

THE STRANGE NEW WORLD OF GENDER

THINKING CLEARLY: UNDERSTANDING GENDER, IDENTITY AND OUR BODIES

Part 1: Understanding Our Context: Cultural and Medical Insights

- a. Understanding the 'gender revolution'
- b. Medical insights

Part 2: The Strange New World of Gender: A Biblical Perspective

- a. In the beginning God
- b. The body matters
- c. Sex and gender
- d. Identity
- e. The pathway to salvation

LIVING WISELY: GUIDING THE NEXT GENERATION AND RESPONDING TO THE PRACTICAL CHALLENGES

PART 1: Guiding the Next Generation: Helping Any Child

- a. Positive steps
- b. Protective steps

PART 2: Guiding the Next Generation: Helping the Gender-Questioning Child

- a. Jay's Story
- b. What to do when your child says he/she is 'trans'

PART 3: Christians: Living in Society

- a. Love your neighbour, love the stranger, love your enemy
- b. Our posture toward society
- c. Models of faithfulness
- d. Preferred pronouns: a case study

**APPENDIX A:
SELECTED BIBLICAL REFERENCES**

The Strange New World of Gender: A Biblical Perspective

(NB. We won't be able to work through all of these biblical references in our seminar)

1) In the beginning God

2) The body matters

- a. The making of human beings: an embodied life
(Gen. 1-2; Ps. 139:13-16; 1 Cor. 6:19-20)
- b. The body as a 'gift' and a 'given'
- c. Salvation history and the significance of the body
(Gen. 1 – 3; John 1:14; 1 Pet. 2:24; Rom. 8:22-25; 1 Cor. 15)

3) Sex and gender

- a. 'Male and female he made them'
(Gen. 1:26-28; Gen. 2:20-24; Matt. 19:4-6)
- b. Gender expression: demonstrating the male/female distinction
(Deut. 22:5; 1 Cor. 11:2-16)
- c. What do we learn from the verses about 'eunuchs'?
(Lev. 21:16-23; 2 Kings 20:12-18; Isa. 56:1-8 (esp. 3-4); Matt. 19:11-12; Acts 8:26-40)

4) Identity

- a. Identity in creation
(Gen. 1:26-28)
- b. Identity and a fractured relationship with ourselves
(Gen. 3 – 4, esp. Gen. 3:8-13))
- c. Identity in Christ
(Gal. 2:20; Eph. 2:4-10; John 10:14-15)
- d. Identity in community
(1 John 3:1; Eph. 2:19; 1 Pet. 2:9-10)

5) The pathway to salvation

The pathway to salvation: suffering now, glory to come
(Rom. 8:18-25; 2 Cor. 4:16-18; 2 Cor. 12:7-9)

Cont'd/....

**PARENTING:
HELPING OUR CHILDREN ANSWER THE QUESTIONS BEHIND THE QUESTIONS**

Everyone has to answer the questions ‘Who am I?’ and ‘How should I live?’.
Behind these questions lie three more questions to which our culture and the Bible give radically different answers.

Who has the right to tell me what to do? (Authority)	Psalm 47:2: ‘For the Lord Most High is awesome, the great King over all the earth.’ 1 Corinthians 6:19-20: ‘You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honour God with your bodies.’
Who knows me best? Who knows what is best for me to do? (Knowledge)	Psalm 139:1 – 2, 13 – 16: ‘You have searched me, Lord, and you know me ...’ Proverbs 4: 20, 22: ‘My son, pay attention to what I say; turn your ear to my words ... for they are life to those who find them and health to one’s whole body.’
Who loves me and wants the best for me? (Trustworthiness)	Galatians 2:21: ‘... I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me’.

CHRISTIANS IN SOCIETY

‘Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, to slander no-one, to be peaceable and considerate, and to show true humility towards all men.’
(Titus 3:1 -2)

‘Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.’ (Romans 12:17 – 18)

Christians should:

- be law abiding (Rom. 13:1- 2) except where obedience to the law would result in disobedience to God (Acts 4:19)
- seek to establish a reputation for right conduct (Rom. 12:17)
- avoid unnecessary provocation (Rom. 12:18)
- not flinch from necessary provocation - speaking the truth in love (2 Cor. 4:2, 13:8; Eph. 4:15)
- decide whether to defend their own rights (Acts 16:35 - 40) or to forgo them (1 Cor. 9) as best serves the gospel
- be concerned for, and take care of, the vulnerable (Jam. 1:27)
- speak up for those who are treated unjustly (Isa. 1:17);
- seek the welfare of the city in which we are exiles (Jer. 29:7); and
- live such good lives that, though accused of wrongdoing, their good deeds may be seen (1 Pet. 2: 12, 15).

