

God, Creation, and Gender

INTRODUCTION:

1. Today I want to talk about God, creation, and how they relate to gender.
2. I never thought I would need to talk about this, but times have changed, and the subject of gender has become, to my amazement, a matter of much confusion and heated debate.
3. Gender is even defined differently today than it was just 20 years ago.
 - A. Older dictionaries:
 - i. **Webster's New World College Dictionary, Fourth Edition** (copywrite in 2001):
 - a. **Gender** – the fact or condition of being a male or female human being.
 - b. **Gender-specific** – of or limited to either males or females.
 - ii. **Webster's Dictionary for Students** (copywrite 2003) **Gender** – sex
 - B. But a today www.merriam-webster.com defines gender as:
 - i. 2a – sex (as in) the feminine gender
 - ii. 2b – the behavioral, cultural, or psychological traits typically associated with one sex (adding that this definition came about in the 20th century)
 - iii. 2c – Gender identity – “a person’s internal sense of being male, female, some combination of male and female, or neither male nor female.”
 - C. So, as dictionaries reflect the current usages of word, today’s definitions of gender reflect the current confusion facing the western world.
4. To ask, “What is a man?” or “What is a woman?” is no longer easily determined in the minds of the modern world.
 - A. On one level, these seem like simple questions easily answered in high school biology class.
 - B. But on another level, these are loaded questions because, as we said, many deny that your physical sex has any necessary connection to your “gender/gender identity.”
5. I want to talk about **gender**.
 - A. To do that I want to present it in the context of today’s confusion
 - B. Then, I want to talk about God and His creation and how it relates to gender.
 - C. It is my hope in doing so to introduce the subject before presenting lessons on biblical masculinity, or what it means to be a man, and biblical femininity, or what it means to be a woman.

BODY:

I. The current confusion:

- A. Society is trying to erase the boundaries of gender.
 1. Any idea that men and women are different or wired differently is being rejected.
 2. Society is pushing the idea that gender is purely cultural and a matter of choice. Therefore, if a girl is raised to be a boy, or decides to be a boy, she is then a “he,” or a boy!
- B. Men, women, and children are encouraged to cross the boundaries.
 1. Women being encouraged to look and act like men, while men are encouraged to get in touch with their feminine side and look and act like women.
 2. Parents are refusing to **assign gender** to their children, telling them they can do so later.
 3. People having “sex change” operations, with some parents encouraging their kids to do so.
- C. To confuse matters even more we have the world claiming gender is fluid or flexible.
 1. So, today you can be girl, tomorrow a boy, or both, or neither.
 2. And, because gender is said to fluid, you can choose to like girls today, boys tomorrow, or both, or neither, or even something else!
- D. Society claims this will make everyone free to be comfortable with who they are or want to be, and all can live harmoniously with one another. But that, of course, is wrong.
 1. **People do not know who they are** and have little societal or cultural help concerning how men or women are to behave, dress, talk, etc.
 2. Instead of harmony we have frustration, anger, division, the destruction of the home, more divorce, homosexuality, and sexual abuse, as well as social awkwardness, emotional distress, and increased suicide!

- E. There are unexpected consequences for women caused by men identifying as women.
 1. Acceptance of this has, in many ways, reversed the supposed feminist gains.
 2. Men identifying as women are often allowed in the women's dressing rooms opening the door for sexual predators.
 3. Prestigious, all women colleges like Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, MA, which only admits 51% of its applicants, are now admitting men who identify as women, taking positions away from actual women.
 - a. Their statement:
 - i. "As a **women's college** that is **gender diverse**, we welcome applications from female, trans, and non-binary students."
 - ii. "Mount Holyoke remains committed to its historic mission as a **women's college**. Yet, concepts of what it means to be a woman **are not static**."
 - iii. "Just as early feminists argued that the reduction of women to their biological functions was a foundation for women's oppression, we must acknowledge that **gender identity is not reducible to the body**."
 - b. With this in mind, consider a sampling of the college's answer to the question of "who is a woman that can be admitted?":
 - i. Biologically born female; identifies as a woman
 - ii. Biologically born female; identifies as a man
 - iii. Biologically born female; identifies as other/they/ze
 - iv. Biologically born female; does not identify as either woman or man
 - v. Biologically born male; identifies as woman
 - vi. Biologically born male; identifies as other/they/ze and when "other/they" identity includes woman
 - vii. It goes on to say that if a man identifies as a man he cannot apply, though if a man who identifies as a woman is accepted, but later identifies as a man, they can stay in school because "the College supports them regardless of their sex or gender identity."
 - c. They are so deceived that their policies are completely contradictory!
 - i. For, if you are born a woman, it does not matter what you identify as, you are to be accepted into this woman's college. What you identify as changes nothing!
 - ii. Yet, if you are a man who identify as women or something that includes women, you are consider a "women," and allowed to apply!
 4. Bruce Jenner, now Caitlyn Jenner, won the "woman the year" award! So, all it takes is for a man to become a woman to be a better woman than all the rest of the real women!
 5. Men identifying as women are entering women's sports in high school and college and winning. Women's sports may soon be dominated by men! That might help the WMBA!
- F. So, it is official that ungodly PC has caused those who accept it to lose reason!

