

HARD QUESTIONS

TRANSGENDER IDEOLOGY

JUNE 21, 2023

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There is a moral revolution that is marching through culture and society's institutions. How are we as believers in Jesus Christ to respond? How are we to prepare our children for the "new world order" in which they will live? You may think you are immune, but you would be mistaken. Every area of life is being impacted by the moral revolution. Sports, business, career, shopping, leisure, entertainment, and even church are being influenced by the topic we will be discussing today.

The moral revolution is in all reality...

- A worldview
- An attack on truth
- A distortion of reality
- A spiritual war
- A doctrine of demons

What is a worldview?

"A worldview comprises one's collection of presuppositions, convictions and values from which a person tries to understand and make sense out of the world and life." [1]

A worldview is the framework from which we view reality and make sense of life and the world. "[It's] any ideology, philosophy, theology, movement or religion that provides an overarching approach to understanding God, the world and man's relations to God and the world," says David Noebel, author of Understanding the Times. (Biblical Worldview Institute)

"A worldview is "a pattern of ideas, beliefs, convictions, and habits that help us make sense of God, the world, and our relationship to God and the world." (Dr. Jeff Myers)

David Closson has said, "secular culture is not the only challenger of Christian sexual ethics. Increasingly, theologically liberal churches and denominations are raising objections to the church's historic teaching on marriage. These denominations insist that the Bible allows for a wide range of interpretations. As a result, Christians, and especially pastors, face mounting pressure to compromise or at least downplay the Bible's teaching on human sexuality." (Biblical Principles for Human Sexuality, David Closson, page 2)

[1] <https://answersingenesis.org/presuppositions/whats-your-worldview/>

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UNDERSTANDING TRANSGENDER IDEOLOGY:

“Transgenderism has exploded across the world in the past decade, particularly in the West. The Williams Institute at the UCLA Law School reports that the number of young people identifying as transgender has doubled in just the last few years and that one out of five people who identify as transgender are thirteen to seventeen years of age. The number of minors in America receiving a diagnosis of gender dysphoria tripled from 2017 to 2021, with more than forty-two thousand receiving the diagnosis in 2021. On the popular social media platform TikTok, #trans has logged 50.2 billion views as of this writing, having nearly doubled within the last year.” (Exposing the Gender Lie, by Jeff Myers and Brandon Showalter, p 7)

A. Definitions

- **Queer theory** (noun) - an approach to literary and cultural study that rejects traditional categories of gender and sexuality ^[2]
- **Queer theology** is a theological method that has developed out of the philosophical approach of queer theory, built upon scholars such as Marcella Althaus-Reid, Michel Foucault, Gayle Rubin, Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, and Judith Butler. Queer theology begins with the assumption that gender variance and queer desire have always been present in human history, including faith traditions and their sacred texts such as the Jewish Scriptures and the Bible. It was at one time separated into two separate theologies; gay theology and lesbian theology. Later, the two would merge and expand to become the more inclusive term of queer theology. ^[3]
- **Gender identity** - according to the American Psychological Association, gender identity refers to a person's internal sense of being male, female, or something else. (www.apa.org).
- **Ideology** (noun) - a systematic body of concepts especially about human life or culture. ^[4]
- **Transgender** (adjective) A term used to refer to individuals who identify or express a gender identity that does not match their biological sex.
- **Gender dysphoria** (noun) - A mismatch between the gender that matched one's biological sex and the gender one feels oneself to be.
- **Intersex** - the condition (such as that occurring in congenital adrenal hyperplasia or androgen insensitivity syndrome) of either having both male and female gonadal tissue in one individual or of having the gonads of one sex and external genitalia that is of the other sex or is ambiguous.

Fausto-Sterling's suggestion that the prevalence of intersex might be as high as 1.7% has attracted wide attention in both the scholarly press and the popular media. Many reviewers are not aware that this figure includes conditions which most clinicians do not recognize as intersex, such as Klinefelter syndrome, Turner syndrome, and late-onset adrenal hyperplasia. If the term intersex is to retain any meaning, the term should be restricted to those conditions in which chromosomal sex is inconsistent with phenotypic sex, or in which the phenotype is not classifiable as either male or female. Applying this more precise definition, the true prevalence of intersex is seen to be about 0.018%, almost 100 times lower than Fausto-Sterling's estimate of 1.7%. ^[5]

- **Non-binary** (Adjective) - not binary: relating to or being a person who identifies with or expresses a gender identity that is neither entirely male nor entirely female. ^[6]
- **Sex** - Refers to one's biological makeup and composition (XX or XY chromosome).
- **Cisgender** - A term used to refer to people who have a match between their biological sex and their personal gender identity.

