

Identity Crisis:

Responding to the Gender Confusion with Grace & Truth

Welcome & Overview

Part 1: Understanding Gender Ideology

Part 2: Our Christian Response

Part 1: Understanding Modern Gender Ideology

The Main Idea: What is Going on with Gender?

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 - *"For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. ⁵ We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ..."*

The General Idea: *There is a distinction between a person's sex and gender, and gender is the more important essential of a person's identity, and it can only be known by the individual.*

1. *There is a distinction between a person's sex and gender.*

2. *Gender is the more essential aspect of a person's identity.*

3. *It can only be known by the individual*

Definitions: Understanding Key Terms

- 1. Biological Sex.** A person's sex is their biological identity
- 2. Gender.** The American Psychological Association says that gender refers to...

"...attitudes, feelings, and behaviors that a given culture associates with a person's biological sex. Behavior that is compatible with cultural expectations is referred to as gender-normative; behaviors that are viewed as incompatible with these expectations constitute gender non-conformity."

- 3. Gender Identity.** A person's self-perception of who they are whether male or female, masculine or feminine. A related term **Gender Expression** describes how a person presents themselves publicly in a gendered way.
- 4. Cisgender.** When a person's self-perception of their gender matches their biological sex. This is often how LGBTQ people refer to those who are *not* transgender.
- 5. Gender Dysphoria** refers to psychological distress that results from an incongruence between one's sex assigned at birth and one's gender identity.
- 6. Transgender** - An umbrella term that refers to a person expressing a gender identity that does not match their biological sex. This may include a great variety of expressions (gender non-binary, agender, gender fluid).

*Gender Dysphoria is an experience
Transgenderism is an identity.*

Foundations: How did we get here?

1. The Enlightenment vs Romanticism - *Separating external and internal worlds as basis of truth.*
2. Relativism - *there is no single morality or way of living that true for everyone.*
3. Radical Individualism - *everyone gets to write their own script.*
4. The Sexual Revolution - *Sexual freedom is paramount to happiness.*
5. Gnosticism - *the body vs the mind & secret knowledge is the real truth*
6. Post-Christendom - *Removing the former cultural guardrails.*

Catching Steam: Why has this movement found acceptance so quickly?

1. Progression - Continuing the logic of the Sexual Revolution
2. Messaging - Framed as Civil Rights Issue
3. Social Contagion - A movement that found an audience in teens
4. A False Gospel - A promised way of salvation and new birth

Challenging the Movement

Colossians 2:8 - *"See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ."* (see also 2 Corinthians 10:5)

1. The movement is incoherent and incompatible with other progressive ideas.

- It defies clear explanation and definitions are constantly shifting.
- It will eventually crumble under the weight of its own illogic.
- It also conflicts with the other aspects of Progressivism:
 - Feminism
 - Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual

2. Undermines womanhood and motherhood.

- Womanhood is more than just the appearance of her body.
- If motherhood has nothing to do with the biological realities of being a woman, than motherhood isn't a real category anymore.

3. Undermines Social Stability.

- It is not healthy for any society to encourage transgenderism as a positive and normal lifestyle. It creates confusion. We need some baseline definitions of man and woman if we are going to function as a society.

4. Relies on problematic Medical Philosophy.

- In the case of Gender Dysphoria, there is a disconnect between one's body and how a person perceives themselves. So we must ask: why is the solution proposed that the body must be aligned with the feelings, rather than the other way around?

5. Undermines Parental Rights.

- We recognize that children are not autonomous. They lack the experience, knowledge, and wisdom to make decisions that could harm themselves or others. They need the guidance and protection of an adult.

6. Ignores its own refugees.

- The stories and experiences of many detransition people are rejected in the trans community as they speak against the transgender narrative.

7. Cannot deliver on its promises.

- Transgenderism is a false gospel. There is a real need, a problem that people struggling with gender dysphoria are experiencing. But this isn't the answer.
- Living according to a falsehood, something at odds with reality cannot bring us peace.
- God does not see our bodies as discardable, as unnecessary. Jesus took on flesh, so that we could be freed of the sin that has destroyed our bodies and souls, and he will bring us to life again in our bodies.

Part 2: A Christian Response

God's Vision for Male & Female

1. God's good creation of humanity included both a physical and spiritual reality.
2. God created humanity in his image and designed two genders - male and female - to represent his image on earth.
3. Transgender ideology is unhealthy and harmful because it breaks from God's good and beautiful creation design.
4. Unhealthy gender stereotypes have the potential to contribute to gender confusion in young boys and girls.

Insights for Parents Talking to Their Kids

1. **Be First:** First messages are heard the loudest.
2. **Be Clear:** Be truthful and straightforward.
3. **Be Consistent:** Facilitate an ongoing conversation.
4. **Be Positive:** Show them and teach them grace and truth.

Engaging the World

1. Conviction:

1 Timothy 3:15 - pillar of truth

2 Corinthians 5:20 - ambassadors for Christ

Ephesians 5:7-8 - children of light

2. Connection:

John 17:14-18 - in the world, not of the world

1 Corinthians 5:9-13 - do not go out of the world

3. Compassion:

Matthew 9:36 - compassion for those harassed and helpless

Loving Transgender People

1. Be humble.

- Remember that some people's sin is more visible than others.

2. Get to know them.

- Be hospitable.
- Listen to their story.
- Be patient.
- Be empathetic.

3. Pray for them.

- Pray for salvation - their greatest need
- Pray for wisdom in communicating
- Pray for sin to be made clear to them
- Pray for prevention of drastic steps (if early)
- Pray against the enemy's lies
- Pray for wholeness and mental health
- Pray for support

4. Engage them with the gospel

- Gauge their openness
- Look for where the gospel speaks to their situation and speak
 1. Redemption - reclaimed from sin and lostness
 2. Regeneration - Born Again, new life
 3. Resurrection - God will redeem our bodies

Resources for Further Reading

Abigail Shrier. *Irreversible Damage: The Transgender Craze Seducing our Daughters*. Regnery Publishing, 2021.

Andrew T. Walker. *God and the Transgender Debate*, 2nd ed. The Good Book Company, 2022.

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Gary Yagel. *Anchoring Your Child to God's Truth*. PCA Committee on Discipleship Ministries, 2018.

Nancy R. Pearcey. *Love Thy Body*. Baker Books, 2019.

Stan and Brenna Jones. *How and When to Tell Your Kids About Sex*. NavPress, 2007.