

# WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT TRANSGENDERISM

## THE CURRENT CRISIS

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- When a people or nation continue to reject God, it is only time until He gives them over to their wicked ways
- God lets them experience the full consequences of their sinful choices
- Romans 1 describes the 3 stages of the wrath of God's abandonment
  - Stage 1 = Sexual immorality (1960-1970's)

**Romans 1:24-25** ~ Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. 25 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.

- Stage 2 = Homosexuality (1980-1990's)

**Romans 1:26-27** ~ For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, 27 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.

- Stage 3 = Depraved minds (2000's)

**Romans 1:28-31** ~ And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, 29 being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; *they are* gossips, 30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, 31 without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; 32 and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.

- In this third stage, God gives wicked people over to a depraved mind which results in them not even being able to think straight about anything
- The result is irrationality, absurdity, and absolute intellectual and moral insanity
- Our culture celebrates wicked people as if they are innocent and it condemns innocent people as if they are wicked

**Isaiah 5:20** ~ Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!



- Perhaps the moral freefall of our society is no more evident than in the transgender craze that has permeated it



- A few examples of the current transgender fascination will suffice to demonstrate the irrationality of it:
  - Transgender females competing competing in girls sports<sup>1</sup>
  - Drag queen story hour at local libraries<sup>2</sup>
  - The ruling by the US Supreme Court in June 2020 cited the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which makes it illegal for employers to discriminate because of a person’s sex, saying it also covers sexual orientation and transgenders status<sup>3</sup>
  - The first transgender state senator (Sarah McBride – D; Delaware) was elected to office last month<sup>4</sup>
  - Preferred pronouns<sup>5</sup>

#### Why is it Important to Respect People’s Pronouns?

- You can’t always know what someone’s pronouns are by looking at them. Asking and correctly using someone’s pronouns is one of the most basic ways to show your respect for their gender identity.
- When someone is referred to with the wrong pronoun, it can make them feel disrespected, invalidated, dismissed, alienated, or dysphoric ( often all of the above.)
- It is a privilege to not have to worry about which pronoun someone is going to use for you based on how they perceive your gender. If you have this privilege, yet fail to respect someone else’s gender identity, it is not only disrespectful and hurtful, but also oppressive

- A recent redefinition of the words “man” and “woman” by the Oxford English Dictionary to be more gender inclusive<sup>6</sup>

- Although “woman” is still defined as an “adult female human being,” an additional definition now says a woman can be a “person’s wife, girlfriend, or female lover” – rather than a “man’s wife, girlfriend, or female lover.”
- Similarly, an additional definition of man has been tweaked to read, “a person’s husband, boyfriend, or male lover” (rather than a “woman’s husband, boyfriend, or male lover”).

- Norway recently passed a law making transphobic speech illegal<sup>7</sup>

- Bi, trans, and nonbinary folks in Norway are celebrating a huge win after the country recently expanded its penal code that previously only protected lesbian and gay people from hate speech to include gender identity and all forms of “sexual orientation.”

- Joe Biden firmly stated his support of transgenderism prior to the presidential election<sup>8</sup>

- "The idea that an eight-year-old, a 10-year-old, decides, you know, I decide I want to be transgender. That's what I think I'd like to be, it would make my life a lot easier—there should be zero discrimination."

- A landmark case in the UK is hearing arguments from two plaintiffs who claim that the use of hormone blockers to address gender dysphoria doesn’t have any adequate evidence to support it<sup>9</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2020/06/19/transgender-athletes-robbing-girls-chance-win-sports-column/4856486002/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.dragqueenstoryhour.org/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/supreme-court/supreme-court-rules-existing-civil-rights-law-protects-gay-lesbian-n1231018>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.nbcnews.com/feature/nbc-out/sarah-mcbride-become-first-transgender-state-senator-u-s-history-n1246211>

