

MIND CONTROL

“Controlling Confused Thoughts”

Dr. Kirk Walters, Senior Pastor | Mount Paran North | September 19, 2021

WE LIVE IN STRANGE TIMES

- Bitcoin – an unknown currency 10 years ago has risen in value from 1 cent per bitcoin to \$48,000/bitcoin as of yesterday
- Computer/Digital art known as NFT’s are selling for millions of dollars. Computer images that anyone can see and download but the original has computer code inside to show authenticity. \$2.6 billion was spent in the last 30 days on NFT’s.
- Politicians make laws/regulations for people but break those same laws personally with no accountability
- MMA fighter Alana McLoughlin was praised for her recent victory—McLoughlin is a man who identifies as a woman being praised for beating the snot out of woman. In any other setting, we would demand he be put in jail.

Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter. ²¹ Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight. Isaiah 5:20-21

There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death. Proverbs 14:12

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

Bruce Jenner was known as the all-American man.

- He won Olympic gold in the decathlon at the 1976 Montreal Olympics.
- Bruce was a married man and fathered children.
- It seemed like he had everything a man could want – an impressive athletic career, family, fame and fortune.
- But then people noticed a change in him, he was taking on a softer appearance.

- On April 24, 2015, in an interview with Diane Sawyer, he went public.

Bruce Jenner announced he was transsexual saying, "for all intents and purposes, I'm a woman...call me Caitlyn."

How did our culture respond to Bruce Jenner deciding to become Caitlyn Jenner?

- In July of that year, Vanity Fair magazine featured Jenner on their magazine cover.
- In August, Jenner won the Social Media Queen award at the Teen Choice Awards.
- In October, Glamour magazine named Jenner one of its 25 Glamour Women of the Year, calling her a "Trans Champion."
- In December 2015, Jenner was named Barbara Walters' Most Fascinating Person of 2015

Jenner said to Diane Sawyer in that April interview, "I would sit in church and always wonder, 'In God's eyes, how does he see me?'"

That indeed is a good question - it is the right question for Jenner and for us to be asking.

1. How does God see those struggling with their sexual identity?
2. What does God think about people who have a man's body, but believe they have a woman's mind, and vice versa?
3. What does God think about the questions and issues surrounding gender identity and transgenderism, and what should we think?
4. How should we, as Christians and the church, respond to these cultural and societal changes going on around us, and how do we respond to the Bruce/Caitlyn Jenner in our neighborhood?

If this was an issue that only involved individuals, personally and privately, then we might attempt to only address the topic with those individuals when they cross our paths.

1. But, unfortunately, it doesn't just impact individuals, personally and privately, it is an issue that has been thrust into the public forum and is being championed in our culture.

2. The media is filled with transgender characters and messages; including in literature, theater, TV, movies, music, and web series.

3. Many public schools are educating their students (our children) about transgenderism, and in some cases the indoctrination begins in the kindergarten, with books like "I Am Jazz."

- Story based on the life of Jazz Jennings transitioning from male to female
- TLC has made a TV series that has run for 7 seasons
- Jazz Jennings has written a children's book that is being promoted by NEA

4. "Drag Queen Story Hour" has spread to twenty-one states, targeting preschool and grade school children with homosexuality and transgenderism in public libraries, a news article reported on Aug. 23, 2018.

- Founded by Michelle Tea
- Attended children's library events and found them welcoming but was offended that they seemed to approach life with heterosexuality being normal.

5. The Associated Press made a film of a "Drag Queen Story Hour" in New York.

This is an issue that cannot be avoided and must be understood and addressed.

My main goal in this sermon is to communicate what the Bible teaches about this topic, and to suggest how we as Christians and a church should interact with the world in general and how we can help those who are wrestling with issues related to sexual and gender orientation.

In this sermon, I will try to biblically answer four questions:

- a. What is gender identity and transgenderism?
- b. What does science say about gender identity?

c. What does the Bible say about gender identity?

d. How should Christians and churches respond?

What Is Gender Identity?

Gender or Sex—biological classification of a person as male or female based on their anatomy at birth

Gender Identity—inward feeling towards their biological gender

Transgender— (street term) someone is biologically one gender with an emotional desire to be another gender

Gender Dysphoria— (medical term) dissatisfaction of one's biological gender (anatomy at birth)

A Transgendered person is not the same as a Transvestite.

- A transvestite is a person, usually a male, who finds pleasure in dressing up as a female.
- The transvestite does not wish to change genders, rather just enjoys cross-dressing.
- A transgendered person understands themselves to be different and desires to be different than their biological sex.

Transgenderism is also not sexual orientation.

- A transgendered person might identify as heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual, and so forth.

We hear a lot about LGBT, what does it stand for?

- It stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender.
- Some people add a Q to the end for queer or questioning - for people who are still discovering.

- Some add a “plus” symbol at the end to be inclusive of all identities and orientations.
- ABC News reported that Facebook now has a drop down list of 58 gender fields.
- Facebook recently introduced field No. 59, which is a fill-in-the blank gender field.

