FIRST BAPTIST INSTITUTE

ANTHROPOLOGY & HAMARTIOLOGY: MAN & SIN
GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND TRANSGENDERISM | NOVEMBER 1, 2026

DEFINITIONS

Sex: The biological reality of being male or female, rooted in God's creation of the _____

Sexuality: The capacity for sexual _____, attraction, and intimacy, which God designed to be expressed according to His purposes

Gender: The personal and cultural _____ of one's God-given sex as male or female

Gender Dysphoria: Distress arising from a perceived _____ between one's biological sex and one's internal sense of gender

Transgender: Identifying or living as a gender that does ___ correspond to one's biological sex

GOD CREATED HUMANITY AS EMBODIED MALE AND FEMALE

God created humanity in His image as male and female, equal in dignity and intentionally distinct (Gen. 1:26–28; Matt. 19:4). Our bodies are meaningful parts of who God created us to be, so our sex is something we _____ from God rather than create for ourselves (Gen. 2:7, 21–23; Ps. 139:13–16).

GOD DESIGNED SEXUALITY FOR MARRIAGE BETWEEN 1 MAN AND 1 WOMAN

God created sexual intimacy as a good gift for the covenant of marriage, joining one man and one woman in a one-flesh union ordered toward companionship, intimacy, family, and His glory (Gen. 2:18–24; Matt. 19:4–6). Sexual activity _____ this covenant falls outside God's design (1 Thess. 4:3–5; Heb. 13:4).

THE FALL DISORDERS OUR BODIES, DESIRES, AND SELF-PERCEPTION

Sin affects the whole person, including our _____ and our perception of ourselves (Gen. 3:16–19; Eph. 4:17–19). An experience can be real without its interpretation being true. Because our hearts are fallen, our feelings must be brought under God's Word rather than allowed to redefine reality (Jer. 17:9; Prov. 3:5–6).

HOMOSEXUAL DESIRE AND PRACTICE CONTRADICT GOD'S DESIGN

Scripture presents same-sex sexual behavior as contrary to God's created order (Rom. 1:24–27; 1 Cor. 6:9–11). Same-sex attraction should not define a Christian's identity but, like every desire directed toward what God forbids, must be brought under Christ's _____ (Rom. 1:26–27; James 1:14–15).

Sources: Reformed Systematic Theology: Man and Christ (Beeke and Smalley); Reenchanting Humanity (Strachan); God and the Transgender Debate (Walker); What Does the Bible Teach About Transgenderism? and What Does the Bible Teach About Homosexuality? (Strachan and Peacock); Gender Ideology (James)

GENDER DYSPHORIA IS REAL SUFFERING

Gender dysphoria may involve genuine distress and should never be mocked or minimized. Yet internal perception does not possess greater authority than the sexed body God has given us. Scripture calls us to receive our bodies as part of God's created design rather than _____ ourselves contrary to them (Gen. 1:27; Ps. 139:13–16).

Intersex conditions are biological disorders within the male-female pattern and do not _____ the creation order.

OUR DEEPEST IDENTITY IS FOUND IN CHRIST

The gospel does not leave sinners _____ by their struggles. "Such were some of you," but believers are washed, sanctified, and justified in Christ (1 Cor. 6:9–11).

Christians should acknowledge real struggles without allowing those struggles to define them. Jesus calls every disciple to _____ himself, take up his cross, and follow Him (Matt. 16:24–25). Persistent struggle does not mean failed Christianity.

THE CHURCH MUST RESPOND WITH BOTH TRUTH AND COMPASSION

Every person bears God's image and must be treated with dignity and love, never mocked or dehumanized for _____ with sexuality or gender (Gen. 1:27; James 3:9–10).

Love does not require _____ what Scripture calls contrary to God's design. The church should speak the truth in love while offering patient friendship and gospel hope (1 Cor. 13:6; Eph. 4:15).

COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Should I use a transgender person's preferred pronouns?

Christians should not intentionally communicate what they believe to be _____ about a person's sex. Using the person's name can often preserve both truth and courtesy (Eph. 4:15; Rom. 12:18).

How should I respond if my child, relative, or friend identifies as transgender?

Respond with unmistakable love, listen carefully, and do not _____ the relationship. Continue to love, pray for, and speak biblical truth without affirming conclusions that contradict Scripture.

Should I attend a same-sex wedding?

Ordinarily, no. A wedding publicly _____ a marriage, and Christians should not affirm as marriage what contradicts God's design (Matt. 19:4–6). Declining the wedding should not mean rejecting the person.

Can someone with same-sex attraction or gender dysphoria be a faithful Christian?

Yes. Temptation or dysphoria does not place someone beyond Christ's grace. The Christian life is not the absence of struggle but faithful _____ to Christ in the midst of struggle (1 Cor. 6:9–11; Matt. 16:24–25).