

## Gender Identity

Intro – For generations, if you asked about a person’s **gender**, it was understood you were asking about their **biological sex** – male or female. In fact, the term “gender” has roots in the Latin “genus”, which means “kind.” In this case, two kinds – male and female.

The use of the term “gender” **began to change** during the last half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The term *gender* had been associated with grammar for most of history and only started to move towards it being a **malleable cultural construct** in the 1950s and 1960s.

**Sexologist John Money** introduced the terminological distinction between *biological sex* and *gender* as a role in 1955. Before his work, it was uncommon to use the word *gender* to refer to anything but grammatical categories – male or female. (see *David Reimer case*)

It was in the 1970s that **feminist scholars** adopted the term *gender* as way of distinguishing “socially constructed” aspects of male–female differences (gender) from “biologically determined” aspects (sex).

In short, the 21<sup>st</sup> century has **taken the term “gender” and run with it**. Secularists will tell you that it makes no difference a person’s sex – their gender can be whatever they want it to be. So then, a biological male can be a female and vice versa. (hospital bracelet pic)

Should a person be able to determine their own “gender” apart from their biological sex?

### 1. What is gender identity?

- Christians would define gender identity as a knowledge of one’s sex – what God created you to be. “Male and female He created them” (Gen. 1:27) In that sense, **gender/sex is sacred!**
- As we’ve already seen, that’s not what the world means by gender identity. The world defines gender as “the **range of characteristics** pertaining to and differentiating between masculinity and femininity.”
- In other words, secularists believe that gender is driven by social norms – boys like blue, girls like pink. Boys wear suits, girls wear dresses. Boys play with guns, girls play with baby dolls. *They say gender is not what you are – it’s who you’re expected to be. It’s sociology, not biology.*
- Let’s not confuse gender identity with “sexual orientation.” Most secularists would agree that sexual orientation has to do with **who we are attracted to**, aka – sexual preference.
- The 21<sup>st</sup> century has lauded an abundance of orientations – heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual, etc. “**Transgenderism**” is typically a form of homosexuality. And the “Q” in LGBTQ stands for either “questioning” or “queer” (undefinable).
- **Conclusion – 4.5% percent** of the American population identifies as LGBTQ (5.1% of women, 3.9% of men). **Less than 1%** of Americans identify as transgender. So then, the overwhelming majority of biological males identify as male, and vice versa. And for the record, **less than 1%** of humans deal with biological “intersex” issues.

## 2. What does the Bible say about gender identity?

- A person's gender is **assigned to him/her by God** Himself. Genesis is very clear that in the beginning, God made mankind in His own image and that He created them "male and female" (Gen. 1:27). **Determined by God, not man.**
- God-given biology determines God's plan for marriage – "a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife and they shall become one flesh" (Gen. 2:24).
- Throughout the Old Testament law, homosexuality and transgenderism were condemned, along with many other sexual perversions.
- Homosexuality - **Leviticus 18:22** says, "[Men] shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female; it is an abomination." **Leviticus 20:13** says, "If there is a man who lies with a male as those who lie with a woman, both of them have committed a detestable act."
- The OT punishment for homosexuality was death, but death was also the punishment for many other sexual perversions – adultery, bestiality, etc.
- As for transgenderism, the OT was very clear – "A woman shall not wear anything that pertains to a man, nor shall a man put on a woman's garment, for all who do so are an abomination to the Lord your God" (Deut. 22:5).
- As we come to the NT, we rejoice that we are no longer under the old covenant, but the new. For that reason, **we don't execute** every person guilty of a sexual offense, but the fact that certain behaviors are sinful does not change. The ceremonial law is fulfilled, but the moral remains.

- The New Testament is abundantly clear that homosexuality is a sin:

- Jesus mentioned Sodom & Gomorrah 5 times in **the Gospels** as an example of God's wrath against sin
- Paul was very clear that homosexuality is an example of people being turned over to God's judgment (**Romans 1**)
- **1 Timothy 1:10** clearly condemns the practice of sodomy (and so did 15 US states until 2003)
- **1 Corinthians 6:9-10** is very clear – "*Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, <sup>10</sup> nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God*"
- **Jude 7** explains that Sodom & Gomorrah were destroyed partly because their inhabitants had gone after strange flesh.

- **Conclusion** – There is no biblical defense of "gender identity" – not one example of a man or woman blessed by God for acting as the opposite sex or desiring to be with the same sex.

## 3. How should we respond to gender identity?

- As with every other perversion among men, we need to hate the sin but love the sinner. We need to try and put ourselves into **someone else's shoes**. Studies have proven that sexual perversion is not biological, rather environmental.

- **For instance** - gay men and lesbian women reported a significantly higher rate of childhood molestation than did heterosexual men and women. Forty-six percent of homosexual men in contrast to 7% of heterosexual men report homosexual molestation. Twenty-two percent of lesbian women in contrast to 1% of heterosexual women report homosexual molestation.
- It's also been my experience that a good number of homosexuals have any **estranged relationship with their parents** – especially the parent who shares their sex. As a result, the child emulates the mannerisms and characteristics of the other parent and later elects same-sex relationships.
- As Christians, we should place ourselves in someone else's shoes and realize that if we had been through some of the same things they went through, perhaps we would struggle with the same sins. **We must LOVE them to reach them!**
- On the other hand, we can not compromise the truth of God's Word! In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we are constantly challenged to compromise our convictions for the sake of peace. Understand this – **peace without principles is only a parade.**
- We love the sinner, but **we speak against the sin in his/her life.** The Apostle Paul commands us to speak the **truth in love** (Eph. 4:15). In fact, the most loving thing you can do for someone battling with gender identity is to tell him/her the truth!
- Also, we must educate ourselves about the attempts being made to indoctrinate us and our children. Secularists are very organized and very wealthy, and committed to a very godless agenda.

- **Examples:**
  - School sex-education normalizing alternate lifestyles and gender confusion – remember when the University of Tennessee released “gender-neutral pronouns” in 2015?
  - “Churches” affirming the lifestyle and actively promoting it in culture – rainbow flags in front of churches, not looking back to Noah and the flood
  - Municipalities, states, and even our federal government/judges joining the act – actively promoting alternate lifestyles with taxpayer money
  - Media bombarding us with messages of LGBTQ affirmation and acceptance
- Finally, prepare to be hated for telling the truth and living the truth. If you don't cave on the issue of gender identity, you will be called everything from a **bigot**, to a **hate-monger**, to a **narrow-minded moron.**
- *If you're not ready to suffer Christ, then you're not ready to follow Him* (John 9:62). And if you're not ready to follow Him, you're not ready to be saved. Following Jesus means taking up the cross every day.

Conclusion – In a world where some struggle with gender confusion, we need to remember that our **God is not the author of confusion** (1 Cor. 14:33). JESUS CHRIST is still the answer to every problem and every hurt. Let's stop judging people and start loving people. *When the gender-confused feel our love, only then will they want our Jesus.*