



Gender Identity

Who makes the call (and how)?

Introduction

1. Identify what each letter stands for in the following, ever-growing list of acronyms.

LGB =

LGBT =

LGBTQ =

LGBTQIA =

LGBTQIAPK =

2. Each one of the issues represented is somewhat independent and unrelated. What message is sent by continuing to group more and more of these sex and gender issues together?

How Does the Medical Community Define the Issue?

Match the following terms with their commonly accepted definitions within the medical community.

1. _____ Sex
 2. _____ Gender Identity
 3. _____ Transgender
 4. _____ Cisgender
 5. _____ Transsexual
 6. _____ Cross-Dresser
 7. _____ Intersex
- a. Someone who occasionally wears the clothing of the opposite sex but does not wish to permanently change his or her sex.
 - b. Someone whose sex and gender identity match.
 - c. An individual whose sex at birth is unclear, possessing anatomical traits of both sexes.
 - d. The biological classification of male or female, determined primarily by chromosomes and reproductive organs.
 - e. Someone whose sex and gender identity do not match.
 - f. A transgender person who seeks to make his or her sex and gender identity match through medical intervention, such as hormonal treatment and surgery.
 - g. One's identification as male or female (or something else), determined by personal perception and cultural expectations.
8. In 2013, the 5th edition of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (DSM-5) reclassified gender identity *disorder* as gender *dysphoria*. *Dysphoria* is defined as “an emotional state marked by anxiety, depression, and restlessness.” In other words, the problem, as the medical community defines it, is not an individual's identification with the gender opposite their sex *per se*. The problem is the emotional and functional challenges that accompany this identification. What implications does this change in designation have?

What Does the Bible Say About the Issue?

Genesis 1:26-28

1. Those supportive of the transgender movement talk about a person's assigned gender (the designation of a gender of male or female at birth). According to Scripture, God is the one who assigns us our gender. He made them male and female. With what characteristics does Scripture identify a person's gender?

Just as in a perfect world people would always have physical attractions to the opposite gender, so also in a perfect world people's gender identity would always match their sex. However, just as in a fallen world people have physical attractions to the same gender, so also in a fallen world people of a particular sex identify with the opposite gender.

Just as in the discussion about sexual orientation, the origins and causes of such attractions can be debated (nature vs. nurture, "I was born this way" vs. "This is a choice"), so also in the discussion about gender identity the same can be done. However, rather than dismissing or minimizing this challenging issue with which a person is struggling, we will seek to help him or her deal with it in a God-pleasing way.

Psalm 139:14; 1 Corinthians 6:19,20

2. Put in your own words what we can say about our bodies, even after the fall.
3. As a result of the Father's creation, the Son's redemption, and the Spirit's sanctification, what does Paul encourage us to do with our bodies?

Jeremiah 17:9

4. Our bodies certainly bear the marks of the fall. However, as it pertains to our gender, the evidence offered by our bodies (chromosomes, hormones, reproductive organs) is, in most cases, clear. In contrast, describe what we know about the thoughts and desires of our inner being since the fall. [L T L]
[SEP SEP]

Romans 6:12-14

5. When our inner being desires what is contrary to God's will, summarize Paul's instructions to us regarding what we are to do with our bodies. [L T L]
[SEP SEP]

Philippians 3:7-11

6. In contrast to the world, which tells us to be true to our desires, live how we want to live, and strive to eliminate all pain from our lives, God urges us to take up our crosses, whatever they may be. Name some blessings he promises as we do so. [L T L]
[SEP SEP]
7. Instead of hoping to attain the complete absence of any discomfort or unease of mind and spirit during this life, what is the ultimate goal a Christian hopes to attain? List ways this will impact someone who struggles with gender identity.

BONUS MATERIAL

1. In response to people who identify with the gender opposite their sex, Christians will sometimes say, "God doesn't make mistakes." Evaluate this response.^{[1][1][1]}_{{SEP}{SEP}}
2. Imagine your eight-year-old son tells you that he wants to be a girl. How would you respond?^{[1][1][1]}_{{SEP}{SEP}}
3. Imagine a 25-year-old friend tells you that he wants to transition to a woman. How would you respond?^{[1][1][1]}_{{SEP}{SEP}}
4. Aside from biological traits, what defines maleness or femaleness? Are there traits or behaviors traditionally associated with one gender that we could acknowledge would be fine for the other gender to have or take part in? What traits or behaviors, if any, would be off-limits?^{[1][1][1]}_{{SEP}{SEP}}
5. Studies show that far more males are identifying with and transitioning to females than vice versa. Can you offer any explanations for why this might be the case?^{[1][1][1]}_{{SEP}{SEP}}