<sup>5</sup> <https://uwm.edu/lgbtrc/support/gender-pronouns/>

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.christianheadlines.com/contributors/michael-foust/oxford-changes-definition-of-man-woman-to-be-more-lgbt-inclusive.html?utm\\_source=ChristianHeadlines%20Daily&utm\\_campaign=Christian%20Headlines%20Daily%20-%20Crosswalk.com&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=3923821&bcid=c32872fbf490708c39a2a739884b89f1&recip=487561152%20](https://www.christianheadlines.com/contributors/michael-foust/oxford-changes-definition-of-man-woman-to-be-more-lgbt-inclusive.html?utm_source=ChristianHeadlines%20Daily&utm_campaign=Christian%20Headlines%20Daily%20-%20Crosswalk.com&utm_medium=email&utm_content=3923821&bcid=c32872fbf490708c39a2a739884b89f1&recip=487561152%20)

<sup>7</sup> [https://www.out.com/news/2020/11/11/norway-has-made-biphobic-transphobic-speech-illegal?amp&fbclid=IwAR1zC\\_DMQFoJCyycZotPm\\_HeAlS9f00dxjOg2Opd16YIVGYiWxhfpUtc4&\\_twitter\\_impression=true](https://www.out.com/news/2020/11/11/norway-has-made-biphobic-transphobic-speech-illegal?amp&fbclid=IwAR1zC_DMQFoJCyycZotPm_HeAlS9f00dxjOg2Opd16YIVGYiWxhfpUtc4&_twitter_impression=true)

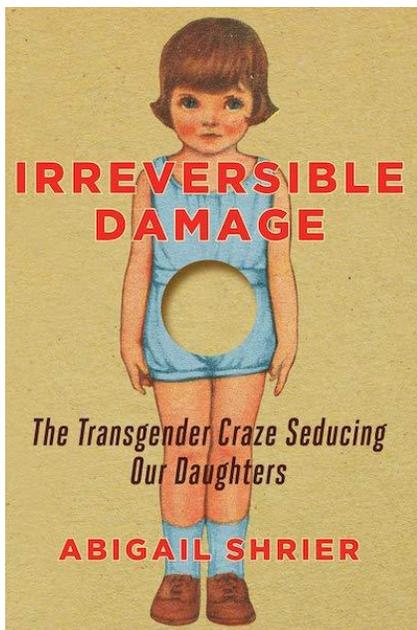
<sup>8</sup> <https://www.newsweek.com/joe-biden-transgender-children-zero-discrimination-1539655>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.christianpost.com/news/minors-cannot-consent-to-puberty-blocking-drugs-court-hears.html>

- By contrast, lawyers for the clinic maintained in a written submission that puberty suppressants have undergone extensive research, claiming that they are safe and reversible. Tavistock lawyers also said that checks and balances exist within the clinic, that they have administered the drugs successfully, and that they have given patients enough space to reflect prior to transitioning.

- The Black Lives Matter organization has fully embraced the transgender movement<sup>10</sup>

- We make space for transgender brothers and sisters to participate and lead. We are self-reflexive and do the work required to dismantle cisgender privilege and uplift Black trans folk, especially Black trans women who continue to be disproportionately impacted by trans-antagonistic violence.



- “What could possibly have happened to bring about such a shift and to convince so many young women that they have been born into the wrong bodies?... Transgenderism, she came to believe, is a kind of craze that is seducing young girls who are not clinically dysphoric. Adolescents are particularly uncomfortable with themselves and particularly prone to suggestions. In today’s context they are prone to the suggestion that their discomfort may stem from being a boy trapped in a girl’s body. This never would have occurred to girls in previous generations, but today’s media and classrooms dangle it as a possibility or even probability. Meanwhile the forces of intersectionality attach great social cachet to transgenderism so it can allow a girl to be catapulted from invisibility to prominence. The forces are strong.”<sup>11</sup>

- This has resulted in a host of secular terms seeking to “explain” these issues:<sup>12</sup>
  - Gender identity – “One’s innermost concept of self as male, female, a blend of both or neither – how individuals perceive themselves and what they call themselves. One’s gender identity can be the same or different from their sex assigned at birth.”
  - Gender expression – “External appearance of one’s gender identity, usually expressed through behavior, clothing, haircut or voice, and which may or may not conform to socially defined behaviors and characteristics typically associated with being either masculine or feminine”
  - Gender fluid – “A person who does not identify with a single fixed gender or has a fluid or unfixed gender identity.”
  - Gender dysphoria – “Clinically significant distress caused when a person’s assigned birth gender is not the same as the one with which they identify.”
  - Non-binary – “An adjective describing a person who does not identify exclusively as a man or a woman. Non-binary people may identify as being both a man and a woman, somewhere in between, or as falling completely outside these categories.”
  - Transgender – “An umbrella term for people whose gender identity and/or expression is different from cultural expectations based on the sex they were assigned at birth. Being transgender does not imply any specific sexual orientation. Therefore, transgender people may identify as straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual, etc.”