II. God, Creation, Gender and Genesis 1:

- A. Genesis 1 tells us how God formed and filled creation:
 1. In the first three days God **formed** the heavens and the earth that were created without form and were void. With God, nothing is left without form and void.
 2. In the next 3 days God **filled** the heavens with lights, the waters with fish, skies with birds, the land with creatures, with the climax being the creation of mankind.
 3. The creation of humans, or people, is what I want to ultimately focus on due to its importance to the subject of gender (Gen. 1:26-28 – "Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." ²⁷ So God created man **in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female** he created **them**. ²⁸ And God blessed **them**. And God said to **them**, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."). Gender is not void, but definite.

- B. As males and females, human are all created **in the image of God**. This means:
1. First, God did not begin with men's and women's differences, but with their equality (1:26).
 - a. Every man and woman is created in God's image, and neither sex is made more in the image of God than the other.
 - b. Both carry with them the reality that they are God's offspring (Acts 17:27-29 – "Yet he [God] is actually not far from each one of us,"²⁸ for "In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said, "For we are indeed his offspring."²⁹ Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man.").
 - c. It is my firm belief that the confusion we are seeing today would not be if people appreciated what it means to be made in God's image.
 2. Second, being made in God's image means humans are not animals.
 - a. Gen. 1:20-25 shows God creating the animals according to their kind to fill the earth. Yet, they are not made in God's image.
 - b. Thus, animals do not have personhood, do not have a soul, and are not equal to humans in value or purpose, and cannot be thought of as such!
 - c. And, humans are not animals, so actions, etc., have consequences and matter!
 3. Third, being in God's image gives us our identity.
 - a. Just as characteristics of my identity can be traced directly back to James and Faye Pitts, my parents, our true identity must be traced back to God who created us!
 - b. I cannot, therefore, be a man in the fullest sense while rejecting God's work in creation, which means rejecting what He made me to be and how His word instructs me to live.
 - c. Rejecting God is why so many are lost, empty, and angry. We are trying to find our identity in our desires, gender, or sexuality, when that is not where it is found!
 4. Fourth, being created in God's image means we have a purpose.
 - a. Just as an image represents what it is made after, our purpose in life is to represent, or draw attention to, the one whose image we are made in—God!
 - b. Life is about showing God to the world, about reflecting God in my life, which means:
 - i. Life is not about my desires, feelings, etc., but about God's will in my life.
 - ii. Accepting and glorifying God as the male or female that God made one to be.
 5. Fifth, we have a function.
 - a. We are to have dominion over the earth and fill and subdue it (Gen. 1:28 – "And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.").
 - b. To fulfill this purpose, you must have "them," or a male and a female.
 - i. For, God blessed "them" and told "them" to be fruitful and multiply.
 - ii. Thus, accepting that God has directly connected the sex we are born with to our gender is vital to fulfilling our purpose on this earth.
 - iii. For, the world cannot be filled by couples where both are born the female sex, or both the male sex, even though one "identifies as a man" in "gender" or vice-versa.
 - iv. To fill the earth with people biologically requires a male and female.
 - c. There is no other option, no third gender, to be pointed to or chosen. Male and female are the only norm we know and can observe!

