



# Sunday Equipping



Perimeter  
CHURCH

# Table Discussion

## Introductions

- As a table: Introduce yourself and answer the question, “If I have any free time, my favorite hobby is...”
- As a table: Share your best winter childhood memory.

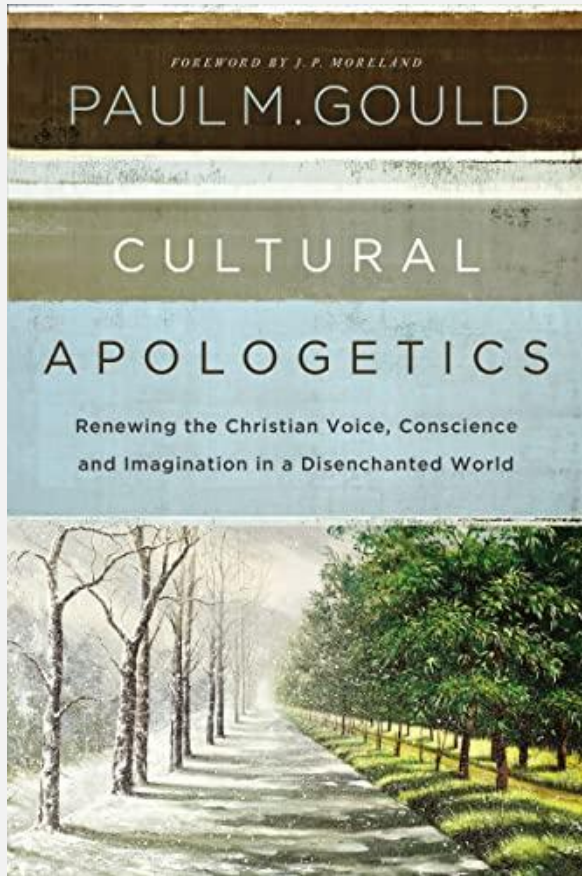


# Cultural Apologetics: Self-Made Person



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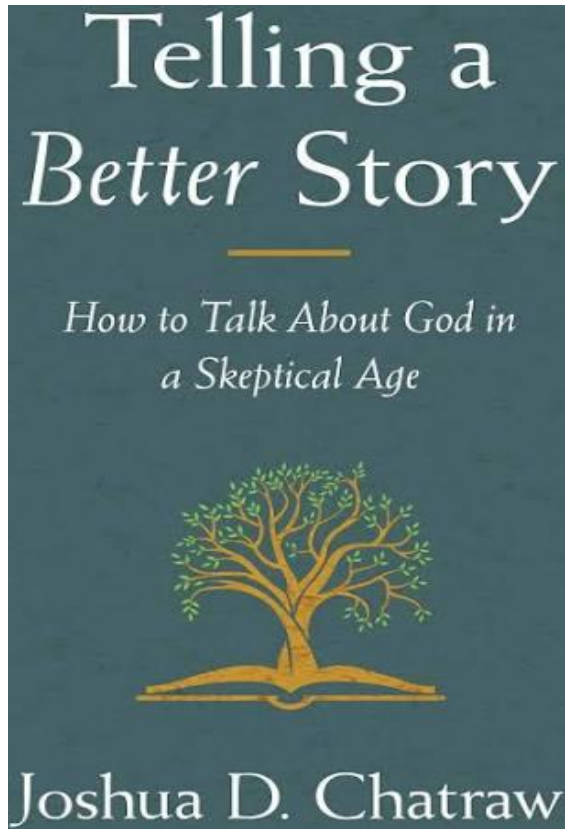
# Cultural Apologetics



The “work of establishing the Christian voice, conscience, and imagination within a culture so that Christianity is seen as true and satisfying,”

- Paul M. Gould

# Cultural Apologetics



“The need of the hour is a mature apologetics that is historically informed and theologically rooted in the gospel itself... This will require not only knowing how to give reasons for our faith, but also knowing how to stoke imaginations, model cruciform lives, and publicly confess both our own personal shortcomings and the failures of the church throughout history.”

