

THE TRANSGENDER CHALLENGE

Introduction

- *How did we get here and how do we help?*

A. Terminology and Definitions

- 1) *Biological sex*
- 2) *Sex and sexuality*
- 3) *Sex and gender*
- 4) *Sexuality and gender identity*
- 5) *Gender roles*
- 6) *Cisgender*
- 7) *Gender dysphoria*
- 8) *heteronormativity*
- 9) *LGBTIQA*
- 10) *Assigned sex*
- 11) *Sex reassignment surgery (SRS)*
- 12) *Two other issues*

B. The Brave New World of Gender Plasticity

- 1) *A question of identity*
- 2) *Gender diversity and gender fluidity*
- 3) *The transgender 'tipping point'*
- 4) *The shape of the future*

C. Biblical and Theological Reflections

- 1) *The binary nature of sex* (Gen. 1:26-27; Matt. 19:4; Mark 10:6)
- 2) *The link between sex and gender* (Gen. 2:18-25; Matt. 19:4-5; Mark 10:6-7)
- 3) *Sex, gender and marriage* (Gen. 1:26-28; 2:18-25; Mal. 2:15; Eph. 5:22-33)
- 4) *The destructive effects of the fall* (Matt 19:12; Deut. 23:1; Acts 8:26-40)
- 5) *The unity of body and soul* (Ps. 139:13-16; 1 Cor. 6:12-20; 15:50-55)
- 6) *The Bible's condemnation of gender bending* (Deut. 22:5; 1 Cor. 6:9; 11:3-15)
- 7) *The life-changing power of Jesus Christ* (2 Cor. 5:16; 1 Cor. 6:9-11)
- 8) *Putting sin to death by the Spirit* (Rom. 1:29; Gal. 5:26; Col. 3:5-10; 1 Pet. 2:1)
- 9) *The development of Christian character* (Rom. 8:18-30; 12:12; Phil. 4:4-7)
- 10) *The help of Christian community* (Gal. 6:1-2; 1 Thess. 5:14; Heb. 10:24-25)
- 11) *Gender in the resurrection* (1 Cor. 15:50-55; Matt 22:30)
- 12) *Conclusion: Putting it all together*

D. Towards a Pastoral Response

- 1) *Children and youth with gender incongruence*
- 2) *Our personal and professional acquaintance with these issues*
 - (i) Two goals
 - (ii) Two levels of engagement
- 3) *Pastoral principles*
 - (i) Consistently evangelical
 - (ii) Theologically integrative
 - (iii) Pastorally humble
 - (iv) Eschatologically hopeful

4) Pastoral practice

- (i) be informed about and embrace the teaching of Scripture on sex and gender;
- (ii) provide public teaching about the Bible's instruction on these matters;
- (iii) have compassion for those who experience gender incongruence, and teach and model such compassion;
- (iv) don't make insensitive or uncaring comments or jokes about gender nonconforming people;
- (v) build a ministry culture where all people are actively welcomed, knowing that Jesus bids us all to 'come as we are', even though he does not leave any of us 'as we are';
- (vi) encourage a culture of openness that would allow a person to begin a conversation with appropriate staff about their gender identity issues;
- (vii) listen carefully, and don't doubt, minimise or dismiss the person's experience;
- (viii) be concerned for the whole person, not just their gender issues;
- (ix) be patient and committed to the person long-term;
- (x) respect the person and their family's privacy and confidentiality;
- (xi) ensure facilities provide a public access uni-sex toilet;
- (xii) provide some non-gendered activities, e.g., mixed project groups;
- (xiii) don't have rigid, unbiblical gender stereotypes, especially for children;
- (xiv) encourage others to reach out with friendship and support;
- (xv) ensure that gender non-conforming children and youth are not bullied, teased, excluded, or abused; and
- (xvi) consider the pastoral care needs of those close to the gender nonconforming person, especially family.

E. Recommended Books/DVD

Ryan T Anderson, *When Harry Became Sally: Responding to the Transgender Moment* (New York: Encounter Books, 2018).

Glynn Harrison, *A Better Story: God, Sex and Human Flourishing* (London: IVP, 2017).

Nancy Pearcey, *Love Thy Body: Answering Hard Questions about Life and Sexuality* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2018).

Vaughan Roberts, *Transgender* (The Good Book Company, 2016).

