

May 22, 2016

The Bridge Bible Fellowship

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Selected Scriptures

“Tough Questions: What Does The Bible Say About Gender?”

I. What the Bible Says About Gender

A. God created only two genders – Male and Female (Gen. 1:27)

B. The two genders are complementary (Gen. 2:18)

C. The Mosaic Law on gender distinctions (Dt. 22:5)

D. Gender distinctions at home (Eph. 5:22ff; Col. 3:18-19; 1 Pet. 3:1-7)

E. Gender distinctions in the church (1 Cor. 11; 1 Tim. 2-3; Titus 1; 1 Cor. 14)

F. Gender switching is sin (Rom. 1; 1 Cor. 6:9)

II. What Science is saying about Gender Dysphoria (the condition of feeling one's emotional and psychological identity as male or female to be opposite to one's biological sex)

B. Transsexuals are not born that way.

- The hormone wash theory is just a theory.
- The Human Genome project identified all human DNA and found no homosexual or transgender genes. (<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/homosexuality-is-not-hardwired-concludes-head-of-the-human-genome-project>)
- “Human sexuality is an objective biological binary trait,” explains the [American College of Pediatricians](#). “The American College of Pediatricians urges educators and legislators to reject all policies that condition children to accept as normal a life of chemical and surgical impersonation of the opposite sex. Facts – not ideology – determine reality.”

A. Transsexuals commit suicide at an astounding rate.

- One study claims the transsexual suicide rate is 25 times greater than the general population. (http://www.nbcnews.com/id/40279043/ns/health-health_care/)
- Another web site dedicated to the transgender lifestyle claims the transgender mortality rate is between 60 to 70 percent. (http://www.lauras-playground.com/transgender_mortality.htm)
- 31 percent of those that commit suicide are transgender. (<http://www.tglynnplace.com/suicide.htm>)

- Between 30 to 50 percent of transgender patients commit suicide either before or in the year after their sex change surgery. (Meyer, Walt (2011-06-21). Paper Genders (Kindle Locations 271-272). Make Waves Publishing. Kindle Edition.)
 - Up to 90 percent of those that undergo sex reassignment surgery cannot be found for follow up. They either commit suicide, are addicted to drugs and/or alcohol, return to their birth gender or do not want to be found. (Randi Ettner, Stan Monstrey, A. Evan Eyler, editors, Principles of transgender medicine and surgery, (The Haworth Press, 2007), Chapter 5: Surgery: general principles by Stan Monstrey, Griet De Cuypere, Randi Ettner, 96)
 - Transsexuals are not bullied into suicide. They consistently harm themselves by cutting and self-mutilation, which is a sign of an underlying psychological condition. (<http://www.tglynnspplace.com/suicide.htm>)
- C. Most transsexuals struggle with an underlying psychiatric disorder.** (Joost à Campo, M.D., Henk Nijman, Ph.D., H. Merckelbach, Ph.D., and Catharine Evers, M.Sc., “Psychiatric Comorbidity of Gender Identity Disorders: A Survey Among Dutch Psychiatrists,” Am J Psychiatry 160:1332-1336, July 2003)
- 25 percent of transsexuals are schizophrenic.
 - 75 percent of transsexuals are diagnosed with psychiatric illnesses, personality disorders or mood dissociative disorders.
 - Psychologists are prohibited by law from discouraging gender reassignment surgery even if they feel there is an underlying psychological disorder. (Heyer, Walt (2011-06-21). Paper Genders (Kindle Locations 414-415). Make Waves Publishing. Kindle Edition.)

Johns Hopkins 10-year post sex-transition surgery follow-up. (Jon K. Meyer, MD and Donna J. Reter, “Sex reassignment. Follow-up” Archives of General Psychiatry, 1979; 36(9):1010-1015)

All 50 patients were:

- Guilt-ridden homosexual men looking to become more effeminate in their homosexual relationships.
 - Older cross-dressing men eager to advance their cross-dressing fantasies to a surgical level.
- NO patients experienced better work, relational or emotional engagement after their surgery than before. Dr. Meyer, “*My personal feeling is that surgery is not a proper treatment for a psychiatric disorder, and it’s clear to me that these patients had severe psychological problems that don’t go away following surgery.*” (http://baltimorestyle.com/3347/fe_sexchange_jf07/)

D. Many are going back to their birth gender (www.sexchangeregret.com)

“I had irreversible gender reassignment surgery in 1997 absolutely convinced I was a woman in a man's body. I anticipated living happily ever after, however I had persistent difficulties and fell into deep depression. I began reading the Bible, unsatisfied with superficial proclamations of diversity, inclusiveness, and tolerance. I happened upon King David's famous repentance Psalm 51 and discovered, like David, I could be forgiven for all my sins. I also learned God chastens those whom He loves and I was being guided to seek repentance, and faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ. I knew identifying as a woman was not living in truth, and returned to my given names and birth gender without further surgery.

My victory has come by allowing the Lord in my heart, becoming God-focused instead of self-centered, and am thankful for my birth sex and many blessings, despite the consequences and challenges. God has led me to witness His truth and love, and I can testify: indeed, God's grace, mercy and truth do set one free.”

III. So what? How should the church respond to those with gender dysphoria?

A. Love

B. Listen

C. Lead to Christ

Discussion & Application:

1. According to the Human Rights Campaign, **gender** “refers to the socially constructed roles, behaviors, activities, and attributes that a given society considers appropriate for men and women. Gender varies between cultures and over time. There is broad variation in how individuals experience and express gender.” **Sex**, on the other hand, refers to “one’s biological and physical attributes— external genitalia, sex chromosomes, hormones, and internal reproductive structures that are used to assign a sex at birth (female/male/intersex). Also referred to as biological sex, anatomical sex or assigned birth sex.” [As quoted in: Mohler Jr., R. Albert (2015-10-27). We Cannot Be Silent: Speaking Truth to a Culture Redefining Sex, Marriage, and the Very Meaning of Right and Wrong (pp. 70-71). Thomas Nelson. Kindle Edition]
 - Was “gender” determined by society or by God?
 - Does society have an influence on the way we express our gender?
 - What has the American society been doing to the concepts of “masculinity” and “femininity” in recent decades? Have long established biblical definitions been supported or undermined? Give examples.
2. What do you think about people declaring that they are something other than their birth gender and then using bathrooms and locker rooms of the opposite sex? What are the potential problems with this? What is the rationale of our government for this decision? What do you think about that rationale? Is it biblical? Is it a civil rights issue?
3. Genesis 1 says that God created humans as MALE and FEMALE. How would you answer a professing believer in the Bible who says that their biological sex is male but their gender is female? Does the Bible support that conclusion regarding gender?
4. What does Dt. 22:5 say about cross-dressing? Why does God take such a strong stand on this issue? How does Romans 1:18ff impact your answer?
5. Are there differences between males and females? What are the biblical roles for men and women:
 - At home
 - In the church
6. Why might a person believe they were “born that way”? What biblical explanation would you give for why people have such strong innate desires that don’t match with what the Bible says they should desire? Why would those desires still be there even after they profess faith in Jesus Christ? (See Gen. 3-4; Mk. 7:14-23; Romans 1:18-32; 7:14-25; Gal. 5:16-21; Eph. 4:17-19; James 1:13-15)