[2] <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/queer%20theory>

[3] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queer_theology

[4] <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/ideology>

[5] <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/12476264/>

[6] <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/nonbinary>

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B. Description

“What the transgender movement wants is to control and those they cannot control, they want to marginalize”.
Al Mohler

A BIBLICAL RESPONSE:

A. Start with a Biblical worldview (Romans 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5)

Everyone has a worldview! Former president of Union University, David Dockery wrote an article entitled “Shaping a Christian Worldview”:

Immersed in our environment, we have failed to take seriously the ramifications of a secular worldview. Sociologist and social watchdog Daniel Yankelovich defines culture as an effort to provide a coherent set of answers to the existential situations that confront human beings in the passage of their lives. A genuine cultural shift is one that makes a decisive break with the shared meaning of the past. The break particularly affects those meanings that relate to the deepest questions of the purpose and nature of human life. ^[7]

As Christians, we should live with a Biblical worldview, but we also should not be surprised when others do not hold to such a view. In a post Christian culture, many believers in the United States are struggling with a culture that has rapidly dismissed any semblance of biblical values or morality. Yet, we should not be shocked or discouraged. We have been warned in scripture:

(2 Timothy 3:1–5; 1 Timothy 4:1; Matthew 24:10–12)

“We believe that the biblical worldview gives us a reliable fixed point of reference. Some see this as absurd, but nevertheless, we propose that a biblical view of gender and sexuality brings clarity. It shows how biology and human purpose come together. It shows us how to break free from the cycle of harm caused by sexual brokenness.” (Exposing the Gender Lie, p. 51)

“A Biblical Worldview is an overarching view of the world based on God’s revealed truth, the Bible, which directs our life in this world. A biblical worldview shapes our beliefs about God, Creation, Humanity, Moral Order, and Purpose:

God – To whom or what do I ultimately answer?

Creation – What comprises reality?

Humanity – Who am I, and how did I get here?

Moral Order – How do I determine right and wrong?

Purpose – Is there a reason and purpose for my existence?” (Biblical Worldview Institute)

B. Follow a Biblically faithful understanding of gender and sexuality (Genesis 1:26-28)

Changing one’s sex/gender is impossible. No amount of chemical or surgical intervention can change a person’s sex. The XX chromosomes remain XX, and the XY chromosomes remain XY.

At the core of the Bible’s message is that we humans have both bodies and souls and that our bodies and souls interact with one another in a nuanced and beautiful way. Among the implications of a biblical worldview are the following:

[7] <https://www.uu.edu/centers/faculty/teaching/article.cfm?ID=364>

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- Humans are made in the image of God. We have each been given a conscience, mind, soul, and the power to create and relate in our domain of influence.
- “Male” and “female” name basic physical and spiritual categories created by God. Our gender is not a “position on the dial” we choose. Masculinity and femininity are present in our genetic makeup and in our souls.
- When we depart from God’s design, our understanding of gender and sexuality is warped in a way that breaks down individuals and societies.
- Within the created order, humans display great diversity. This diversity is good and should not be repressed or ignored. We must live out our maleness or femaleness with wisdom based on aspects of gender found in Scripture, not based on cultural stereotypes.
- Scripture gives wise guidance about how God’s categories of male and female give us confidence in the beauty and practical living-out of our design as image-bearers of God. (Exposing the Gender Lie, p. 53)

C. Apply a Biblical understanding of creation/fall/redemption (the history of redemption, the gospel)

- Man
- Sin
- Demons (Mark 5:1-20)

Co-dependency, emotional disorders, alcoholism, drug addiction and sexual perversion, reflect a growing trend in our society. As we evaluate the problems that the demoniac in Mark 5 faced, we come to realize that his basic problem was demonic influence and control.

Whenever a person is demonically influenced and controlled...

- » they are driven to desolation
- » they are driven to destruction
- » they are driven to defilement

- Judgment (Romans 1:28-32)

“The Christian sex ethic was understood by the apostles to be a nonnegotiable part of orthodoxy, one of the core beliefs of Christianity. What Christians taught and practiced about sexuality was as much a necessary implication of the gospel and the resurrection as were care for the poor and the equality of the races. This makes it impossible to argue, as many try to do, that what the Bible says about caring for the poor is right, but what the Bible says about sex is outmoded and should be discarded.” Tim Keller

PAUL STATED THAT THOSE WHO REFUSE TO GLORIFY GOD AS GOD, DESCEND INTO THE DEPTHS OF DISOBEDIENCE AND EXPERIENCE GOD’S JUDGMENT. GOD EVENTUALLY WILL TURN THEM OVER TO A DEPRAVED MIND.

When you refuse to glorify God as God, there is a chain reaction which takes place: (Romans 1)

- » You start thinking you know everything
- » You start taking the natural instinct God gave us to worship him and worship other things
- » You start rationalizing sin
- » You start loving something unnatural for you to love
- » God gives you over to a depraved mind!

