Society & Nation

Facilitator: Jim Memory

Introduction

Tuesday 6th - Identity – Jim Memory

Wednesday 7th – Polarisation – Olof Edsinger

Thursday 8th – Nationalism – Roman Soloviy

Goals

- Better understanding of these crucial issues
- Better equipped with theological resources to reflect further
- Better able to discuss these issues with others

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1. Identity: Who am I?

"an obsession with identity" Coulmas, F., (2019), Identity: A Very Short Introduction, Oxford: OUP

Fragmentation of shared identities

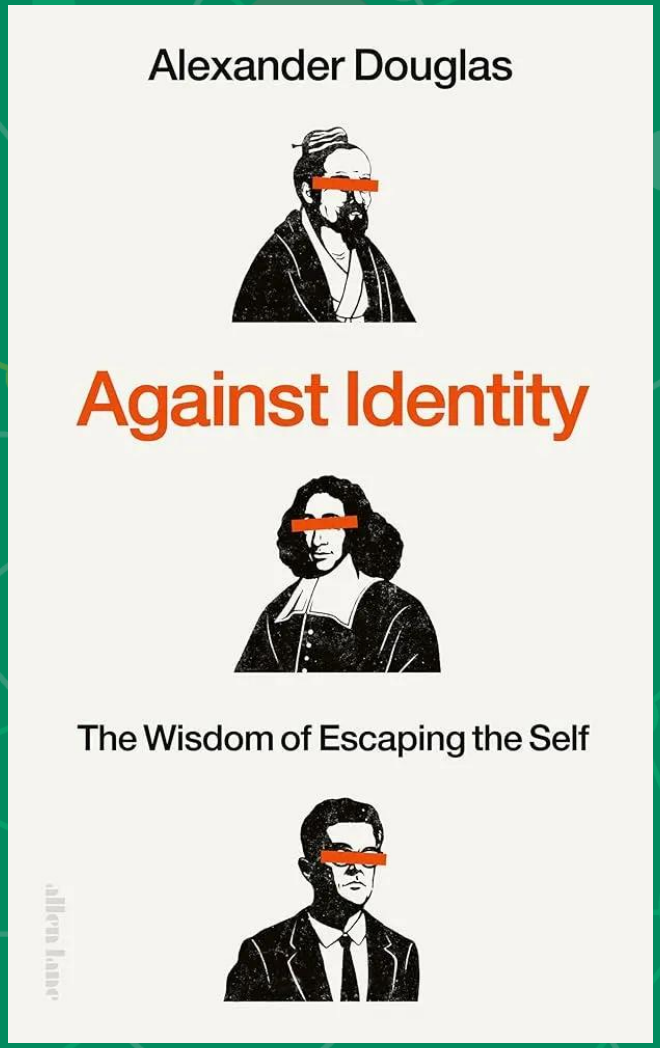


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1. Identity: Who am I?

Douglas, A. (2025), Against Identity, Penguin: London

Trueman, C. (2022), Obsession with Self-Identity, Sexuality, and Rewriting History: How We Got Where We Are Today, C.S. Lewis Institute



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2. An Evangelical Identity?

QUESTION FOR DISCUSSION

What does it mean to be an evangelical Christian?

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2. An Evangelical Identity?

BEBBINGTON QUADRILATERAL

- **Biblicism:** a particular regard for the Bible (e.g. all essential spiritual truth is to be found in its pages)
- **Crucicentrism:** a focus on the atoning work of Christ on the cross
- **Conversionism:** the belief that human beings need to be converted
- **Activism:** the belief that the gospel needs to be expressed in effort

Bebbington (1989), *Evangelicalism in Modern Britain: A History from the 1730s to the 1980s*, London: Unwin

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2. An Evangelical Identity?

ASSOCIATION AND DISASSOCIATION

- Association – USA
- Association – Europe: “religious fundamentalism, whether of a Christian-evangelical or jihadist nature, must be firmly combated through intervention, awareness-raising, prevention and civil society initiatives.” Die Linke Election Pamphlet (2026)
- Disassociation - Europe

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2. An Evangelical Identity?

Evangelical Belief	Strongly agree	Agree or strongly agree
Biblicism – The Bible is the inspired and authoritative word of God	11%	26%
Crucicentrism – Jesus Christ died in our place to save us from our sins	14%	28%
Conversionism – Belief in the need for personal conversion through faith in Christ	10%	20%
Activism – The importance of putting faith into action through evangelism and good works	8%	20%
Agree with all four statements	**5.8%**	**14.1%**

EAUK Research (2026) – base of 8407 respondents of whom 3804 identify as Christians (45%)



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2. An Evangelical Identity?

