

**Content warning, some of this is graphic by nature. I will do my best to be opaque where I can, but I am speaking of sex and sexual function at some level.**

## Intro - Open to

Carl Trueman, theologian and author, wrote a book on the gender and sexual revolution last year entitled “The Rise and Fall of the Modern Self”. He started with the question “What does it mean for a woman to be trapped in a man’s body?”

Abigail Shrier began noticing that gender dysphoria, where your perception of your gender differs from your biological sex, has radically shifted from being primarily in boys starting younger than 4 years old into the last decade where teenage girls are the primary sufferers. She coined the term “rapid-onset gender dysphoria” because it seems to come out of nowhere. The social contagion is clear.

The issue is at hand and I am taking on the humble task to introduce clearly and concisely **the Cultural Landscape, Biblical Foundation, and Biblical Implications of Gender**. So, what’s going on, what doctrines are most relevant, and what conclusions we should be drawing.

## One – Landscape

I want to introduce modern gender theory and then by God’s grace, encourage you to immediately forget it. **I mean it**, because even writing and preparing for tonight, it was hard not to just say, transgender man, as if that is actually a real category. We are discussing a made up, deeply troubling and pervasive worldview that is opposite of scripture. So, I must carefully, at every point, maintain the truth in what I say while explaining un-truth.

**Modern gender theory** is a separation of gender and sex. Gender defined as your self-perception and expression of your maleness, femaleness, or an increasingly infinite array of options. Sex is still considered biological in nature, but is oddly distinct and separate from gender in every way.

This is the foundational reason someone can claim to be a “woman (gender) trapped in a man’s (biological sex) body”. So modern gender theory seeks to resolve this conflict wherever it is found, through affirmation of gender self-perception or identity and the rejection and even mutilation of the biological body which is innately their birth sex.

This sets us up for the term: transgender. This is someone who claims a different gender from their biological sex. A transgender man is a woman who presents as a man. A transgender woman is a man who presents as a woman.

A few more terms which might help: Gender Identity – your own personal self identification of your gender. It is not what is given by biology or reality, but your perception and expression of yourself.

Gender Dysphoria – this is a clinical diagnosis describing when your understanding of your gender doesn’t match your biology. This used to be called a disorder, but due to the medical establishment adopting modern gender theory, it has been downgraded and shifted in definition to avoid saying there is anything wrong. It is merely the dysphoria, the experience of distress, not the physiological condition that is the problem.

There are many more but we have to move on.

Ironically gender theory and transgender identity are wholly dependent on stereotypes. What does it mean to be a man? It means to be macho and muscular and hairy and like men’s clothes. What does it mean to be a woman? It is to be dainty and have long hair and like makeup and women’s clothes. A worldview of stereotypes is a worldview doomed to fall.

What can steady a world off-kilter? A strong and firm foundation.

## Two – Foundation

In a world so confused about what direction is up, creation and God’s design of humanity is the only firm foundation.

### Image of God & the Fall

#### Genesis 1:26-28,31

*<sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” <sup>27</sup> God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. [...] <sup>31</sup> God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.*

In the beginning, God’s creative power speaks the world into existence. Each day he brings new goodness and shapes the earth and its creatures until day 6 when he creates his representatives, humanity, from the dust of

the earth. As God is creator and ruler, his creatures are his representative creators (from what is already made) and rulers (of all God has made). Then in verse 27, his image bearers, in his likeness are defined as male and female. Now what is already apparent is the binary nature of the human race. Male and Female. In chapter 2 the reason becomes obvious, because they are to reproduce. Adam's male is matched with Eve's female nature so they will accomplish God's task to populate and subdue the earth. Last week, we discussed the nature of marriage and the implications of Eve being made of Adam for their complementary union. They are not both created of dust, Adam is created first and out of his side, out of his flesh God fashions his helper, his wife. The partner in accomplishing the human race's command to populate the earth. My ethics professor Dr. Branch wrote in his book, Affirming God's Image "By making Eve from Adam, God is teaching Adam to recognize a kind of mirror image of himself in Eve and thus to honor her, while Eve would see that she was made from her husband and respect his leadership. In this way, gender is presented not as something arbitrary and self-defined but as an innate characteristic with corresponding role-responsibilities for each sex."