“Grace is never amazing until we know the wrath of God. Before we can understand the good news of salvation, we must first know the bad news of condemnation. Before we can appreciate the grace of God, there must be an awareness of our guilt before Him. This is the strategic importance of this opening section in Romans 1:18-3:20 that pronounces the judgment of God upon the human race. In this lesson from Romans

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1:28-32, we will have reinforced the truth that it is the judgment of God upon man's sin that makes the message of justification by faith so wonderful. Here is the black velvet backdrop that makes the diamond of God's grace shine all the more brightly." [8]

- The Gospel (1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 15:1-4)

A PASTORAL/PERSONAL RESPONSE:

► To the person struggling with their gender identity

You are loved and Jesus Christ is your hope. We care deeply about your struggles and want to be of help to you. Please call our office and ask for an appointment to see one of our pastors, or to connect with our biblical counseling ministry. Be assured the conversation will be kept confidential.

► To the person struggling with friends/family

- Pray.
- Demonstrate grace and truth.
- Do not compromise Biblical truth.
- Study how Jesus interacted with people who were far from God.
- Accept the possibility that some relationships cannot be maintained or salvaged.

► To the person trying to remain faithful to Christ when facing the moral revolution and culture wars at work, in school, and in the community

- Pray.
- Demonstrate grace and truth.
- Do not compromise Biblical truth.
- Be courageous.
- Be a voice.
- Seek to be a person of influence, be involved.
- Accept the possibility that faithfulness to Jesus and His Word can be costly.

Kevin DeYoung shares:

If we are to celebrate that the Lord Jesus is a glorious friend of sinners—and we should—we must pay careful attention to the ways in which Jesus actually was a friend to sinners. I count five main passages in the gospels where Jesus is chastised for getting too close to sinners.

1. **Matthew 9:9-13; Mark 2:13-17; Luke 5:27-32** – This is the story of Jesus calling Matthew the tax collector to be His disciple. We find Jesus reclining at table with many tax collectors and sinners, “for there were many who followed Him” (Mark 2:15). When the scribes and Pharisees grumble about the company He keeps, Jesus tells them that He has “not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance” (Luke 5:32).
2. **Matthew 11:16-19; Luke 7:31-35** – Here Jesus rebukes the “people of this generation” because they rejected John the Baptist for being too tight and reject the Son of Man for being too loose. It’s from this incident that we

[8] <https://onepassion.org/2017-11-29-death-of-a-society-romans-128-32/>

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get the phrase “friend of sinners.” We should note that it was an insult heaped upon Jesus by His enemies. This doesn’t mean Christ didn’t own it and we shouldn’t sing it, but it suggests He may not have owned it in every way. If Jesus was not a “glutton and drunkard” as His opponents thought, so He may not have been “a friend of tax collectors and sinners” in exactly the way they imagined either.

3. **Luke 7:36-50** – Right on the heels of this story comes another one like it in Luke. A sinful woman anoints Jesus with expensive ointment and wipes Jesus’ feet with her tears and the hair of her head. When Jesus is corrected for letting this “sinner” touch Him, He reminds Simon that those who are forgiven much love much. In the end, Jesus forgives the woman her sin and announces “Your faith has saved you; go in peace” (Luke 7:50).
4. **Luke 15:1-2** – The setting for the parables of the lost sheep, lost coin, and lost son of Luke 15 is found in the first two verses of that chapter. As the tax collectors and sinners “were all drawing near” to Jesus, the Pharisees and scribes grumbled that Jesus was receiving them to eat with them. The three parables that follow demonstrate how God seeks out the lost (15:3, 8, 20) and how pleased God is when sinners repent (15:7, 10, 21-24).
5. **Luke 19:1-10** – Again, the Jewish leaders grumble because Jesus “has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner” (Luke 19:7). Though Zacchaeus repents and is a changed man (19:8), the Jews simply cannot accept that the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost (19:10) and that this notorious tax collector has been saved (19:9).

So what lessons can we draw from these episodes? In what way was Jesus a friend of sinners? Did He have a grand strategy for reaching tax collectors? Did He indiscriminately “hang out” with drunks and prostitutes? Was He an easy going live-and-let-live kind of Messiah? What we see from the composite of these passages is that sinners were drawn to Jesus, that Jesus gladly spent time with sinners who were open to His teaching, that Jesus forgave repentant sinners, and that Jesus embraced sinners who believed in Him.

Jesus was a friend of sinners not because He winked at sin, ignored sin, or enjoyed light-hearted revelry with those engaged in immorality. Jesus was a friend of sinners in that He came to save sinners and was very pleased to welcome sinners who were open to the gospel, sorry for their sins, and on their way to putting their faith in Him. ^[9]

[9] <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/kevin-deyoung/jesus-friend-of-sinners-but-how/>