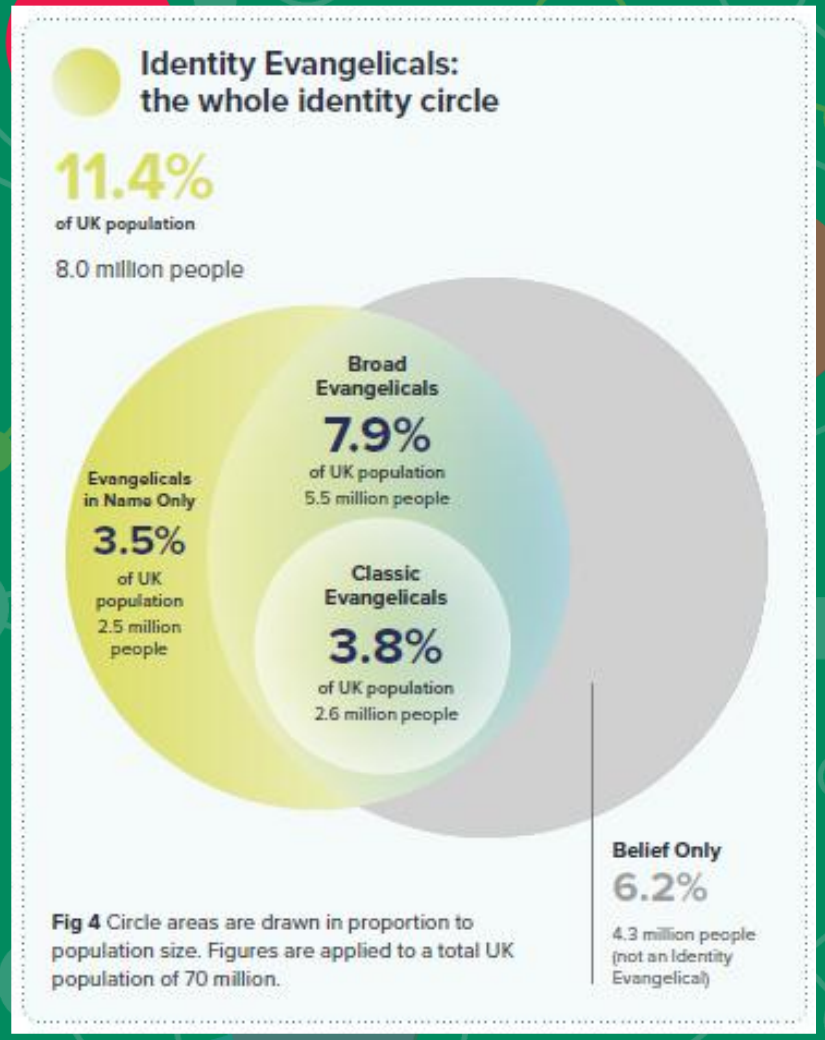


Fig 4 Circle areas are drawn in proportion to population size. Figures are applied to a total UK population of 70 million.

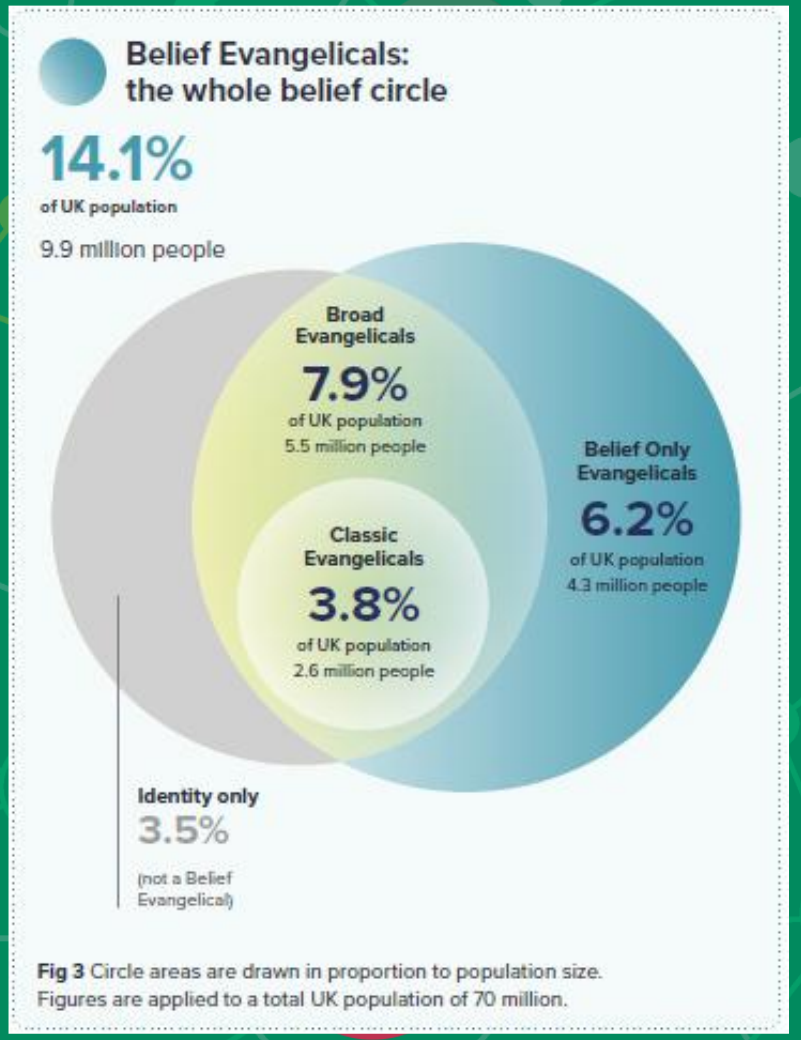


Fig 3 Circle areas are drawn in proportion to population size. Figures are applied to a total UK population of 70 million.

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3. Identity in Christ

- **In Christ:** “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” 2 Corinthians 5:17
- **In Community:** “Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.” 1 Corinthians 12:27
- **In-ternational:** “After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.” Revelation 7:9

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3. Identity in Christ

Questions for Discussion

1. What are the consequences in society and in our churches of our current obsession with identity?
2. What are the essential features of our Evangelical identity?
3. What Scriptural and theological resources can help us in this identity-obsessed age and how can we serve our churches by wrestling with this issue in our preaching and discipleship?

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