



The Keller Center

for **CULTURAL APOLOGETICS**

2024 YEAR-END REPORT

The Keller Center for Cultural
Apologetics helps Christians share
the truth, goodness, and beauty of the
gospel as the only hope that fulfills
our deepest longings.

THEKELLERCENTER.ORG



Sometimes I lay awake at night wondering and praying about what the church will look like in another 25 years. What will we leave behind for our children and grandchildren? Will they be caught as flat-footed as we were in the last 25 years by challenges related to sexuality, politics, and race and justice?

Amid the Great Dechurching—40 million Americans have left the church in the last 25 years—Christians haven't prioritized enough research and development (R&D) for cultural change. We have a timeless gospel. But we haven't always applied that gospel in timely ways. In this mission, we can't afford to fail. The last 25 years show us the consequences for the church.

Think of The Keller Center for Cultural Apologetics as R&D for Christians. We're not just trying to catch up with the last 25 years. We're trying to get ahead for the next 25 years. And we need your help with the initiatives laid out in this year-end review.

Would you prayerfully consider joining us in this mission by contributing financial support? Over the next 3 years, we are seeking \$2 million to fund The Keller Center's R&D. So we can develop and implement innovative ways to evangelize and reverse the dechurching. So we can tell a better story than our unlivable culture promotes. So we can research effective ways to thwart the algorithm that propagates fear and loathing.

What will the church look like in the next 25 years? By God's grace we'll be rejoicing with a generation faithful and effective in sharing the truth, goodness, and beauty of the gospel as the only hope that fulfills our deepest longings.

Collin Hansen



Collin Hansen
Executive Director
The Keller Center for Cultural Apologetics





To meet the challenge of this
post-Christendom era, we
want to help church leaders
around the world through three
approaches: our **convening**, our
cohorts, and our **content**.

CONVENING

Last April we held our second-annual fellows retreat in New York City. Building on our 2023 inaugural retreat, each fellow wrote an essay to discuss, evaluate, and hone together in groups. Pastors in the city led heartfelt devotional and prayer times.

Christopher Watkin presented on what he has learned about the preaching style of Tim Keller from listening to every sermon of Tim's preaching ministry at Redeemer from 1989 to 1999. Michael Keller shared about a book project that he and his dad



Ross Douthat of *The New York Times* (center) joined our fellows and other guests for a salon discussion.

had been working on together for more than five years. Michael plans to complete that book in the next year or two. We engaged in spirited dialogue and debate on current theological and pastoral issues, and we heard from expert speakers on some of the more challenging issues and trends in our cultural moment. Finally, we celebrated with supporters while looking back on our first year and looking forward to several major projects for the next few years.

We will return to New York City in October 2025 for more dialogue, debate, and collaboration as we seek to create and curate resources that help us communicate the gospel in comprehensible and compelling ways.



WHAT OUR FELLOWS ARE SAYING



“The Keller Center has empowered me to re-imagine new possibilities of how to speak gospel truths to the hearts of the increasingly post-reached Western world. It has networked me with other brilliant and creative thinkers—so we can cross-fertilize each other’s work. It has also leveraged my gospel communication to—no longer a handful of people in my tiny island, Australia—but to hundreds of thousands, maybe millions, all over the world.”

SAM CHAN

Sydney, Australia



“The Keller Center has sharpened my thinking, broadened my range of influences, and increased the clarity and reach of my writing and preaching. At a personal level it has also given me more friendships, opportunities, and joy. I am so grateful to be part of it.”

ANDREW WILSON

London, UK



“Being involved in TKC has been more enriching than I could have imagined. It’s provided rich interactions with the rest of the team, and a wonderful sense of community among us all which is so strengthening as we each labor in our own contexts. It has fueled my heart for a Christ-focused cultural apologetic.”

SAM ALLBERRY

Nashville, Tennessee



“I continue to be so encouraged by the work being done at The Keller Center. Whether you’re a layperson or work in full-time ministry, you’ll find faithful instruction through our cohorts, which are designed to equip the church, encourage believers, and welcome not-yet believers. And we’re just getting started!”