<sup>10</sup> <https://blacklivesmatter.com/what-we-believe/>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.challies.com/book-reviews/the-transgender-craze-seducing-our-daughters/>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.hrc.org/resources/glossary-of-terms>

## A BIBLICAL RESPONSE

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- At the core of the transgender problem is an earnest passion to live on the basis of feelings rather than biblical principles
- Feelings form the basis of one's identity today
- The man who "feels" like a woman trapped in a man's body (or vice versa) is told by our culture that his identity and body don't match and he is encouraged to gender transition
- The problem with such an approach is that it leaves people trying to find stability in that which is unstable since feelings constantly change, morph, and shift
- "Looking to our feelings to ground our identity may work for a season, sure, but will not last over the long term."<sup>13</sup>
- Furthermore, this assumes that the human heart is good and that all feelings of the heart are right and should be followed
- Although feelings may be good, they can certainly be bad
- Such thinking completely ignores the fact that, as believers, we live on the basis of fact not feelings...by principles rather than passions
- In other words, we as believers don't follow our hearts because the heart is not trustworthy

**Jeremiah 17:9** ~ The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it?

### Genesis 1:26-28 and Genesis 2

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**Genesis 1:26-27** ~ 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." 27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it ; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

- There are a number of important truths that emerge from this text that are critical to a right understanding of gender

#### *Our Identity as God's Image-Bearers is Fixed*

- Four times in vv. 26-27 it states that human beings are created in the image/likeness of God
- Humans are the pinnacle of God's creative work...the only creatures in all of creation that bear His "own" image (v. 27)
- To see a person is to see a reflection of God Himself, albeit tainted and marred now by the fall
- Being made in the image of God involves the capacity to mirror God (the "being")...and the relational capacities to represent God (the "doing")
- The image of God does not merely refer to what we are; it also refers to what God created us to do (exercise dominion over the earth, etc.)
- It is this unique quality that separates humans from the rest of God's creation in that only humans bear the capacity to reflect the greatness of God
- Our bodies, thus, exist to bring God glory; they are not blank slates upon which we can draw any identity

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<sup>13</sup> Owen Strachan and Gavin Peacock, *What Does the Bible Teach About Transgenderism?*, 16.

- It is important to note that both “male and female” are created in the image of God (v. 27)
- Both sexes bear full image-sharing status and nothing can alter this reality

#### *God Made Two Sexes from the Start and Their Genders are Fixed*

- Genesis 1:27 makes this very clear: “male and female He created them”
- “[O]ur manhood and womanhood owes directly to the creative work of the Lord. We cannot source our sex in evolution and evolutionary theory, we see here. Our manhood or womanhood does not trace back to chaos, randomness, luck, chance, or happenstance. There are men and women in the world because God desired that two sexes would bear His image and glorify His name together. By extension, we cannot fail to identify unique value, worth, and dignity in maleness and femaleness. God loves each. God made each.”<sup>14</sup>
- God made only men and women...no other gender “identities” exist
- Both Scripture and science (i.e. sex chromosomes for male, XY, and female XX) are clear that there is only male and female
- Thus, to “change” one’s gender is an attempt to undo what God has sovereignly designed from the beginning
- And all the other genders and sexual identities our culture has invented are the products of sinful desire, not God’s original design