- Josh Chatraw

## Acts 17:16-20

**16** Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. **17** So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. **18** Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babbler wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. **19** And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?”

## Acts 17:21-23

**21** Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

**22** So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. **23** For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.

## Acts 17:24-27

**24** The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, **25** nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. **26** And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, **27** that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him.



## Acts 17:28-31

Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, <sup>28</sup> for “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we are indeed his offspring.” <sup>29</sup> Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. <sup>30</sup> The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup> because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

# Discussion

## Acts 17:16-31

- As a table: What are your general observations about this text?
- As a table: How does Paul use the beliefs of his culture to build a bridge to Jesus?
- As a table: What seems to be Paul's "tone" towards the people in Athens? How does that inform our tone?

# Application?



1. Need to understand the culture we live in.
2. Humility and charity towards those outside.
3. Courage to speak the truth in a hostile culture.

# Self-Made Man - defined

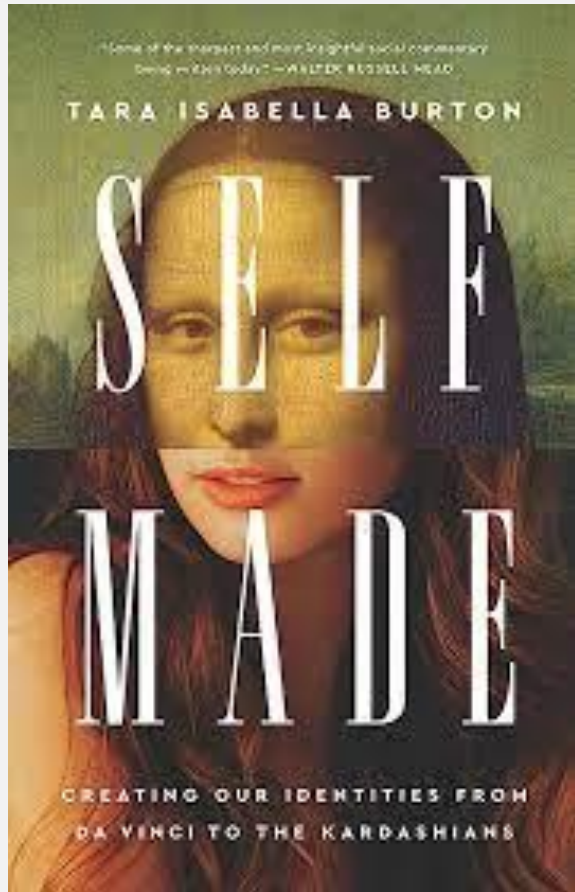


“You may be whatever you resolve to be.”

Self-made men ... are the men who owe little or nothing to birth, relationship, friendly surroundings; to wealth inherited or to early approved means of education; who are what they are, without the aid of any of the favoring conditions by which other men usually rise in the world and achieve great results.

- Frederick Douglass (1859)

# Self-Made Man - defined



“Her goal in *Self-Made* is to explain the influence and history of this contemporary impulse: ‘We not only *can* but *should* customize and curate every facet of our lives to reflect our inner truth’”

- Rachel Gilson

# Self-Made Man – digging deeper



1. A Secular Age, by Charles Taylor
2. The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self, by Carl Trueman
3. The Righteous Mind, by Jonathan Haidt
4. You Are Not Your Own, by Alan Noble

## Hebrews 4:8-12

<sup>8</sup> For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. <sup>9</sup> So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, <sup>10</sup> for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.

<sup>11</sup> Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. <sup>12</sup> For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

## Hebrews 4:13-16

**13** And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

**14** Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. **15** For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. **16** Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.



# Discussion

## Hebrews 4:8-16

- As a table: What are your general observations about this text?
- As a table: What does the author say about rest, the word of God, and humanity?
- As a table: How does the teaching that Jesus taking on humanity help us respond to the idea of being “self-made”?

# Application?



1. Seeing all humanity has BEEN made in God's image.
2. Read Romans 12:1-8 and 1 John 3 and ask what in these texts can I do alone?
3. How do you see being "self-made" creep into your own thinking?