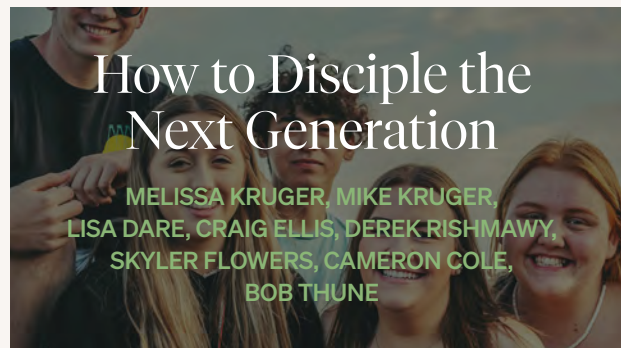
VANESSA HAWKINS

New York, New York

COHORTS

Cohorts offer continuing education for everyone from new Christians, to parents, to pastors, to academics. These cohorts feature live interaction with many of the best teachers, pastors, evangelists, apologists, and scholars. This in-depth education covers timely subjects, but the videos can also be viewed and reviewed later by participants.

Your generous donations helped us go from 600 participants in 13 countries in 2023, to more than 1,150 from 41 countries in 2024!



Cultural Apologetics 101

SAM CHAN, JOSHUA CHATRAW, COLLIN HANSEN, REBECCA MCLAUGHLIN,
GAVIN ORTLUND, KEITH PLUMMER, GLEN SCRIVENER, TREVIN WAX



TGCW24

The Keller Center's fellows and staff delivered talks on many subjects at the The Gospel Coalition 2024 Women's Conference, including women from 49 different states.

Vanessa Hawkins's keynote, "I Am the Door," and breakouts, "Building Cross-Cultural Competence" and "Aging in a Culture Obsessed with Youth"

Kori Porter's breakout, "Why Diversity Matters"

Rebecca McLaughlin and Collin Hansen's breakout, "Hope and Help for the Doubting and Deconstructing"

Michael Kruger's breakouts on "Preparing Teens for Life in a Secular World" and "Why We Need Women in Ministry"

You can view these sessions and all the other stellar TGCW24 content [here](#).

TGC25

You can also sign up for the The Gospel Coalition 2025 National Conference, April 22 to 24 in Indianapolis [here](#). The Keller Center staff and fellows will deliver more than 20 talks from keynote addresses to breakout sessions.

Sex and Sexuality: Cracks in the Progressive Project

SAM ALLBERRY, RACHEL GILSON, REBECCA MCLAUGHLIN

Gospel Grip: Shifts in Speaking Jesus to Your Friends

SAM CHAN

Why and How to Build Front Porches: The Gospel in a Post-Christendom Society

JAMES EGLINTON

Understanding the Stories Secular Culture Tells Us

MICHAEL KELLER

Cultural Apologetics 101

REBECCA MCLAUGHLIN, KEITH PLUMMER, TREVIN WAX, ANDREW WILSON

One-to-One Discipleship in the Local Church

VANESSA HAWKINS, MELISSA KRUGER, BOB THUNE, ANDREW WILSON

How Your Church Can Reach the Dechurched

MICHAEL GRAHAM

How Neo-Calvinism Can Strengthen Your Ministry

JAMES EGLINTON AND GRAY SUTANTO

CONTENT

Our essays, books, and podcasts aim to take Christians deeper than what other media can provide. Christians often receive the equivalent of weather reports on what's happening in the moment or immediate future. Given the size and scale of the changes in our culture today, however, Christians need to think more like climatologists. We need to go further back in history and deeper in data so that with God's guidance we might anticipate what's next.

The Christian Roots of Speaking Truth to Power

CHRISTOPHER WATKIN

Transgender Meds for Kids? 4 Findings From New Report

REBECCA MCLAUGHLIN

Is There a 'There' There? Peterson, Harari, and Holland on Human Rights

DEREK RISHMAWY

What's the Earliest Record of Jesus's Childhood?

MIKE KRUGER

Is the Bible Pro-Slavery?