Christians are not committed to a gender binary simply because we don't like extra options or worse carry a hatred for those who feel or live this way. We have clear testimony that in our original design, male and female, is necessary for our flourishing and reproduction as human beings. And in verse 31, their creation as male and female is declared by God as good. So we believe it would be truly hateful not to contend for what is good.

Now, detractors may say, but what about intersex? What about gender dysphoria? What about my experience?

Well with God's revelation we have an answer: **Genesis 3 and the Fall.**

Through the fall of man, sin enters into the world and infects and distorts the good world God created. We knew good. Everything was good. Now through the choices of man, and the evil lies of the devil we know and can define evil. Sin and the ramifications of bodies prone to sickness, disease, mutations and death produce among other things: reproductive birth defects or those who might be intersex. Sin distorts our perception of our bodies and desires. The devil is lying with every word and prowling, seeking to devour you and mold your experience to run away from the good design of Genesis 1 and 2. The Apostle Paul gives a treatise on how sin distorts affections and ultimately sexual distortion in Romans 1.

### Romans 1:18-27

*<sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, <sup>19</sup> because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. <sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. <sup>21</sup> For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. <sup>22</sup> Professing to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup> and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures. <sup>24</sup> Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. <sup>25</sup> For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. <sup>26</sup> For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, <sup>27</sup> and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another; men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.*

There is too much here to fully unpack but track the logic of Paul and see the explanatory power of this revelation from God. God will perfectly and justly punish evildoers for their rejection of the clear truth of God evident in them. Their conscience and creation are evident to them. The greatness and the orderliness and the beauty of creation itself are testimony. The wisdom of humanity, in rebellion against God, becomes foolish when they exchange (a key repeated phrase) the glory of the holy, perfect, incorruptible God for a mere copy. The worship of things **made** rather than the **maker**.

Therefore, because of this rebellion and the living in foolishness God hands them over. They exchange incorruptible for the corruptible, the creator for the creature, and then God exchanges or hands them over to the lusts (desires) of their hearts. Exchanging the truth of God for a lie.

The center of this gender ideology is a lie. It is not a simple disagreement, or a different method of treatment, it is a lie about humanity and our nature and it will destroy.

Continue in Verse 26, Paul uses homosexuality as the clearest example of rebellion against creation. They exchanged natural function for what is unnatural. This clear description of homosexual lust and action, is put forward as the opposite of godliness. The word degrading in verse 26 is the word (*atimia*) in the Greek which means a contempt against oneself and therefore a hatred against the gender God has given you. Paul is saying that

your physical body, in your biology, is something God has clearly placed there, you treat yourself with hatred to use your body in an unnatural way.

The Bible even goes beyond our creation and our actions to helping us see how we should express and display ourselves as male and female.

### **Gender and its Expression (A survey)**

#### **Deuteronomy 22:5**

<sup>5</sup> “A woman shall not wear man’s clothing, nor shall a man put on a woman’s clothing; for whoever does these things is an abomination to the LORD your God.

This is clear about God’s prohibition against cross-dressing or presenting oneself as the opposite gender. The words translated into “clothing” here are two different words in the Hebrew. The first includes furnishings, vessels or jewelry. The second is referring specifically to the outer wrapping or coat one wears. These furnishings, or outer garments mark to others and by extension your self-perception of what God has made you. Either male or female. We are pretty quick at picking up when someone is wearing a garment meant for the other gender. The point is that neither sex should make intentional attempts to deceive others or by extension themselves concerning their birth sex.

#### **Deuteronomy 23:1**

<sup>1</sup> “No one who is emasculated or has his male organ cut off shall enter the assembly of the LORD.

The relevance of this passage has to do with the pagan rituals in neighboring nations. Some men who worshipped the pagan idol Ishtar would emasculate themselves as an act of devotion to appear female. The ancient text source for this background says they “changed their masculinity to femininity to make the people of Ishtar revere her.” The relevance is clear considering the devastating reality of transgender surgery of sex organ mutilation by either addition or subtraction is to produce the same rebellion. **Idol worship.** Worship of Ishtar or of ourselves in defying the good of our gendered organs.

If I had more time, 1 Corinthians 11 is a New Testament prohibition against adorning and presenting yourself with clothing or hair as the other gender.

Even in this very brief rundown, I hope you will see with me that Moses, Paul and by its inspiration, God’s instructions to us in how we present and live as male and female is important to God. So what does all of this imply?

