

God's Design for Gender

Gerry Breshears GBreshears@WesternSeminary.edu

- I. What is a human (Gen. 1-2)
 - A. All humans are created in image of God, male and female, with human dignity, personal purpose, and inviolable rights (1:26-27)
 - B. Humans are body (dust) plus spirit (breath) (2:7)
 1. A person does not have a spirit/body, but is spirit/body in interacting dualism
 2. We live in sexed embodiment
- II. What is Man/Woman?
 - A. Men and women are both human, equal but different, each complementing the other. (2:18, 23)
 - B. A woman is the kind of human whose body is organized around the potential to generate new life within herself.
 - C. A man is the kind of human whose body is organized around the potential to generate new life within another.
- III. Pondering Gender
 - A. Sex

The bodily, biological reality of a person's sexual anatomy, reproductive organs, endocrine systems, and chromosomes
 - B. Gender
 - How I experience and define myself as male or female
 - How I express myself through actions, clothing, and demeanor
 - Cultural expectations for how men and women should behave.
 - C. Transgender

A person whose gender identity or gender expression differs from their biological sex

Gender Dysphoria: A marked incongruence between one's experienced or expressed gender and biological sex leading to distress or impairment in social, occupational, or other important areas of functioning (DSM 5)

D. Transgenderism

The world view and political agenda to mandate full approval for a system where sex and gender are determined solely by the feelings/desires of an individual.

E. We make mistakes when gender is

1. defined by cultural stereotypes
2. limited to a cultural construct
3. exclusively binary
4. divorced from sex

F. Frameworks for Gender Dysphoria (Yarhouse)

1. Diversity: transgender reflects identity and culture to be celebrated. Resolution will be toward medical intervention to match the body to the gender.
2. Design: Male/Female are distinct categories created by God. Resolution will be to biological sex.
3. Disorder: Brokenness is part of our fallen world to be addressed with compassion, conversation and shepherding.

IV. For Jesus Followers

A. Authority

1. Lordship - Agape: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." (Matt. 16:24; Mar. 8:34; Luke 9:23)
2. Authenticity - Eros: Morality must resonate with who I feel I really am

B. There are only a few texts which speak specifically of cross gender behavior but all of them express unqualified disapproval (Deut. 22:5; 1 Cor. 11:3-16).

C. We partner with the Spirit making every effort to become a consistent Jesus follower living according to our unique design as a person in community, exercising our common human attributes wisely in ways consistent with our sex/gender (Gal. 5:16-26; Col. 3; Eph. 4-5; 2 Pet. 1)

D. Jesus loves and serves all kinds of people, helping them come to repentance, and so should we (Mark 10:43-45; Luke 5:30-32; Acts 10:38; Gal. 6:10)

E. Like God, we are known for mercy, grace, love, healing, and forgiveness, not judgment and condemnation (Ex. 34:6-7; Luke 6:36-37)