GAVIN ORTLUND

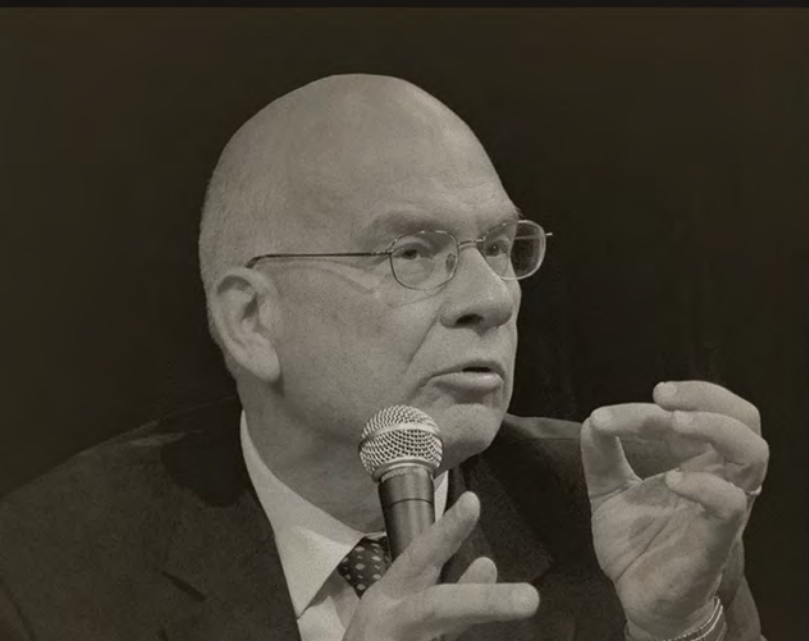
Tim Keller's Neo-Calvinism

TIM KELLER

Preaching Christ in a Postmodern World

Rediscover the Classic Lecture Series by
Tim Keller and **Edmund Clowney**

The Keller and Clowney lectures “Preaching Christ in a Post-Modern World” had disappeared from the internet for several years. Many pastors regard these lectures as the finest lectures on preaching in the 21st-century, post-Christian West. We were able to get all the necessary permissions from all parties and institutions involved to publish those lectures, and now more than 25,000 people have visited this site and engaged with its content. We are thrilled to see both of these men continue to influence future generations of preachers and other Bible teachers.



UPCOMING BOOK

What Is Cultural Apologetics?

Tim Keller said, “The job of the missionary is to enter sympathetically the worldview/story of the culture yet challenge and re-tell the culture’s story so they see their story will only have a happy ending in Jesus.” This way of evangelism and apologetics has come to be captured by the term “cultural apologetics.” Still, the concept goes largely undefined in any formal sense. This volume seeks to step into this conceptual gap. Gathering leading scholars and practitioners who serve as fellows at The Keller Center, this edited volume will define cultural apologetics, explain its biblical and historical grounding, and demonstrate how it is an important resource for the church today.

Our cultural climate offers unique opportunities to share the gospel in compelling ways. But we need the right posture, neither accommodation nor condemnation. We need a holistic theological anthropology so we can meet human longings with the truth, beauty, and goodness of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The church, inhabiting the culture’s same social imaginaries, is simultaneously edified and renewed by this sort of apologetic. Churches that practice cultural apologetics in their teaching and life together offer a compelling alternate society that preserves the integrity of their faith and the effectiveness of their outreach.

This volume guides Christians and churches who desire missionary encounters that result in hearts transformed and renewed by the power of the gospel.

WEBSITE & UPCOMING VIDEO CURRICULUM

Cultural Narratives

“You are the stories you believe.”

This is one of the most critical lines of a forthcoming book collaboration between Michael Keller and his late father, Tim Keller. Most people don't go about their day thinking, *Oh, let me deal with this board meeting with Nietzschean will to power, use Foucault in my sexuality this evening, and give it a smidge of coherence from an identity achieved through expressive individualism.*

Instead people intuit their way through life with more rudimentary stories—we call these “cultural narratives.” We need historical and philosophical perspective to understand the quilted patchwork of worldviews knit together to create these narratives. But we also need help interacting in everyday conversation with our friends, family, and neighbors.

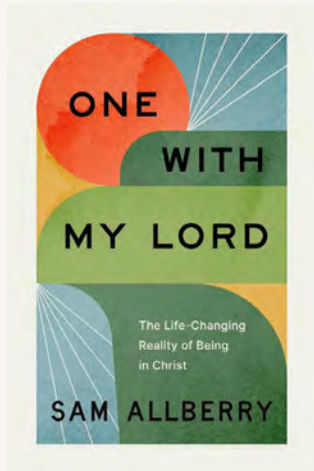
The Keller Center has begun a multi-year initiative to do two simple things:

1. Identify and introduce various cultural narratives.
2. Equip readers and viewers with tools to persuasively interact with those stories.

We aim to accomplish these two goals by launching a well-curated digital hub for resources including videos, essays, and especially books. By 2026 we expect to publish curriculum for small groups and Sunday schools.