Peter Sanlon, *Plastic People: How Queer Theory is Changing Us* (London: The Latimer Trust, 2010).

Andrew Walker, *God and the Transgender Debate: What Does the Bible Actually Say About Gender Identity?* (Epsom, UK: Good Book, 2017).

Tranzformed: Finding Peace with Your God-Given Gender (DVD):

<https://tranzformed.org>

Transgender – Online Links and Articles

- Robert S. Smith, “Responding to the Transgender Revolution.” *Christ On Campus Initiative* (2017): <http://www.christoncampuscci.org/responding-to-the-transgender-revolution>
- “Gender Identity.” Social Issues Committee Report (Anglican Diocese of Sydney): https://www.sds.asn.au/sites/default/files/Gender%20Identity.Report2017.FINAL.v2.pdf?doc_id=NTU2MTI
- Denny Burk, “10 Ways to Love Your Transgender Neighbour,” *ERLC* (June 12, 2014): https://d1nwfrzxhi18dp.cloudfront.net/uploads/resource_library/attachment/file/14/20140612_I_A_TenWays.pdf
- Sex Change Regret: A Site for People Who Regret Changing Genders: <http://www.sexchangeregret.com>
- Albert Mohler, “The Myth of the Genderless Baby,” *Albert Mohler* (May 24, 2011): <http://www.albertmohler.com/2011/05/24/the-myth-of-the-genderless-baby>
- Lawrence Meyer & Paul McHugh, “Gender and Sexuality; Findings from the Biological, Psychological, and Social Sciences,” *The New Atlantis* 50 (Fall 2016): http://www.thenewatlantis.com/docLib/20160819_TNA50SexualityandGender.pdf
- Robert A. J. Gagnon, “How Should Christians Respond to the Transgender Phenomenon?” *First Things* (10.16.15): <https://www.firstthings.com/web-exclusives/2015/10/how-should-christians-respond-to-the-transgender-phenomenon>
- Paul McHugh, “Transgenderism: A Pathogenic Meme,” *The Public Discourse* (June 10, 2015): <http://www.thepublicdiscourse.com/2015/06/15145>
- Paul McHugh, “Transgender Surgery Isn’t the Solution: A drastic physical change doesn't address underlying psycho-social troubles,” *The Wall Street Journal* (May 13, 2016): <https://www.wsj.com/articles/paul-mchugh-transgender-surgery-isnt-the-solution-1402615120>
- Brendan O’Neill, “A Crisis of Character: Identity Politics and the Death of the Individual,” *Spiked* (): <http://www.spiked-online.com/spiked-review/article/the-crisis-of-character/17691#.VtYiPceRAbD>
- Walt Heyer, “Bravo to the Truth: What’s Wrong with Transgender Ideology,” *The Public Discourse* (27 April 2017): <http://www.thepublicdiscourse.com/2017/04/19080>
- Walt Heyer, “Research Claiming Sex-Change Benefits Is Based on Junk Science,” *The Federalist* (April 13, 2017): <http://thefederalist.com/2017/04/13/research-claiming-sex-change-benefits-based-junk-science>
- John Whitehall, “Gender Dysphoria and Surgical Abuse.” *Quadrant Online* (15 December, 2016): <https://quadrant.org.au/magazine/2016/12/gender-dysphoria-child-surgical-abuse>
- John Whitehall, “Childhood Gender Dysphoria and the Law.” *Quadrant Online* (15 May, 2017): <https://quadrant.org.au/magazine/2017/05/childhood-gender-dysphoria-responsibility-courts>
- Joan McFadden, “Transition caused more problems than it solved,” *The Guardian* (16 September, 2017): <https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2017/sep/16/transition-caused-more-problems-than-it-solved>
- Ryan T. Anderson, “The Sex-Change Revolution Is Based on Ideology, Not Science,” *The Daily Signal* (January 22, 2018): <http://dailysignal.com/2018/01/22/the-sex-change-revolution-is-based-on-ideology-not-science>
- Nancy Pearcy, “How the Transgender Narrative Perpetuates Stereotypes,” *Christianity Today* (February 20, 2018): <https://www.christianitytoday.com/women/2018/february/how-transgender-narrative-perpetuates-stereotypes.html>
- Andre Van Mol, “Transgenderism: A State-Sponsored Religion?” *The Public Discourse* (January 24, 2018): <http://www.thepublicdiscourse.com/2018/01/20547>