

Gender Clarity or Gender Confusion?

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Genesis 1:27 (NKJV) “So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”

Our culture is experiencing a crisis of identity confusion. Celebrities are celebrated for being “transgender”. Department stores are changing policies to allow for transgender bathrooms. People involved in the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) community have become heavy handed in their attempts to change laws regarding sexual norms in our country and to pressure corporations and businesses to bend to their demands. School systems are adopting curriculum that seeks to normalize these lifestyles in the minds of our children. Political correctness has made it socially unacceptable and even unlawful to voice any opposition to this trend. Businesses are forcing employees and managers with contrary views to submit to sensitivity training or be fired. What are Bible-believing Christians to do? Is God simply out of touch with the culture? Must churches change with the times? Have the historical Christian views on sexuality become old fashioned and out of date? Does it even matter? Then again, are we becoming more enlightened as a society or more emboldened? Are we moving toward gender clarity or gender confusion?

The term “gender” has always referred to the biological reality of “male” and “female” at birth. (boy, girl, man, woman). When children are born their gender is put on their birth certificate. When a baby is born, people ask the doctor, “Is it a boy or a girl?” Imagine the doctor responding, “I don’t know. I guess we will have to wait for it to grow up and decide for itself!”

In order to ignore biological reality in determining gender, the LGBT activists have begun introducing new terminology to redefine the gender realities accepted throughout history. They use the term “gender identity” to refer to a person’s *desired* gender identity even if their biological reality is opposite that. For them gender is a matter of *psychological identity* rather than *biological identity*. For them, “gender perception” is more important than biological reality.

“Transgender” by definition is a person whose “gender identity” does not correspond to their biological gender at birth. Identifying as transgender is a matter of gender perception rather than biological reality. A “Transvestite” is a person, usually a man, who makes a practice of wearing women’s clothing for psychological gratification. “Gender fluid” refers to those whose gender perception keeps changing. “Gender Identity Disorder” or “Gender Dysphoria” is the desire to change one’s sex to fulfill the role of the opposite gender. They often describe themselves as “trapped” in a body that does not match their gender.

The trend toward perception-based identity has opened the door to other areas of identity confusion such as “racial dysphoria” where people of one ethnic group identify themselves as from another ethnic group. This made the headlines last year when the head of the Spokane NAACP had to step down from her position when it was revealed that she was actually racially white rather than black. Her defense is, “I identify as black.” Once the door is opened to perception-based rather than reality-based identity, there is no limit to where it will go. Some are now experiencing “species dysphoria” whereby they identify with being an animal!

In reality this is not gender confusion but gender rebellion. The Bible says that it is abominable for a man to imitate a woman or a woman to imitate a man: “*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.*”¹ People experience gender confusion because they rebel against the clarity of their biology. Gender is a matter of the Creator’s design rather than human psychological perception: “*Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’*”²⁷ *So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*”² The Creator designed human beings as biological males and biological females. Biologically a “male” is a human being bearing an “X” and “Y” chromosome

¹ Deuteronomy 22:5 (NKJV)

² Genesis 1:26-27 (NKJV)

and having biological male parts. A “female” is a human being bearing two “X” chromosomes and having biological female parts. Biology is undeniable and it confirms the Creator’s design. Why then do people experience gender confusion?

First, people experience gender confusion because they refuse to acknowledge the Creator’s design or they refuse to acknowledge the Creator altogether. Evolutionists and atheists seek to remove the Creator from the conversation of gender design and gender identity. Ignoring the Creator is the source of all proud reasoning that denies biological reality and justifies sinful imaginations and destructive behaviors. Such rebellious reasoning is not without consequence however: *“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,¹⁹ because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,²¹ because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.²² Professing to be wise, they became fools,²³ and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.²⁴ Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves,²⁵ who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.²⁶ For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.²⁷ Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.”³*

Second, people experience gender confusion because others legitimize and reinforce their confusion: *“And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;²⁹ being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers,³⁰ backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,³¹ undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful;³² who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.”⁴* Such was the case in 1992 when Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy penned one of the most destructive sentences ever written: “At the heart of liberty is the right to define one’s own concept of existence, of meaning, of the universe and of the mystery of human life.” That view validates human autonomy—the right to define one’s own existence apart from natural or spiritual law. It is this “liberty” that has brought so many into bondage. Ideas have consequences. Even so-called Christian denominations are adding to the confusion by endorsing the lifestyles of the LGBT community.

What is the Christian’s responsibility in gender identity conflict? First, Christians must realize that times are changing. Those who grew up when biological gender was assumed and biblical norms were embraced, are now repulsed by what they see. The reality is that today’s children are not growing up in that world, and they will not have the same instincts.