For the life of the church as a whole, Matthew 19:13-30 illustrates the principles of ‘loving welcome’ (Matt. 19:13-15), ‘costly discipleship’ (Matt. 19:16-26) and ‘new family’ (Matt. 19:29).

**APPENDIX B:
SELECTED RESOURCES**

Christian Books

Sam Allberry, *What God Has to Say about Our Bodies: How the Gospel is Good News for our Physical Selves* (Crossway, 2021)

Andrew Bunt, *Finding Your Best Identity: A short Christian introduction to identity, sexuality and gender* (IVP, 2021)

Ben Chang, *Christ and the Culture Wars: Speaking for Jesus in a World of Identity Politics* (Christian Focus Publications, 2023)

Ros Clarke, *Human: Made and remade in the image of God* (IVP, 2023)

Sharon James, *Gender Ideology: What Do Christians Need to Know?* (Christian Focus, 2019)

Rebecca McLaughlin, *The Secular Creed: Engaging Five Contemporary Claims* (The Gospel Coalition, 2021): one chapter addresses the claim that 'Transgender Women are Women'.

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

Preston Sprinkle, *Embodied: Transgender Identities, the Church & What the Bible Has to Say* (David C Cook, 2021)

Carl R. Trueman, *Strange New World: How Thinkers and Activists Redefined Identity and Sparked the Sexual Revolution* (Crossway, 2022).

Andrew T. Walker, *God and the Transgender Debate: What Does the Bible Actually Say About Gender Identity?* (The Good Book Company, 2021)

Patricia Weerakoon with Robert Smith and Kamal Weerakoon, *The Gender Revolution* (Matthias Media, 2023)

Secular Books

Helen Joyce, *Trans: When Ideology Meets Reality* (Oneworld Publications, 2021)

Abigail Shrier, *Irreversible Damage: Teenage Girls and the Transgender Craze* (Swift Press, 2021)

Kathleen Stock, *Material Girls: Why Reality Matters for Feminism* (Fleet, 2022)

Selected Online Resources

CARE (Christian Action Research and Education) (see resources at www.care.org.uk/cause/transgender)

Christian Medical Fellowship (www.cmf.org.uk): see CMF Quick Guides

Cont'd...

The Christian Institute (www.christian.org.uk): search under 'trans' etc. Resources include:

- Relationships and Sex Education: A Guide for Parents in England (& Guide Supplement)(Sept.2020)
- Critical Theory: Challenging Truth and Reality (June 2023)

Faith in Kids Podcasts (www.faithinkids.org)

- Faith in Parents #80 Navigating Gender and Sexuality
- Faith in Parents #97 The Transgender Debate and Gender identity

Living Out (www.livingout.org): Resources include 'Transgender: An Introduction for Parents and Youth': A 90-minute video presentation by Andrew Bunt (available at <https://www.livingout.org/resources/talks/4/transgender-an-introduction-for-parents-and-youth-leaders>)

Three videos from CanaVox, a US-based organisation which promotes the historic understanding of marriage on the basis of natural law, and social science arguments, through resources and reading groups (www.canavox.com). Its website contains the following three videos on 'Helping Our Children Navigate Gender Ideology' in the Elementary Years, Middle School Years and High School Years.

Secular Websites

While resources on secular websites will need to be used with discernment, there is a wealth of helpful, or potentially helpful, material available from a number of sources:

(a) General

Genspect (www.genspect.org): Genspect describes itself as 'an international, non-partisan, interdisciplinary professional and educational organisation devoted to advancing a healthy approach to sex and gender. Our team and members strive to promote high-quality, evidence-based care for gender-nonconforming individuals all around the world'.

Sex Matters (www.sex-matters.org): Sex Matters is a UK-based not-for-profit organisation which publishes research, guidance and analysis and campaigns to re-establish that biological sex matters in laws, policies, language and culture and, amongst other things, its website includes a range of resources for parents + teachers.

Transgender Trend (www.transgendertrend.com): Transgender Trend, based in the UK, describes itself as 'the leading organisation in the call for evidence-based healthcare for children and young people suffering gender dysphoria and for factual, science-based teaching in schools.'

(b) For parents of gender-questioning children:

Bayswater Support Group (www.bayswatersupport.org.uk)

(c) For clinicians

Clinical Advisory Network on Sex and Gender (www.can-sg.org)
Society for Evidence-based Gender Medicine (SEGM)(www.segm.org)