



# God's Design and Gender Identity

## Various Scriptures

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This morning we will look at transgenderism in the light of Scripture, including three ways believers in Jesus Christ should respond.

The American Psychological Association defines **"transgender"** as: **"...an umbrella term for persons whose gender identity, gender expression, or behavior does not conform to that typically associated with the sex to which they were assigned at birth."**

Transgender behavior is addressed in God's Law in Deuteronomy 22:5.

Cultural Teaching on Human Sexuality:

Gender Identity – Self-perception

Gender Expression – How one's gender is presented to others

Attraction – Who or what the person desires

Anatomical Sex – Genitalia, chromosomes, hormones, etc.

Biblical Teaching on Human Sexuality (as it relates to identity):

1. God's design for male and female established the pattern that we are called to follow. To oppose God's design is to do that which is "contrary to nature" (Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 11:14; Psalm 24:1).
2. God created humans in His image, and He created us as a unified body and soul, putting value on both (Genesis 1:27; 1 Corinthians 6:13, 19-20).

## Three Christian Responses to Transgenderism

1. Differentiate between the agenda and the person.  
Critique the dogma of transgenderism, be apologists for God's good design, but also show compassion and speak truth to those who struggle with sinful desires.
2. Try to help people differentiate between is and ought (The "is" that people perceive as their reality and the "ought" of God's design)

A person may feel strongly about what he or she believes is their reality, but they must be helped to see that God supplies grace for living by the "ought" of His design.

3. Do not lose hope

Romans 8:18-25 reminds us that all of creation has been infected by the brokenness of sin, but God will still make the creation new and will deliver His people, even redeeming our bodies at the resurrection.

## Questions to Consider

1. Read Romans 1:26-27. How would you describe what it means by "contrary to nature" (cf. 1 Corinthians 11:14)?
2. How important are chapters 1 and 2 of Genesis for your understanding of God's design for sex and sexuality? Can you summarize what those chapters teach about how and why God made male and female?
3. What are some Bible verses that help us understand the value God places on the human body? (For example, 1 Corinthians 6:13, 19-20)
4. Do you struggle to differentiate between the social and political agenda that advocates for transgenderism and those people who struggle with confusion about gender identity? What are some practical ways to approach both?
5. How does Jeremiah 17:9 warn us about the strong and real feelings and desires that we experience? How must we test those desires and feelings?
6. Read Romans 8:18-25. What are some of the ways that you experience the brokenness of sin in your everyday life? What does it mean that our hope in Christ includes "the redemption of our bodies"?

## For Further Reading:

*God and the Transgender Debate* (2017) by Andrew T. Walker

*Affirming God's Image: Addressing the Transgender Question...* (2019) by J. Alan Branch  
*Transgenderism – The Reshaping of Reality in our Culture* (Posted 1/30/21 on Christ Covenant Church YouTube channel)

*What Does the Bible Say About Transgenderism?* blogpost by Kevin DeYoung (Posted 9/8/16 at [thegospelcoalition.org](http://thegospelcoalition.org))