#### *The Charge to “Be Fruitful and Multiply” Can Only Happen When Male and Female Function the Way God Designed*

- God instructed the first man and woman to “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth” (Gen 1:28)
- This is a command to fill the earth with little image-bearers
- In view here is the charge to get married, create a family, and have lots of little people
- But this can only happen when the men are men and the women are women
- In other words, having children depends upon manhood and womanhood, because the man and the woman are physically complementary
- Procreation cannot happen if men and women do not fulfill their distinct callings
- Genesis 1-2 introduce us to the distinction in roles between men and women
  1. God has called the man to be a leader, protector, and provider
    - God created Adam first
    - God created the woman out of man – Gen 2:21-22
    - God assigned Adam the responsibility of work in the garden “to cultivate and keep it” – Gen 2:15
    - God instructed Adam to take responsibility for the marriage relationship and for creating a new family – Gen 2:24
  2. God has called the woman to be the helper
    - God created the woman for man – Gen 2:18
    - Because it was not good for Adam to be alone, Eve was created as a “suitable helper” for Adam

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<sup>14</sup> Ibid., 35.

- God perfectly designed her, not as another male or clone of Adam, but as a perfect complement to him
- The word “suitable” means “counterpart, one who completes what is missing in man”
- She was specifically created to fulfill a role Adam couldn’t fill
- Thus, because Adam could not obey the creation mandate to “multiply and fill the earth” by himself, he needed a partner
- Adam was created for marriage, for procreation, and for family...but a compatible counterpart was needed
- Upon her creation, Adam immediately recognized that she was his perfect complement

**Genesis 2:23** ~ The man said, “This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man.”

- He immediately understood that Eve was the means by which he would fulfill the creation mandate
- She would assist him in the charge to “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it”
- “She alone can bear and nurture life; just as Adam’s body tells him his duties, she has a body fitted to her role and duties. She has the vocation of bringing life into the world, human life, and caring for that life so it flourishes and honors the Lord. She alone can give birth; she alone can nurture life physically.”<sup>15</sup>
- Male bodies (broad shoulders, muscles, 10x more testosterone than females) and female bodies (wide hips, weaker vessels – 1 Pet 3:7) uniquely demonstrate God’s divine design for the sexes

3. The sexual relationship between a husband and a wife is the means by which the creation mandate is to be fulfilled
- God has designed that a man and a woman (husband and wife) are to become “one flesh” (Gen 2:24)
  - Nowhere is the “one flesh” relationship more evident than in the act of physical intimacy between a man and his wife...and in the child produced by their union
  - The man’s body is perfectly fitted to the woman’s body and the woman’s body is perfectly fitted to the man’s
  - “There is no need for bodily change or alteration in this scene; God has designed husband and wife to come together, know physical delight, and experience union that goes beyond momentary bliss. All this is good; all this meshes with God’s good plan; all this gives glory to God, as one man and one woman taste the delight intended for them by their kind Maker.”<sup>16</sup>

### Genesis 3

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- The “genesis” of the current transgender debacle is found in the fall and its consequences in Genesis 3
- This chapter teaches the primary reason that people stray from God’s good plan for man and woman
- Adam and Eve’s disobedience plunged the human race into sin and brought God’s curse upon all of creation, including the man and the woman
- Pertinent to the transgender issue is the effect the fall had upon Adam and Eve’s bodies

**Genesis 3:7** ~ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.

- Eating the fruit brought about an awareness of nakedness and, as a result, shame

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<sup>15</sup> Ibid., 39.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid., 41.

- Previously, they were naked and without shame (Gen 2:25)...but, as a result of the fall, they began to regard their bodies as a problem
- They tried to cover the shame of their nakedness
- Additionally, they sought to hide themselves from God's presence

**Genesis 3:8** ~ They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

- This is what sin does...it produces covering and hiding...it has physical effects
- “The body made by God for His glory now seems repugnant. In addition, the earth made to put God's greatness on display now seems best for hiding. The body has been used wrongly to transgress God's command; the creation is now used wrongly to conceal disobedient humanity. We do not mean at this juncture that Adam and Eve experience what we would call ‘gender dysphoria,’ feeling as though they have a different ‘gender identity’ than their body. We do, however, take pains to note that sin against God – the act of eating fruit, a physical act plotted by the heart – leads to two distinct physical actions, both of which involve misuse of God's creation.”<sup>17</sup>
- Furthermore, Adam and Eve's bodies, given to them to glorify the Lord, would bear the marks of the fall in gender-specific ways
- Adam's work would become more difficult and he would have to toil in it

**Genesis 3:17-19** ~ Then to Adam He said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat from it’; Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you will eat of it All the days of your life. 18 Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; And you will eat the plants of the field; 19 By the sweat of your face You will eat bread, Till you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall return.”

