

Some points I found helpful in the 2024 Broken to Beloved Summit

From Day 1:

*** There are different types of narcissism, some subtler than others, which not infrequently manifest in church leaders. Narcissism is born of shame. *** Not all church hurt is abuse, although all hurts require time to heal. *** We need to listen to what our bodies are telling us when they're responding to unhealthy church pressure. *** Religious trauma can be more complicated in black churches, given the key role church has historically played in the areas of spiritual identity, education, the arts, and community life. *** Children go into protection mode or connection mode as they learn early to navigate the home environment—which in some cases may be a jungle, desert, or war zone. Adaptive behaviors continuing into adulthood are not necessarily sinful. People can change. *** Leaders need to be alert to anxiety in four “spaces”: inside us, between us and others, inside others, and between us and others. All the men and women I heard were qualified, relatable, and gracious.

Day 2:

Most of the talks of day 2, however, are edgily liberal and borderline postmodern. I was not as comfortable with the positions advocated or endorsed by 4 of the 5 speakers, unlike yesterday. Impressions: church attendance is optional; LGBTQ+ is fine; "deconstruction" requires no controls. An exception was Emily Anderson's presentation, which I thought exceptional.

Day 3:

Great material. Tiffany Bluhm and Jerome Gay were probably my favorites.

Day 4:

Practical and solid talks! Scott McKnight and Laura Barringer (his daughter) shared. I had already read their *A Church Called Tov*, promoting it in the newsletter. Last week I got their second book, *Pivot*.