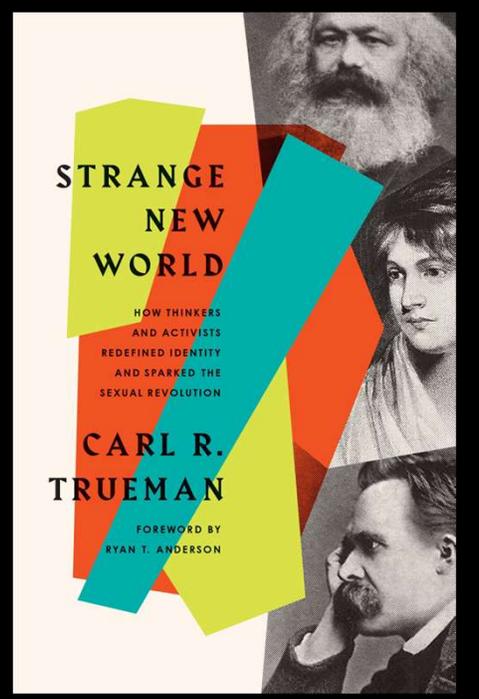
1



2



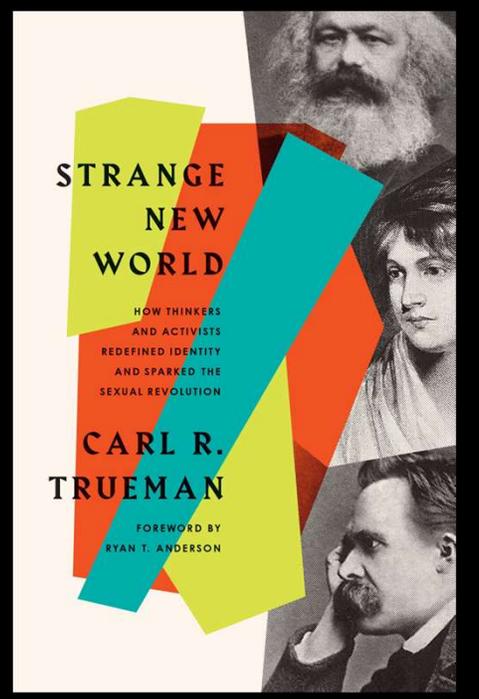
*“Welcome to this strange new world. You may not like it. But it is where you live, and therefore it is important that you try to understand it.”*



3



*“At the heart of this book is a historical narrative that is concerned with the ideas of a number of intellectual figures ...”*