- Eve would be cursed by pain in childbearing and she would be tempted to lead and dominate her husband

**Genesis 3:16** ~ To the woman He said, “I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth, In pain you will bring forth children; Yet your desire will be for your husband, And he will rule over you.”

- Sin leads to people using their bodies to dishonor God
  - Sinners will reject God's wiring of male and female identities
  - Sinners will upend God's design in male and female roles
  - Sinners will deny any connection with the image of God and instead form their own “identity”
  - Sinners will reject the idea that sex has any specific meaning or is designed within a husband-wife relationship
- This is exactly what we see taking place today in the transgender craze
- It amounts to a complete rejection of God's divine design in creation and the beauty, wonder, and glory of complementarity between the sexes

## **Deuteronomy 22:5**

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**Deuteronomy 22:5** ~ 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.

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<sup>17</sup> Ibid., 44.

- Although we are no longer under the Mosaic law today (Rom 10:4), this text does express God’s heart about transvestism; it is not a prohibition of women wearing pants, but a command to not present oneself as something he/she is not
- Men wearing women’s clothing and vice versa was specifically prohibited in OT Israel
- The idea of gender-bending and taking on the identity of the opposite sex was forbidden by God in the clearest possible terms because it obscured the distinction between the sexes
- And God was adamant that Israel maintain the creation order distinctions between male and female
- Cross-dressing was banned because of its close association with homosexuality
- This is clear from the same fact that the word “abomination” is also used to describe God’s view of homosexuality

**Leviticus 18:22** ~ You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female; it is an abomination.

**Leviticus 20:13** ~ 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; they shall surely be put to death. Their bloodguiltiness is upon them.

- Cross-dressing is no neutral matter...it offends God deeply because it strikes at the core of His design for manhood and womanhood
- Also, some evidence exists that transvestism may have been connected with the worship of pagan deities
- Thus, Israel was to abstain from such idolatrous practices in order to set themselves apart as God’s people
- Men and women display God’s glory in distinct and complementary ways
- A man best honors God when he looks and acts like a man...and a woman best honors God when she looks and acts like a woman
- No other biblical, boundary-crossing category exists
- “Cross-dressing exists because belief in God-designed ‘nature’ does not. If you do not believe that God created manhood and womanhood, then you need not present yourself as a man or a woman. You have complete freedom to embrace whatever identity you most prefer, and to change that self-conception as you see fit. After all, there is no Creator, there is no clear law to guide your life, and there is no blessing for obedience and cursing for sin.”<sup>18</sup>
- Transgenderism is really just a new term for an old sin that has been around for millennia

## **Matthew 19:3-6**

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**Matthew 19:3-6** ~ Some Pharisees came to Jesus, testing Him and asking, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any reason at all?” 4 And He answered and said, “Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE, 5 and said, ‘FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH’? 6 “So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.”

- Some claim that Jesus never addressed the transgender issue so the church can hold any position it sees fit
- However, in His teaching on marriage and divorce, Jesus clearly demonstrated his belief in the binary
- Christ upheld God’s design for marriage, the family, and biblical manhood and womanhood

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<sup>18</sup> Ibid., 50-51.

- He went back to the beginning (Gen 1:27; 5:2) and cited God’s original design for the sexes (v. 4)
- In doing so, Christ upheld the timeless truth that marriage is between one man and one woman, resulting in one flesh, for life
- Thus, marriage cannot take on any form one wishes it to...it is fixed according to God’s design
- Implicit within this is the fact that God uniquely designed the sexes for marriage in line with His plan for manhood and womanhood
- In other words, one’s gender is fixed by God and one best fulfills their design by acting according to their God-given gender
- God has made men men...and He has made women women
- “We cannot therefore endorse any form of androgynous Christianity, nor any form of ‘transgender Christianity...’ The teaching of Genesis 1-2 and Matthew 19 (which affirms the former) shows us that Scripture honors and nowhere downplays the sexual ‘binary.’”<sup>19</sup>

