



4-1-1999

Part 5--The Nature of Human Identity

The Editors

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Recommended Citation

Editors, The (1999) "Part 5--The Nature of Human Identity," *Issues in Religion and Psychotherapy*. Vol. 24 : No. 1 , Article 16.

Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/irp/vol24/iss1/16>

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The Nature of Human Identity

I have found little that is “good” about human beings on the whole. In my experience most of them are trash, no matter whether they publicly subscribe to this or that ethical doctrine or to none at all. That is something that you cannot say aloud, or perhaps even think.

Sigmund Freud, *Psychoanalysis and Faith*

Without using the scriptural term *natural man*, applied psychology has nonetheless operated on the assumption that humans are carnal. In part 5, Tim Smith and Matthew Draper oppose these assumptions. Instead, they embrace inspired perspectives on the divine nature of human beings. Such perspectives expand both an individual’s possibilities and the potential for change in counseling.

Questioning the tendency to adopt philosophies and theories focused on the individual, Aaron Jackson proposes a philosophy of relationships. This philosophy can serve as a foundation for counseling that is consistent with the gospel’s fundamental assumptions. Randy Moss explores how the change of heart as explicated in the gospel can shape our understanding of changes in counseling and the ways to facilitate them.