

POP-UP: Ministering with Truth and Grace to Transgender People

Door Creek Church | 10/17/2024



Setting the Stage for the Conversation

Authority. We all have one. Here is ours:

- Matthew 5:17-19; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 1 Timothy 3:15

Approach. We all have one. Here is ours:

- John 1:14-17; 2 Timothy 2:24-26

The Current Situation: Where we've been and where we are.

Where we have been

- Biological sex equals gender
- There are two genders: male and female
- Gender is determined by biological sex
- We seek to align our psychology with our biology
- The body and the person (soul/spirit) are an integrated whole

Where we are

- Biological sex does not equal gender
- There are many genders, and the variations are increasing
- Gender is determined by feelings, desires and choices.
- We seek to align our biology with our psychology
- The body is separated from the person (soul/spirit) and can be changed and manipulated to align with personhood

How the Bible speaks to Transgender and Gender Dysphoria.

Anthropology: Genesis 1:26-31; 2:21-23; Matt. 19:3-6; Galatians 3; Ephesians 5; 1 Corinthians 15
BINARY, COMPLEMENTARY, INTEGRATED (EMBODIED)

Morality: Deut. 22:5; 1 Corinthians 6:9; 1 Corinthians 11

Authority: 1 Corinthians 6:15-20; Romans 12:1-2

Human development: Proverbs 22:15 Two minds: Romans 7

What the Church is saying

Lots of statements, books, articles:

- The Bible does not support changing one's gender.
- The Bible teaches us to love unconditionally and actively transgender people, and to walk pastorally in faithful friendship with those experiencing gender dysphoria.
- "We do *not* believe that a person's biological sex should be separated from their self-perception as a man or a woman nor that the body should be altered when it does not conform to that self-perception, *but* we do believe that some people experience a distressing struggle between these two and that we must treat those who struggle in this way with love and compassion as we seek to help them, with the truth and power of the gospel, toward the wholeness of a biologically-sexed identity grounded in God's "very good" design in creation as male and female."
- [EFCA Denials and Affirmations](#)

What Science is saying: Psychology

The DSM 4: Gender identity disorder

- Address primarily through Psychology and Counseling
- "Watchful Waiting" in pre-adults

The DSM 5: Gender dysphoria

- Address primarily through affirmation and medical intervention
- "Gender Affirming" in pre-adults

What Science is saying: Biology

It is impossible to truly change one's biological sex.

- A man cannot become a woman and a woman cannot become a man. Every cell of our body is stamped by God as male (XY) or female (XX).

It is possible to change one's sexual appearance and to some degree experience

- Hormones and surgeries.

What Science is saying: Medical Interventions

Practices:

- Pre-adults: Puberty blockers and Hormones, and increasingly surgeries.
- Adults: Hormones and surgeries

Perils

- Pre-adults: puberty blockers and hormones alter the God given biological path that leads to the resolution of gender dysphoria in 70-90 percent of those who experience it. This is why watchful waiting was the standard of care in previous generations, and still should be. Surgeries can be both irreversible and biologically and psychologically damaging/limiting.
- Adults: Surgeries can be both irreversible and biologically and psychologically damaging/limiting.

Loving Transgender People and those with Gender Dysphoria

- "If you have met one transgender person you have met one transgender person, do not stereotype."
- Preston Sprinkle, Embodied
- "At its heart, this debate isn't about a debate. It's about people: precious people made in the image of God who are hurting, who are confused, who are angry, who are scared, and who may have been told by their family that they are not welcome. What would Jesus do? He would listen to us, and He would love us, and when He disagreed with us, it would always and only be out of compassion, never oppression. There is no hurting person He would mock or shun or insult or sneer at." Andrew Walker, God and the transgender debate
 - Never forget the transgender person you are talking to is made in the image of God and loved by God.
 - Listen, Understand, Learn, Empathize
 - Friendship, Names, Pronouns

Transgender in the Family

Parenting Practices in a gender fluid world

- Do everything you can to maintain the relationship Walker: 137-141
- Keep reading and learning.
- Talk early and often about their male and femaleness.

- Teach the spectrum of male female roles.
- Engage with your schools.

Transgender in the School

The Issues: What's happening???

- Education, Notification, Consent, Support (You and/or your child). Policy? Practice?

Transgender in the Church

What's our goal?

- Grace and Truth. Truth and Grace.

Questions to answer:

- Names/pronouns; Groups; Retreats/trips; Bathrooms; Serving

Resources

- "God and the transgender debate" by Andrew Walker
- "Embodied" by Preston Sprinkle