



# Tough Stuff

HOW TO NAVIGATE FAITH & CULTURE



**MESSAGE:** Gender Confusion

**SPEAKER:** Paul Basden | **DATE:** February 23 & 24, 2019

**Bottom line:** All people are created in God's image, and as male or female, yet we must show kindness to all who struggle to accept their birth gender

**Name the confusion**

**Seek to understand this phenomenon**

**Three key terms:**

**Transgender** – refers to someone whose sense of gender identity does not match their birth sex

**Gender dysphoria** – deep discomfort with the gap between one's biological sex and one's psychological/emotional experience of gender

**Transitioning** – adopting a cross-gender identity

**Two clarifications:**

**Transgender** refers to gender identification, not LGB people in LGBT+

**Transgender** has nothing to do with transvestites, who are men who identify as men, but gain pleasure from dressing at times like women

**Causes of gender dysphoria and transgender identity**

**Biology**

Affects 5 of every 10,000 babies

**Brain chemistry**

**Affects 3 of every 10,000 babies**

**8 out of 10,000 newborns may be transgender**

**Yet CDC reported in January 2019 that 200 out of 10,000 teenagers claim to be transgender**

**Cultural values**

**“My happiness is primary”**

**“My feelings define truth”**

**“My romantic and sexual relationships are everything to me”**

**“I don’t belong to anyone else but myself. Happiness is defined by me. My sexuality is defined by me.” (Keke Palmer)**

**Explore the Bible**

**How to approach the Bible on tough topics**

**God’s Big Story**

**Creation**

*So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. (Genesis 1:27, NIV)*

*For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. (Psalm 139:13-14, NIV)*

**Fall**

*When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam’s sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned. (Romans 5:12, NLT)*

*“Sin causes profound alienation—first and foremost from God. And we’re alienated from ourselves. What was meant to be whole and integrated—our mind, body, and spirit—is now deeply fractured. We don’t feel aligned in ourselves.” (Sam Allberry)*

*“The fall made everything fall.” (Rosaria Champagne Butterfield)*

**Redemption**

**God has given you a new identity**

**There are times when we all sense a gap between our real identity (what you feel about yourself) and our true identity (what God says about you)**

**Your body now belongs to God**

*Don’t you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20, NLT)*

**Re-creation**

*For when the dead rise, they will neither marry nor be given in marriage. In this respect they will be like the angels in heaven. (Matthew 22:30, NLT)*

**Equipped to respond wisely**

**Parents raising kids with gender identity questions**

**If your child breaks the news to you, ask ... “How are you experiencing the gender identity conflict?” ... then listen**

**Encourage them to go slow and delay life-altering treatments ALAP**

**Seek a Christian perspective (<http://axis.org/guides>)**

**Pray ... this is out of your control**

**Respect their request to change pronouns and their name**

**If they transition, prepare to grieve**

**Love them unconditionally, whatever they do – you're not affirming their decision ... you're affirming them as your child**

**Our church and each one of us who follows Jesus**

**These are real people who are struggling with one of life's biggest issues ... be kind to them**

**Invite them into your home for a meal ... they've been rejected too much**

**At Preston Trail, smile first, welcome them, sit with them ... you don't know what chapter of life they are in**

**Avoid all derogatory terms**

*Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them. (Ephesians 4:29, NLT)*

**If a transgendered person loves Jesus, receive them as a brother or sister in Christ**

**All who struggle with gender identity**

**God made you and treasures you**

**If you were born with gender dysphoria, you do not have less of God's image in you**

**Gender dysphoria is the result of living in a fallen world, not a personal moral choice**

**Your feelings are real, but don't let them be your god**

**Jesus can handle any feelings or doubts you have – seek him and work out your salvation with him**

**If you will turn to Jesus, he will help you carry this burden**

*Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light." (Matthew 11:28-30, NLT)*