## **Three – Implications**

Brothers and Sisters, with compassion for those who have either dipped their foot or dived head first into this confused gender ideology, let me affirm in view of the full testimony of the scriptures that **God’s Design is Good.** We are not to stereotype male and female but derive God ordained plans for what it means to be male and female from the scriptures and not to lie to ourselves or to others about what God cannot lie about, that he has created us in his image, male and female.

There are great resources for fleshing out what it means to be a man according to God’s design but let me just give you a few.

Biblical Men will lead, protect and provide.

Biblical Women will help, be strong and nurture.

[I fleshed this out, but it was 10 minutes in length so I cut it out. Suffice it to say, between the men and women of Scripture you can back all those up.](#)

These lists are not exclusive. At times, women can and should lead in the right contexts. Men likewise must also nurture and help, but it will never be a replacement or interchanging way. We are distinct and complement each other.

Elisabeth Elliot said it this way in her Notes to My Daughter “*femininity has its limitations. So has masculinity. That is what we’ve been talking about. To do this is not to do that. To be this is not to be that. To be a woman is not to be a man.*”

### **Affirming God’s Design with our presentation**

Lastly, I wish to give just a few thoughts extending to gender dysphoria and gender expression. Christians understand and have an explanation for why and what underlies the tragedy of a mind that doesn’t seem to feel as a match to their body.

It is my joy to tell you that we serve a savior who was tempted in every way that we were yet was without sin. He calls us, his creatures who he created in his image as male and female to honor him with our bodies. We can endure the temptation and distress of our sin-warped bodies and perceptions because he has promised that in temptation, he will provide a way out.

It may not be resolution immediately but it will be revolution of your heart for Christ.

Repent of your sin, whatever it may be, and trust in Christ for his righteousness and perfection to cover you and all your imperfection and unrighteousness.

All of the secular treatments and ideologies are seeking to match your body to your mind. Our conviction as Christians is to love those suffering from gender confusion and distress with a better hope. Use what is clear to resolve what is unclear. God has made you male or female. He has given you chromosomes to match your gender. He has given you a gendered body. Surrender to God's revelation in Scripture and to his revealed truth in your body. Be transformed not by the changing of your body, but by the renewal of your mind.

## Conclusion

Dr. Branch records in his book the story of Allyson Dylan Robinson. The first transgender Baptist pastor in America. After graduating from West Point, getting married and having four children, while attending Truett Seminary around 2006 he decided to superficially transition to a woman. [Superficial transition is all that is possible. You cannot change your working organs, your chromosomes, or God's design in you.](#) Concerning his rejection of the doctrines he learned growing up in a Southern Baptist Church he says, "I have challenged nearly every doctrine that was entrusted to me and that I promised to keep on the day of my ordination. I determined to keep those only that keep me alive." This is the trajectory of this ideology, it is opposed to biblical doctrine and self-interested in the preservation of perversion. I weep for a church and a culture which celebrates the destruction of this man's faith, his marriage and what I can only imagine is the instability in his children's perception of their gender and self. Robinson claims an inner voice told him, "What if the Bible is wrong? What if you've been reading it wrong?" Robinson's "inner voice" is an echo of Satan in the garden, "Has God really said?" This and all biblical morality will always come down to our trust in the truthfulness of God's word.

## Landscape (cont.)

My point here is to say that even before we get to scripture and put this to rest, the theory and its practice cannot stand. It has no grounds to decide and declare what it means to be a person, male, female or otherwise. At its core, it means you can determine everything about yourself. The only thing you can't be, or is least preferred in their theory, is to have correspondence between your sex and gender. That is to really be a man in a man's body or a woman in a woman's body. They developed a nasty word for it, to have the God ordained congruence is to be cis-gendered. Or more dismissively just to be cis.

The most dangerous aspect of this is its impact on children indirectly and directly. Indirectly because to consistently tell children that they can be a man, woman or otherwise on any given day or nothing at all will destabilize their self-perception. This works its way out by saying that Johnny can't like cars and dinosaurs because they are boys toys, but if he is given dolls to play with he will still be rubbing barbies face along the floor saying vroom vroom. Being told all the while, he must tell his parents what gender he is.

The direct danger to children is later down the line when they decide to treat them. Puberty is chemically blocked, further alienating them from their fellow boys or girls, who are progressing through puberty according to their design. Ultimately this sterilizes them from ever having children if their confusion and ideological brainwashing is overcome down the road.