4

Rene Descartes

Rousseau & the Romantics

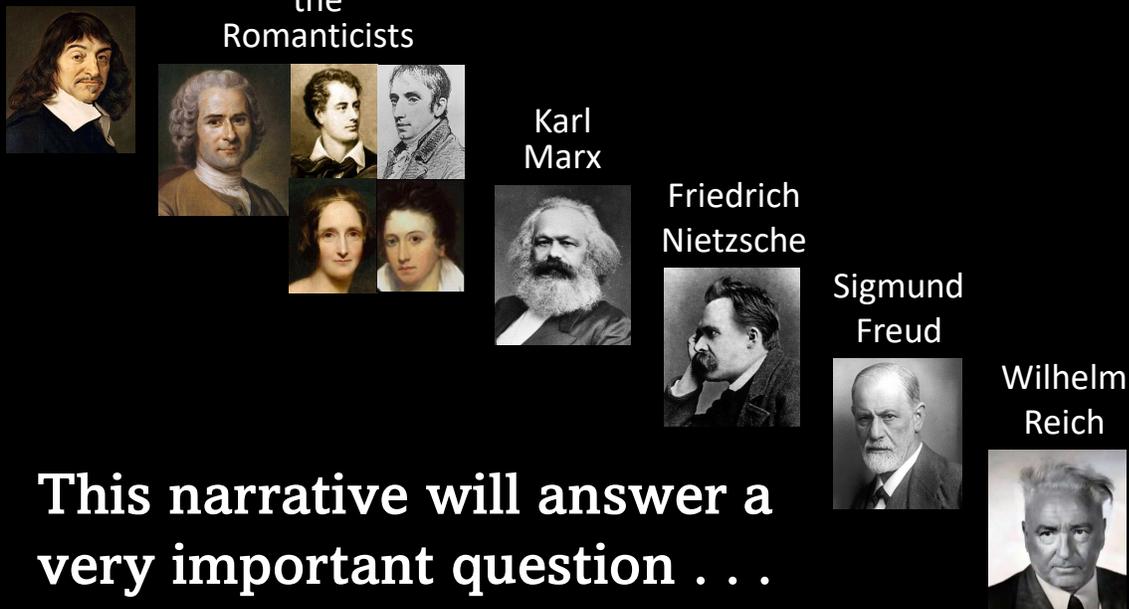
Karl Marx

Friedrich Nietzsche

Sigmund Freud

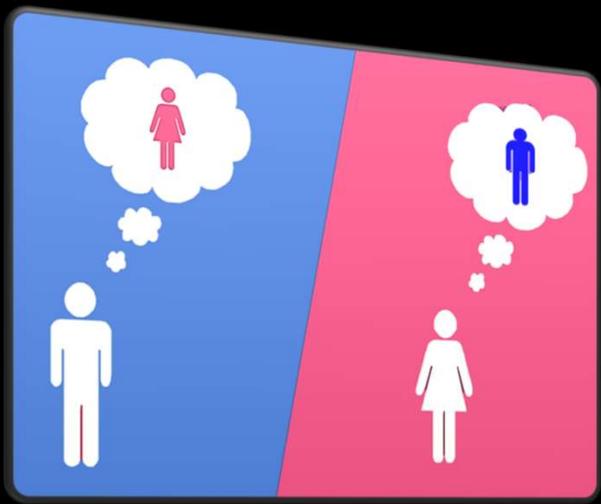
Wilhelm Reich

**This narrative will answer a very important question . . .**



5

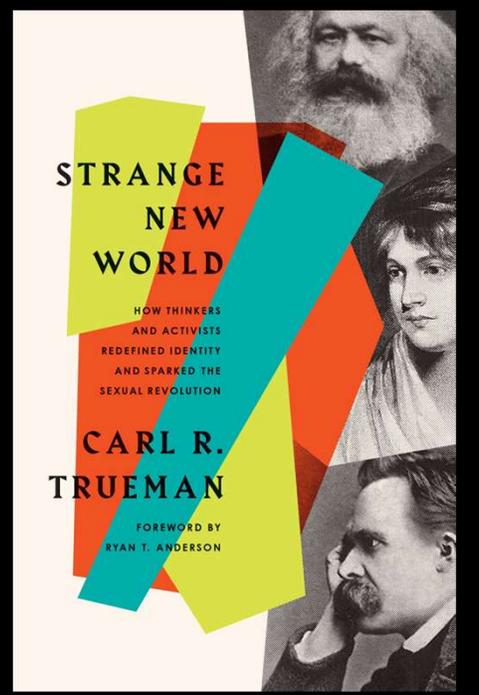
How did we come to live in a culture in which the statement “I am a woman trapped in a man’s body” (or vice-versa) is intended as—and very frequently taken as—a serious statement of reality and not just an expression of mental delusion or emotional disturbance?



6



*“... there is something that helps us to unify the changes we are witnessing and to make them, if not entirely explicable, at least less random than we might be tempted to think. This is the notion of the self.”*



7

## Key terms

- The “Self”

Thought of psychologically, the self is the individual as the object of his or her own reflective awareness.

Thought of theologically, the self is identified with one’s non-material soul; the enduring essence of who one truly is.

8

## Key terms



- The “Self”

*“When I use the term ‘self’ in this book, I am referring . . . to the deeper notion of where the ‘real me’ is to be found, how that shapes my view of life, and in what the fulfillment or happiness of that ‘real me’ consists.”*  
(see Trueman, p. 21-22)

9

## Key terms

- Identity

*“Identity is the sum of everything that pertains to us and shapes us. Identity is that sense of being and self-understanding that frames our actions, communicates to others who we are, and sets the agenda for our acts. . . . We live out of a sense of identity.”*  
(Klyne Snodgrass, in *Who God Says You Are: A Christian Understanding of Identity*).

10

# Identity and the Self in Scripture



11

Brian Rosner. *Known By God: A Biblical Theology of Personal Identity*

Brian Rosner. *How to Find Yourself: Why Looking Inward Is Not The Answer*

Klyne Snodgrass. *Who God Says You Are: A Christian Understanding of Identity*

12

## What are we?

- Creatures
  - Made in God's image & likeness
  - Male and female
- } (Gen. 1:26-28; 2:7, 20-25)
- Fallen from original perfection & goodness (Gen. 2: 15-17; 3:1-24)
  - A union of body and mind/spirit/soul (Gen. 2:7; Mt. 10:28; Rom. 12:1-2; 2 Cor. 7:1)
  - Made new in Christ (1 Cor. 15:51-54; 2 Cor. 5:17-18; Rev. 21:5)

13

## Who am I?

How is my identity shaped and formed?

*“Identity is the sum of everything that pertains to us and shapes us. Identity is that sense of being and self-understanding that frames our actions, communicates to others who we are, and sets the agenda for our acts. . . . We live out of a sense of identity.”*

*(Klyne Snodgrass, in *Who God Says You Are: A Christian Understanding of Identity*).*

14

## Who am I?

### *Traditional identity “markers”:*

- biology/psychology (sex, physical attributes & abilities, mental capacities & abilities)
- family of origin
- race, ethnicity, nationality, culture
- religion
- local community
- personal relationships
- personal history
- personal character, commitments, & personality

15

## Who am I?

### *I am who God says I am . . .*

- I will become like who or what I worship (Ps. 115:1-8; Is. 6:9-13; Eph. 3:22-24; Phil. 3:20-21; 1 Jn. 3:2)
- I am known by God (1 Cor. 8:3, 13:12; Gal. 4:8-9)
- As a Christian, I am a child of God, in God’s family (Jn. 1:12-13; 1 Jn. 3:2)
- My identity is hidden in Christ and will be fully realized when he comes in glory (Is. 62:2; Col. 3:1-4; Rev. 2:17).

16