## 1 Corinthians 11

**1 Corinthians 11:3, 7-15** ~ But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ...7 For a man ought not to have his head covered, since he is the image and glory of God; but the woman is the glory of man. 8 For man does not originate from woman, but woman from man; 9 for indeed man was not created for the woman’s sake, but woman for the man’s sake. 10 Therefore the woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels. 11 However, in the Lord, neither is woman independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. 12 For as the woman originates from the man, so also the man has his birth through the woman; and all things originate from God. 13 Judge for yourselves: is it proper for a woman to pray to God with her head uncovered? 14 Does not even nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a dishonor to him, 15 but if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her? For her hair is given to her for a covering.

- Paul clearly states here the order of creation and applies it to marriage, proving both that men are called to loving headship and that women are called to a role of willing helper
- Paul’s point is that men and women present themselves differently because they have been uniquely designed by God to fulfill complementary roles
- Because of these differences related to manhood and womanhood, there is a divinely designed order: God ----- Christ ----- Man ----- Woman



- Central to Paul’s argument is the fact that men and women distinguish themselves from one another by the length of their hair
- “A man has the body of a man, and should represent himself accordingly by having a different hair length than a woman. A woman has the body of a woman, and should represent herself accordingly by having a different hair length than a man (as much as she can given her age, that is). In Paul’s mind, these matters unveil God’s wisdom. Every time godly men and women own and honor their birth sex in their own distinct culture, they honor the Lord who made them either a man or a woman for His glory.”<sup>20</sup>
- The current transgender movement flies in the face of these instructions, encouraging men to have long hair (and dress/act like a woman) and women to have short hair (and dress/act like a man)

<sup>19</sup> Ibid., 55.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid., 58-59.

- However, these passages require us to reject transgender thinking, desiring, feeling, and acting in all of its forms and degrees
- The Scriptures clearly close off the possibility of adopting a transgender identity or of blurring the lines between male and female
- “In both the Old and New Testaments, men and women receive a divine summons to steer clear of androgynous, gender-bending decisions and actions. The Bible makes the point quite plain: men glorify God by presenting themselves as men. Women glorify God by presenting themselves as women...we have no option to break with our body and remake our identity. We honor the Lord and live a holy life when we, in our own distinct culture, embrace our God-given manhood and womanhood.”<sup>21</sup>
- Androgyny, gender ambiguity, and gender fluidity must all be rejected because the Lord wants us to revel in our manliness or womanliness
- This means that gender identity is not self-created but is divinely created

## **HOW TO PRACTICALLY NAVIGATE THIS ISSUE**

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### **Be Convinced of What Scripture Teaches on This Issue**

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- God has spoken clearly on these issues so we must believe that His Word doesn't lie

### **Celebrate the Beauty of God's Created Design**

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- We must not follow our culture's belief that the body is not an essential part of our being and that our gender identity is fluid, simply a social construct that can change
- Rather, we must rejoice in the differences between men and women

### **Oppose Attempts to Normalize This Behavior**

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- We are being told today that it is unfair and intolerant to not affirm transgenderism; however, the most loving thing to do is to oppose what contradicts God's divine design

### **Teach Children in Our Homes About God's Design**

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- Fathers and mothers must take full responsibility for teaching their children about biblical sexuality
- And “we must teach these differences to our children. They must see that being a boy or a girl is a matter of God's glory. There should be no shame in boys liking boyish things or in girls adopting girlish behaviors. Christians should encourage this kind of awareness.”<sup>22</sup>

### **Hold Forth the Gospel for Those Trapped in Transgenderism**

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- The Good News of the saving work of Jesus Christ on the cross and His resurrection from the dead is the only answer for this (and any other) sin

### **Reach Out to Transgendered People with Compassion**

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- We must be willing to show the same mercy to lost people that God has shown to us

<sup>21</sup> Ibid., 64-65.

<sup>22</sup> <https://answersingenesis.org/family/gender/transgender-identity-wishing-away-gods-design/>