Christians must realize this is a spiritual conflict. There is no neutrality in this spiritual conflict. The stakes are for the future of human sexuality and its impact on civilization. Sinners are bound by sin and blinded by deception. Deceived people do not know that they are deceived or else they would not be deceived. The power of deception is that people think what they believe is the truth. Christians must pray that the eyes of the lost be opened and that they be convicted of their sin so that they will repent and believe. People will only experience a lifestyle change once they experience a heart change.

Adding to the confusion is the problem of Christian compromise in immoral behavior. Christians have lost their moral voice in matters of gender and sexuality because of their own involvement in fornication, adultery, incest, pornography, and other forms of sexual deviancy. The Church has lost its moral voice by failing to uphold God’s standard through preaching and the exercise of church discipline of sinning members. Christians must regain their moral voice by repenting of their own compromise and involvement with sexual sin. The Church must regain its moral voice by upholding God’s standard in both preaching and practice.

³ Romans 1:18–27 (NKJV)

⁴ Romans 1:28–32 (NKJV)

Christians must become pro-active in equipping this generation with a Biblical worldview. Only then will our children be able to avoid the gender confusion in our culture and have the clarity to become salt and light. They need to be equipped with the Biblical and biological answers to bring clarity to those experiencing gender confusion.

How do we equip the next generation of Christians? First, we must return to the absolute authority of the Word of God. If we falter here, then we will falter everywhere. We must be convinced that the Word of God is the final authority on every issue. We must diligently search out the Scripture for the answers God has given to us and then diligently teach and practice them in our homes and churches.

Second, we must teach and restore the fear of the Lord. People must be warned to flee the wrath to come on Judgment Day. There is no sin that will not be judged. There is nothing hidden that God does not see and will not judge. Our children must understand that the LORD—rather than society, teachers, politicians, preachers, or peers—is the Judge before whom they all will stand and give account. A healthy fear of the Lord causes a person to depart from evil. When people are not taught the fear the Lord, they naturally yield to the pressure to conform to the culture around them.

Third, we must replace our low view of God with a high view of God. Christians have become too comfortable addressing God as “Daddy”, “Poppa”, and “Buddy”, and have lost their respect for Him as Almighty God. God’s presence is both immanent among us and transcendent above us. He is not only God with us on earth, but He is also God over us in heaven. Although we can enjoy a relationship with God as our Father, we must never fail to consider that He is also Creator, Almighty, Sovereign, and Judge. In a vision the prophet Isaiah saw this transcendent God high and lifted up causing Isaiah to fall down and declare that he was “undone”. We must restore a high view of God’s holy transcendence.

Fourth, we must understand that the love of God negates neither the holiness of God nor the righteousness and justice of God. The world has adopted the view that since God loves everyone, He never condemns anyone and that He would never send anyone to hell. Therefore they reason that the greatest demonstration of love is tolerance. However, this view is not Biblical. God’s love is not tolerant of sin. Sin destroys and separates from Him those He loves. Apart from receiving God’s plan of salvation, everyone is going to hell because of their sin. No one will escape condemnation because of their own goodness. Men will be judged by God’s standards and God’s standards have not changed. Consider the Bible’s sober warning: *“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, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”⁵* Although God has not changed His mind about sin, God has provided an answer for sin to satisfy His justice so that His loving forgiveness can be extended to those who will repent and believe in the Gospel.

Fifth, we must teach the Biblical reality of human depravity. Depravity means that sin and the fall has touched and defiled every area of the human being—spirit, soul (mind, will, emotion), and body. The theory of evolution ignores human depravity affirming that mankind is intrinsically good and moral and will always choose what is good and right when given a chance. The Bible however teaches that without the restraint of law and the deterrence of consequences, fallen human beings will digress to greater depths of sin and evil. The greater the rebellion against God, the greater the depravity and its consequences.

Sixth, we must continue to preach the Gospel. People must understand their sinfulness before a holy God and their need for a Savior. People must hear a clear and genuine presentation of the Gospel proclaiming forgiveness and salvation through repentance of sin and faith in the Person of Jesus Christ and His Work on the Cross.

God loves those trapped in gender confusion. Jesus died for the LGBT person. Their soul matters to God. Christ came to save, deliver, and restore sinners, regardless of their sin, from the deception and distortion caused by sin. There is hope for those who will repent and believe the Gospel. Christians must be salt and light. They must show God’s love. They must be a voice for truth. They must speak with clarity. They must uphold the biblical definition of gender, educate the next generation, and reach the current generation.

⁵ 1 Corinthians 6:9–11 (NKJV)