

Did God Really Say? Nouns & Pronouns: Transgenderism and the Bible Genesis 1:26-27

INTRODUCTION

For this morning, our attention will focus **on: Nouns & Pronouns: Transgenderism and the Bible**. Turn with me in your Bibles to **Genesis 1:26-27**.

Here's today's main point: A biblical worldview

_____ transgenderism because it _____
the distinct _____ of men and women as _____
bearers of God. While rejecting transgenderism, a biblical
worldview also calls Jesus followers to extend _____
and _____ to those who have embraced transgenderism
with the _____ of presenting the _____
through which a new _____ in Christ results in
gender and sexuality not being the _____
identifying features of life.

Trans...transgender...transgenderism...terms that are recent to our vocabulary but are realities of our cultural moment dealing with the consequences of the sexual revolution.

The idea that one's sex is fluid and a matter open to choice runs unquestioned through our culture and is reflected everywhere in the media, the theater, the classroom, and in many medical clinics. It has taken on cult-like features: its own special lingo, internet chat rooms providing slick answers to new recruits, and clubs for easy access to dresses and styles supporting the sex change.

I. Definitions and ideas to _____

A. _____ and _____

_____ is used to refer to biology.

_____ is used to describe the subjective psychological, social and cultural aspects of being male and female. From a secular perspective, gender is a feeling-based concept and is disconnected from biology.

When gender is severed from biology, it becomes something we can _____ and therefore something we can also _____.

B. Gender _____

Gender identity is a person's self-perception of whether they are male or female, masculine or feminine.

C. Gender _____

_____ dysphoria refers to the mental distress that an individual experiences as a result of feeling misalignment between their biological sex and their gender identity. It is crucial to understand that this is a genuine experience. People with gender dysphoria experience the feeling that their biological body is lying.

D. The LGBTQIA2S+ community considers _____ to be a trait that exists along a _____.

E. The term _____ is used to refer to individuals who have a _____ between the gender they were assigned at birth, their bodies, and their personal identity.

II. What does the Bible _____ about transgenderism?

In short, the Bible teaches that God made us male or female, and no matter our own feelings or confusion, we should act in accordance with the biological reality of God's good design – Gen 1:26-27. Transgenderism falls short of the glory of God and is not the way to walk in obedience to Christ.

Here are 3 Scriptural truths that undergird this statement:

A. Gender is _____

The Bible knows no other gender categories besides male and female. While men and women in Scripture may express their masculinity and femininity in a wonderful diversity of ways, **Scripture still operates with the binary categories of men and women. You are one or the other.** Intersex is a variation in sex characteristics that do not allow an individual to be distinctly identified as male or female. **Intersex is a physical condition while transgender is a psychological condition.** The anomaly of intersex individuals does not undermine the creational design, but rather gives another example of living in a sin-affected world and a the “*not the way they are supposed to be*” realities of a fallen world.

We know from **Genesis 1 and 2** that the categories of male and female are a part of God's design for humanity. Indeed, when God created the first human pair in his image, he created them male and female (**Gen. 1:27**). Far from being a mere cultural construct, God depicts the existence of a man and a woman as essential to His creational plan. **The two are neither identical nor interchangeable.** Dividing the human race into two genders, male and female is not the invention of religious prudes or the result of patriarchy. It was God's idea.

B. Gender identity is rooted in a person's _____

We understand that following Christ means dying to ourselves (**Matt. 16:24**), being renewed in our minds (**Rom. 12:2**), and no longer living as we once did (**Eph. 4:17-18**). Being “**true to ourselves**” is always a false choice when it means going against God's Word.

As much as contemporary academia says otherwise, the Bible believes in the organic unity of biological sex and gender identity. This is why male and female are (uniquely) the type of pair that can reproduce (**Gen. 1:28; 2:20**).

C. Rejecting gender as binary and _____ biological sex from gender results in gender _____ which is displeasing to God and harmful to God's image bearers

This truth flows naturally from the other two. If the binary of male and female is God's idea, and if we are meant to embrace, by divine design, our biological and creational difference as men and women, then it stands to reason that the confusion of these realities would be displeasing to God. And so, we see clearly in the Bible that men should not act sexually as women (**Lev. 18:22; Rom. 1:18-32; 1 Cor. 6:9-10**), that men should not dress like women (**Deut. 22:5**), and that when men and women embrace obviously other-gendered expressions of identity it is a disgrace (**1 Cor. 11:14-15**). **We do not have an inalienable right to do whatever we want with our physical selves.** By virtue of creation and by virtue of redemption, we belong to God and should glorify Him with our bodies (**1 Cor. 6:19-20**).

CONCLUSION

What can we take with us this morning? Let's apply what we have learned by asking, **How now shall we _____?**

1. Recognize the _____

**2. Acknowledge the _____ and _____
in the lives of those _____ transgenderism**

3. Extend _____ & _____

How should we respond to those who are struggling with this issue? How should we respond to those who have embraced transgenderism? Remember that we are dealing with people.

- With mercy and empathy for those who struggle with the enslaving power of sin.
- With patience and prayer over those who are working on overcoming these struggles in their own life.
- With love for those who have hardened their hearts over the weight of their sin against God.
- With commitment to sticking by Jesus in the face of a society who distorts and rejects the biblical teachings around sex and gender.

**4. _____ and be ready to _____
the life-changing message of Jesus Christ (the gospel)**

In a day and age where the culture and society around us give importance to sexual orientation, let us, as followers of Jesus, remember that **it is our sinful orientation that is at work in our predisposition toward rebellion and unbelief in God and His word resulting in pride and blindness to what is God-ordained and good for human flourishing. Such blindness is expressed in attitudes, behaviors and lifestyles that are dishonoring to God and incur His judgment.**

Receiving Christ creates a new identity. The Bible's message to the person struggling with gender-identity issues is the same for the person struggling with envy or depression or anything else: **"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."** (2 Cor 5:17)

As Christians, our identity is in Christ. In Christ, my old self is crucified (Rom 6:6). In Christ, I am now "clothed ... with Christ" (Gal 3:27). In Christ, my body is a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 6:19). In Christ, I have died to my old life and my life is now hidden in God (Col 3:3). In Christ, I am a new creation (2 Cor 5:17). In Christ, I am forgiven (Eph 1:7). **As Christians, our identity is always in Christ.** Anything else we embrace as our identity is a false idol competing for worship. **Building one's life around a transgender identity is idolatrous. It is the path away from peace and victory.**

In Christ and through Christ, God's grace not only pardons it also empowers us to live for God's pleasure instead of being ruled by ours. As John Piper states: **"Grace is not simply leniency when we have sinned. Grace is the enabling gift of God not to sin. Grace is power, not just pardon."** (Piper, *The Pleasures of God: Meditations on God's Delight in Being God*, p. 244)