

Navigating Gender and Identity Faithfully

A. Cultural Belief about Gender, Sex, and Identity

A. Sexual Revolution and Activism

B. Queer Theory and Gender Theory

C. Gender Dysphoria

D. Transgenderism

E. Affirmative Therapy

F. Social Contagion

G. What are the Facts?

H. Suicide and Depression

B. A Biblical Understanding of Gender, Sex, and Identity

A. God made us Gendered Beings as Male and Female (Gen. 1:27)

B. Sin has made us aware of our nakedness (Gen. 2:25; 3:7)

C. Sin has created Gender conflict (Gen. 3:8-16)

D. Cultural Expressions of Gender are Affirmed and Assumed

- Deuteronomy 22:5
- Judges 2:16-17, Is. 1:21, 57:3; Jer. 2:2, 2:20, 3:1, 3:8-11; 31:31-32; Hosea 1-2, et. al.

E. The New Testament Continues to Affirm Binary Gender, Heterosexuality, and cultural expression of the same

- Matthew 19:4ff
- Titus 2; 1 Tim. 2-3; Col. 3:18ff; Eph. 5; et. al.
- 1 Cor. 11:14

C. Biblical Principles for Responding Faithfully

1. Love God by Conforming to the Truth About Gender and Identity (Romans 12:2)
2. Love Your Neighbor (1 Cor. 13:6)
3. Speak Truth to Your Neighbor (Eph. 4:25)
4. Be Wise and Compassionate (Mt. 10:6)
5. See the Person and the Truth (2 Tim. 2:24-26)
6. Be Prepared to Suffer As a Christian (1 Peter 4:16)
7. Make Plans for Worst Case Scenarios (Luke 16:8)
8. Pray for Ourselves and Others (1 Tim. 2:1-2)

Queer and Gender Theory Glossary¹

Gender Theory - theory that gender is independent of biological sex; as such incongruities of biology and “identity” can exist; these incongruities are not mental disorders, but true “gender-identities” on a spectrum of gender

Queer Theory - Queer theory and politics necessarily celebrate transgression in the form of visible difference from norms. These 'Norms' are then exposed to be norms, not natures or inevitabilities. Gender and sexual identities are seen, in much of this work, to be demonstrably defiant definitions and configurations.²

Queer - formerly a derogatory term used to describe LGBT individuals, but since has been reclaimed by LGBT people to describe those who don't identify with traditional categories around gender identity and sexual orientation

Sex - 1. the biological category of male or female 2. Sexual activity

Cisgender - a person whose biological sex corresponds to their gender-identity feelings; or a non-transgendered person

Gender - kind or set (used traditionally as a synonym to 'sex' [see above], but in Gender-theory used to describe 'identity')

Gender identity - each person's deeply felt internal and individual experience of gender, which may or may not correspond to the sex assigned (i.e. biological) at birth³

Gender Dysphoria - marked incongruence (distress) between one's experienced/expressed gender and assigned (i.e. biological) gender for at least 6 month's duration

Sexual Orientation - A person's physical, romantic, and/or emotional attraction towards other people. Sexual orientation is distinct from gender identity. Sexual orientation comprises three elements: sexual attraction, sexual behavior and sexual identity.

Transgender - An umbrella term describing individuals whose gender identity does not align in a traditional sense with their biological gender;

Transgender man - a term used to described someone who is a biological woman who presents/lives as a man

Transgender woman - a term used to describe someone who is a biological man who presents/lives as a woman

¹ Taken from various places including <https://www.alignplatform.org/gender-norms-lgbtqi-issues-and-development#main-body>; <https://www.psychiatry.org/patients-families/gender-dysphoria/what-is-gender-dysphoria>; and *Gender Ideology* by Sharon James.

² Wikipedia, accessed September 28, 2021

³ The Yogyakarta Principles as cited by Sharon Jones, p. 38.

Non-binary - a term used by some who wishes to be characterized by neither male nor female

Gender Expression - the way a person outwardly presents his/her gender through cultural norms such as dress, speech, etc...

Heteronormativity - the belief that heterosexuality is normal; the belief that heterosexual marriage is foundational to society

Heterosexism - Affirmation of heterosexuality as a social norm or the highest form of sexual orientation⁴ [used pejoratively]

Transphobic - intolerance (i.e. non-acceptance) of gender “diversity”

Homophobic - intolerance (i.e. non-acceptance) of homosexuality

Gender Affirming Therapy - is a therapeutic stance that focuses on affirming a patient’s gender identity and does not try to “repair” it.

Conversion Therapy - broadly defined as any attempt to change a person’s sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression [a derogatory term for non-affirmative counsel whether by a person, a pastor, counselor, or therapist]; sometimes called “reparative therapy”

Recommended Resources

Books

Gender Ideology by Sharon Jones

Love Thy Body by Nancy Percy

The Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert by Rosaria Butterfield

The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self by Carl R Trueman

Podcasts

Interview with Ryan Anderson: <https://albertmohler.com/2018/06/04/ryan-anderson>

Interview with Abigail Shrier: <https://www.jordanbpeterson.com/podcast/s4-e11-abigail-shrier/>

Videos

The Heritage Foundation Panel Discussion (2019) <https://www.heritage.org/gender/event/the-medical-harms-hormonal-and-surgical-interventions-gender-dysphoric-children>

Ask Pastor John on Pronouns: www.youtube.com/watch?v=v2_8rNEcGho

Websites

<https://acpeds.org>

<https://sexchangeregret.com>

⁴ Sharon Jones, *Gender Ideology*, p. 21.