One of the tragedies happening in England right now is the British Gender Clinic, in the government funded health system, is being sued by former transgender young adults who were sterilized and traumatized by treatment now see the mistake of being chemically and surgically changed at young ages. They are suing because the clinic did not treat their psychological condition, but damaged them physically and chemically when compassionate treatment for their psychological distress was needed. These ex-trans people exist because they have recovered from the ideology and are left with the biological, physical and emotional fallout.

## Gender and its Expression (A survey)

The book of Deuteronomy which means "second law" is the Old Testament law for God's people. Although we are not the nation of Israel, and do not

live under the law, the law is instructive to us for what it reveals about God's moral imperatives for his people which are true across time. So, the punishments prescribed for the nation of Israel to carry out for disobedience should not be carried out today, the prohibitions are non-the-less to be clearly taught and understood for how we are to live holy lives before God.

In the TV show, the Office, Michael Scott gets mocked for wearing a woman's suit. At first glance it just looks like a suit. But as he protests, he realized the buttons are the wrong way, the sleeves are a bit short, the lining is pink and it had shoulder pads.

## Biblical Men and Women

**First, men you must lead.** At multiple points in the scriptures from Adam's creation first, to the clear selection by God of male leaders for his prophets, priests, kings, disciples, elders, deacons and his Son who became flesh. To be a man, is to be burdened and called to lead. We should prepare our boys and young men to see leadership for the gift it is, the burden to sacrifice it is, and the weighty calling that it is. Biblical leadership is sacrificial, not power wielding or to put yourself first.

**Second, men you must protect.** To "show yourself a man" as David tells his son Solomon in 2 Kings, is to be tough and strong in the face of difficulty. Most importantly Solomon and all men should be protecting their knowledge of the truth of God. Solomon then asked for wisdom. Timothy was challenged by Paul, to guard the good deposit of the gospel. Men are to protect those under our care with strength in body and in the truth.

**Third, men you must provide.** Now this isn't some macho show where you have to earn more money than your wife or you are not a man. No, it is that you will be held responsible for the women and children under your care. Boaz was an incredible example of male provision. Before he married Ruth, he was compassionate, when she was vulnerable he redeemed her and went above and beyond to care for her mother-in-law too.

The challenge of wildness and instability and rambunctious nature in boys should be honed and channeled into leadership, protection and provision. They should not just be sharpened into men, but by God's grace into fathers. Fathers by biology, fathers by adoption and fathers by extension for the fatherless. We need more godly men.

Women are like-wise to be biblically defined for the unique design you have.

**First, women you are helpers.** I use this word because I know the negative connotation it has and I want to redeem it. Jesus is our helper. To be a helper

is to be the only one who can accomplish the task of being you. Women are irreplaceable as Proverbs 31 lays out as the trustworthy helper for her husband. She can be a mother, bring life when a man cannot. That is the greatest help she provides and it is life itself. No greater calling exists than one who lays down their life, literally their body for the sake of another.

**Second, you are to be strong.** This is not a masculine strength but a uniquely female strength. Not a feminist vision of just being men, yet a pony tail, but an emotional and child-birth pain enduring strength which can accomplish and endure the greatest of difficulties. An Esther to be before the King with a boldness which no man could have brought.

**Third, you are to nurture.** It is the beautiful investment in the home and the raising of children to thrive and know the Lord. Your bodies are built and designed by God for the task. Due to the fall, we expect that many women may not have children biologically, but the innate nature of motherhood can be lived out in adoption, fostering, or the care of children in the church. This does not mean a confinement to the home as the crass opponents of the biblical vision of motherhood describe. It is instead a holy calling to do with skill to be a mother, which their father can never be, and in the real case of child-birth unable to do.

So as men are to be shaped into fathers, may our daughters be shaped by God's design into mothers. Mothers of all types to the glory of God. We need more godly women.

This is a great chance to say that these lists are not exclusive. At times, women will lead when men fail to do so. At times, women will protect and provide when hard times or circumstances or giftings dictate it. Men likewise must also nurture and help, but it will never be a replacement or interchanging way.

Elisabeth Elliot said it this way in her Notes to My Daughter "*femininity has its limitations. So has masculinity. That is what we've been talking about. To do this is not to do that. To be this is not to be that. To be a woman is not to be a man.*"