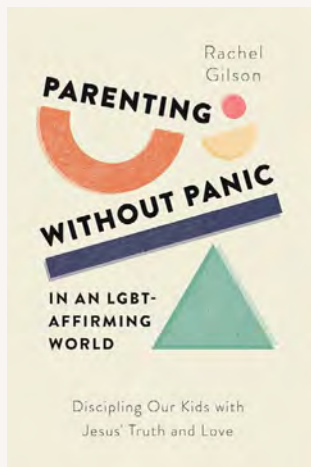
Visit www.culturalnarratives.org

BOOKS PUBLISHED BY KELLER CENTER FELLOWS IN 2024



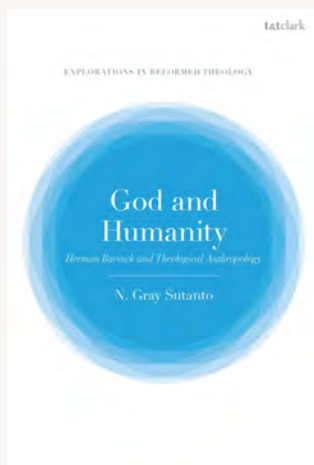
One with My Lord: The
Life-Changing Reality of
Being in Christ

Sam Allberry



Parenting Without Panic in
an LGBT-Affirming World:
Discipling Our Kids with
Jesus' Truth and Love

Rachel Gilson



God and Humanity:
Herman Bavinck and
Theological Anthropology

Gray Sutanto



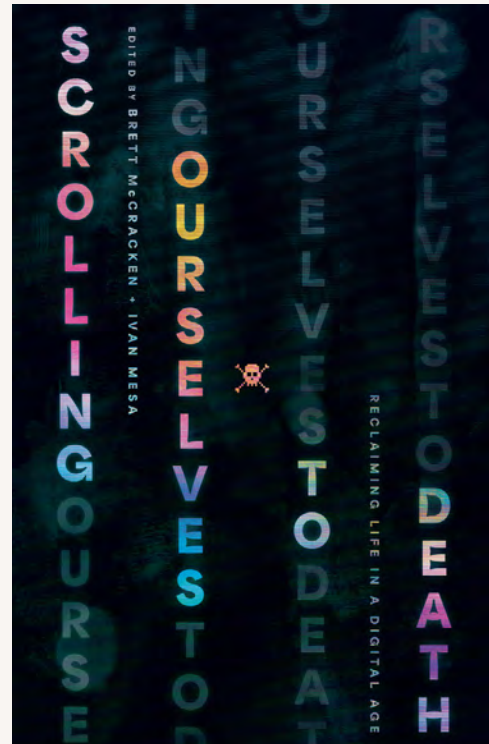
G O S P E L B O U N D >

WITH COLLIN HANSEN

The Gospelbound podcast covered a wide array of topics in 2024, including one of the final interviews with our friend Randy Newman, an inspiring evangelist. The decline of families and fertility was a consistent theme with guests such as Brad Wilcox and Nancy Pearcey. Not surprising for an election year, the state of American democracy was the focus of interviews with top-flight academics such as James Davison Hunter and Allen Guelzo. Other standout guests included David Brooks on the power of seeing others, Steve Preston on leadership at Goodwill, Hans Madueme on defending sin, Michael Reeves on evangelical identity, and Gavin Ortlund on why you should become (or remain) Protestant. Thank you for helping Gospelbound cross 6.6 million downloads in 2024. You can also find every video (and see our newly redesigned recording studio!) on YouTube.

Upcoming Books

from Keller Center Fellows and Staff Releasing in 2025



Sense of Divinity

Gray Sutanto

Recollecting Your Life

Alan Noble

How Church Could (Literally) Save Your Life

Rebecca McLaughlin

The Gospel Way Catechism:
50 Truths That Take On the World

Thomas West & Trevin Wax



(Not pictured: Sam Allberry, Joshua Chatraw, Craig Ellis, Vanessa Hawkins, Rebecca McLaughlin, Kori Porter, and Gray Sutanto)

“I’m so grateful for the ministry of The Keller Center. A major part of what I’ve tried to accomplish in recent years is to encourage younger writers, scholars, and ministers who are doing exactly what the church in the United States needs to do in order to reach people for Christ. There are many such men and women out there, and they need lots of support. I’m delighted that The Keller Center will carry this work on for me.”

TIMOTHY KELLER

SUPPORT THIS WORK WITH A DONATION