What Does Science Say About Gender Identity?

Sometimes the phrase used to describe the feeling of a transgendered person is that they are a “female trapped in a man’s body” or visa versa.

- What does science say about this phenomenon? Is it biological? Is it psychological? Both?
- The truthful answer is that science doesn’t know.
- Scientists have tested a theory called “the hormone wash theory” - it speculates that perhaps something happens during the fetal development cycle that results in gender dysphoria.
 - But to date there is no evidence of any differences in brain chemicals of those who suffer from gender dysphoria and those who don’t.
- The Human Genome Project has identified all the genes in the human DNA and they did not find any homosexual gene or transgender gene.
 - There are no genetic abnormalities between those who experience transgender desires and those who don’t.

By God’s design, biology is precise - there are only two biological sexes.

- Every male has an X and a Y chromosome, and every female has two X chromosomes.
- There are no other combinations and there is no doubt about a person’s sex.

A **survey of Dutch psychologists** revealed that **gender identity** issues are **NOT the only psychological problem** for those with **gender dysphoria**.

- For instance, 25 % of those struggling with gender identity disorder are also schizophrenic.
- 75 % of patients struggling with gender identity disorder are clinically diagnosed with a psychiatric illness, personality disorder, or mood dissociative disorder.
- Gender identity disorders are almost always a secondary problem sourced from a much deeper psychological issue.
- Tragically, child sexual abuse is often a cause of gender confusion and sexual orientation issues.
- This is the case of MMA fighter Alanna McLoughlin. Sexually abused as a child and suffering from severe PTSD after serving in combat with the Army.
- Experts say that when there is no child sexual abuse or other psychiatric issues, most children outgrow any gender confusion by puberty.

Ten years after the prestigious John Hopkins University Hospital began doing sex reassignment surgery the late 1960's, it did a patient follow up study.

- As a result of their patient follow up study, John Hopkins shut down the entire sex reassignment surgery department.
- After 10 years of practicing this surgery, they were not able to demonstrate that it helped a single transgender patient.
- Dr. Meyer, the man who led the John Hopkins sex reassignment team said this after seeing the results of the follow-up study: "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." [J.K. Meyer and D. Reter, "Sex reassignment. Follow-up" Archives of General Psychiatry, 1979; 36(9): 1010-1015]
- Dr. Paul McHugh, the university distinguished service professor of psychiatry at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, [explains](#):

“Transgendered men do not become women, nor do transgendered women become men. All (including Bruce Jenner) become feminized men or masculinized women, counterfeits or impersonators of the sex with which they ‘identify.’ In that lies their problematic future. When ‘the tumult and shouting dies,’ it proves not easy nor wise to live in a counterfeit sexual garb. The [most thorough follow-up of sex-reassigned people](#)—extending over 30 years and conducted in Sweden, where the culture is strongly supportive of the transgendered—documents their lifelong mental unrest. Ten to 15 years after surgical reassignment, the suicide rate of those who had undergone sex-reassignment surgery rose to 20 times that of comparable peers.”

Unfortunately, John Hopkins University Hospital succumbed to pressure and restarted doing gender reassignment surgery in 2017.

No evidence of biological difference for LGBTQ.

Strong evidence of psychological trauma or mental health challenges.

What Does the Bible Say About Gender Identity?

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day. Genesis 1:31

²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. ²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.” Genesis 1:27-28 NIV

¹⁸ The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him” ...²¹ So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. ²² Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. ²³ The man said, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called ‘woman,’ for she was taken out of man.” ²⁴ That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh. Genesis 2:18, 21-24 NIV

A woman must not wear men's clothing, nor a man wear women's clothing, for the Lord your God detests anyone who does this. Deuteronomy 22:5 NIV

God is clear about His Creation and how He feels about humans trying to overwrite God's authority.

What about when man's laws differ from God's Word–Bible?

Humans sometimes write laws that contradict God's moral laws:

- Abortion
- No-Fault Divorce
- Substance Abuse
- Prostitution
- Euthanasia
- Pornography
- Sex Outside of Marriage

Just Because a Government Legalizes Something Doesn't Mean It's Morally Right!

Simon Peter writing about Lot in the Old Testament says in 2 Peter 2:8, "for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard."

But we should NOT let our Loathing of Sin keep us from the Great Commission.

St. Augustine – "Love the sinner but hate the sin."

We should be **Unwavering** in our **Stand for Truth** but also **Unrelenting** in a **Pursuit** of the **Great Commission**.

How Should Christians Respond?

1. Remember That We Once Lived in Darkness and Confusion

2. Grieve

3. Stand for Righteousness but Sit with the Broken

- Take your stand for Biblical morality
- Take your stand politically for moral issues
- Be careful not to confuse the two.

¹⁰ Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" ¹¹ "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin." John 8:10-11 NIV

- Don't lose your love for the Lost in your stand for righteousness.

4. Pray for the Confused and Broken to Find Jesus