III. God, Creation, Gender, and Genesis 2:

- A. As Genesis one gave the facts of the general creation, Genesis 2 gives us the specific facts of mankind's creation.
1. Though some would seek to make this account allegorical, Jesus and Paul cite and quote from Genesis 2, showing it to express universal, timeless truth about men and women.
 2. Thus, for all who seek to know what it means to be a man or woman, the teaching of Genesis 2 must be accepted and cannot be ignored!
- B. Man, and the creation of woman (Gen. 2:15, 18-24).

1. Man was created first and God put him in the garden to work and keep it (2:15).
 - a. This is what men are to do, to work and keep the earth and subdue it.
 - b. It was not good for man to be alone, so God addressed this (2:18-20).
 - i. This process began with God giving the man the authority to name the animals.
 - ii. Though Adam named them, a helper suitable for him was not found.
2. Woman was created as a “helper suitable for” the man (2:15, 21-22):
 - a. Woman was created from the man’s rib and brought to the man.
 - b. The man names her “woman” because she was taken out of man.
 - c. Thus, her name shows the connection between the man, which in Hebrew “*Ish*,” and the woman, which in Hebrew is “*Ishshah*.”
3. Man and woman (male and female):
 - a. Are to leave father and mother and be joined in marriage. These are who God has ordained to marry and no other!
 - b. Must work together to fulfill their God-given function of subduing and filling the earth.
 - i. The man cultivates the ground and keeps it.
 - ii. Yet, man needs the woman to be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth, which likely explains why he named her *Eve* or *Life* (3:20)
 - c. Need a redeemer which would come through the offspring of woman (Gen. 3:15).
 - i. Life for the woman came through God taking the man’s rib and forming woman.
 - ii. But eternal life for both man and woman came by the seed of woman, by God taking the woman and bringing forth the Messiah by the Holy Spirit!

IV. Why the confusion?

- A. Satan and sin are at the heart.
 1. Satan is always pushing the world to reject anything connected to God and his word and has somehow convinced the world to reject God creation of gender.
 2. Sinful views of men toward women that are expressed in men dominating and devaluing women in their roles in society and marriage.
 - a. Much of what was written and presented in the media for much of the 20th century concerning women’s intelligence, role in the marriage relationship, etc., was appalling!
 - b. So, what we have seen for the past 30+ years has been a direct assault by women of the world against these injustices, and sometimes *wrongly perceived* injustices.
 - i. Because God is not in the picture, they have focused on devaluing men and their roles in the home, society, etc., picturing them as buffoons that cannot be trusted.
 - ii. So, it is not surprising that any show of masculinity is viewed as “toxic,” while men who dress, talk, and act like women are lauded for their strength and character!
 3. But isn’t it strange and contradictory that while men are being devaluated, women are encouraged to look and act like men?
- B. But we must also consider the fall of mankind in relationship to the current confusion (Gen. 3).
 1. Adam and Eve disobeyed God and their sin, not God, brought a curse upon creation that has affected the sexes in different ways.
 2. Men who are to work the land now find challenges from weeds requiring much toil to survive (Gen. 3:17-19).
 3. Women who are to help the couple be fruitful and multiply have multiplied pain in childbirth and strife with her husband (3:16).
 - a. I believe the “desire” is not good for two reasons:
 - i. It is used in the same way that God told Cain that “sin’s desire is for you” (4:7).
 - ii. For a woman to desire her husband and him being the head of the household is not a bad thing, but how God intends it to be (Eph. 5:22-23).
 - b. Instead, the idea is rightly presented in the ESV (Gen. 3:16 – “...Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you.”).
 - c. So, the woman’s desires and the man’s rule will fall short of God’s will for them.

- i. No longer will the two work together by natural inclination as per creation, but must work deliberately on the relationship for it to be successful.
 - ii. Only in Christ can it be returned to its glorious form (Eph. 5:22-27).
4. So, the problems of gender and relationships and how they relate to life began with the entrance of sin!
 - a. So, as Christians, we should never be surprised by the brokenness and confusion in our world, especially regarding gender and sexuality.
 - b. And, as Christians we can respond to all these tragic realities with compassion and mercy, pointing all toward the Christ, who is the answer to all relationship issues (Gal. 3:28 – “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”).

CONCLUSION:

1. It is my hope that I have given you the truth and food for thought concerning what is going on around us so that we can work to be the solution to the problem.
2. This requires, of course, pointing the world to God through Jesus Christ, which we cannot do without having our own relationship with God and living faithfully in it.
3. So, will you come to Jesus?