

Discuss

At the heart of the transgender debate is a central question: If someone experiences incongruence between their biological sex and their internal sense of self, which one determines who they are - and why? To answer this question, we need both empathy and deep thinking.

- When it comes to discussing gender in today’s culture, do you (personally) need to bring more empathy or deeper thinking? Or both?

Much of the nature of our sexual identities as male and female has to do with reproduction. Biologically, we are a race of men and a race of women - this is our sex.

- What does biology teach us about our sexual identity?

Although sex used to be synonymous with gender, in today’s cultural context gender is separated from sex. The argument is that they are two different things and suggests that gender is distinct from the nature of sexuality. This has led to the idea that people should therefore feel free to choose their gender, despite their biological sex.

- How does understanding the categories of “gender roles” and “gender identity” help inform your understanding of the gender conversation in today’s culture?

While we don’t find the word “trans” in the Bible, it does speak to human sexuality and says that there *is* human sexuality and that it’s hard-wired into our creation and identity. When God created human beings, He deliberately made us a race of men and a race of women. We bear God’s image as male and female; this is our embodied nature. Any deviation from this is denounced because it violates the nature of us bearing the image of God being embodied through our biological sex.

“Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.’ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, ‘Be fruitful and increase in number.’” ([Genesis 1:26-28. NIV](#))

“A woman must not put on men’s clothing, and a man must not wear women’s clothing. Anyone who does this is detestable in the sight of the LORD your God.” ([Deuteronomy 22:5. NLT](#))

“There is a sense in which sexual sins are different from all others. In sexual sins we violate the sacredness of our own bodies, these bodies that were made for God-given and God-modeled love, for ‘becoming one’ with another. Or didn’t you realize that your body is a sacred place, the place of the Holy Spirit?” ([1 Corinthians 6:18-19. Msg](#))

- Have you ever stopped to fully consider that you are made “in the image of God”?
- How does this inform your understanding of your identity and your sexuality?

Next Steps

Reflect on what we learned about sex and gender from a biological, cultural and biblical perspective. Pray for God to inform both your head and your heart as you wrestle with this personally and with others.

April 12: [Evangelism in the Modern World Online](#)

April 20: [The Grounds Online Book Club: “Embodied”](#)

Continued Reading

Read [Genesis 1:26-28](#); [Deuteronomy 22:5](#); 1 Corinthians 6:[9-10](#), [18-19](#); [Romans 1:26-27](#).

Prayer

God, you are our creator. Thank you for creating us and loving us. Forgive us for when we fail to see ourselves or others in that light. Help us to surrender both our head and our hearts to you in all things, and specifically now with all things related to our sexuality.