

**GATECITY CHURCH**  
**KINGDOM OVER CULTURE, PT. 1**  
**OCTOBER 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2024 – BILLY HUMPHREY**

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**I. Introduction**

- A. For the next four weeks leading up to our elections, we are going to engage in some conversations that we recognize are very controversial, but we want to be clear and bold about our role and biblical worldview in a time of confusion and difficulty. We will be talking about gender identity, abortion, adoption, foster care, race, and how we are to intercede and engage with the Lord and the public with these issues.
- B. When it comes to social conversations, we must understand that the prevailing tide in society today is directed by the sway of this world system (1 John 5:19).
- C. Believers must not live by worldly opinions and feelings received from social rhetoric, political parties, natural culture, or personal experience.
  - 1. As believers, we must live by the culture of the Kingdom of God above every other influence in our lives.
  - 2. We are strangers and aliens. We are exiles. There isn't a Christian nation. We don't give our allegiance to any Caesar. We are owned by Jesus. We belong to God and God alone.
- D. The challenge for the Church is that we live in a very confused and compromised cultural setting. For many, the answer has been to withdraw from the culture and "be separate." For others, the answer has been to engage according to the rules that have been set by society in social discourse.
- E. Our rhetoric should be humble, and our manner and tone should be different from those who don't follow Jesus. We must be Biblically informed and engage in public discourse with civility. We should have a different spirit about us, one that causes our hearers to know that we have been with Jesus, like the disciples (Acts 4:13).
- F. I'm concerned about the propensity of believers to boldly share opinions that are clearly not filtered by the culture of the Kingdom. What if, in the course of public debate and sharing your opinion, you find that your opinion is in opposition to the King of the Kingdom?  
**Matthew 6:23** – "... If the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!"
- G. I want us to be delivered from angst and fear surrounding the key issues of the day and unashamedly committed to Jesus and His Kingdom.

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**II. The Knowledge of God is our Starting Point**

- A. In any conversation on Christian worldview, our first concern is always to understand who God is. From our understanding of Him we then derive our understanding of truth, identity, and worldview.
- B. God is the initiator of all things, and everything has ultimate meaning when it is firstly understood as He expresses it. Simply stated, what anything is and means is known because of who God is and what God says about it.
- C. When we understand and experience our lives through the knowledge of God, we experience the greatest amount of peace, joy, pleasure, and satisfaction. The further our perception of things gets from the knowledge of Him, the more anxiety, fear, pain, and emptiness we experience.
- D. If we derive our understanding of anything without firstly understanding it through the lens of who God is, our understanding of that thing will be twisted.
  - 1. For example, if we want to come into clarity regarding our own personal identity, then we must look at God as the author and initiator of all things. We must also consider who He is and what He's like so that we can see who we are, since we are made in His image and likeness.
  - 2. Our self-understanding and identity must begin with the knowledge of God. If it begins with our desires or our experiences first, our self-understanding will be skewed by our own experiences and longings without being anchored to who God is and what He says about us.
- E. This is applicable to all things, truth, identity, culture, worldview - every area of life. This is particularly true about human gender.

**John 10:10** – “The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”

**III. Biblical Perspective**

**Genesis 1:27** – “So God created mankind (human race) in His own image, in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them.”

- A. First, we are created (made) by God. We are God's handiwork, His own unique design. The reason He made us is firstly for Himself (Isaiah 43:21). We are an expression of His glory (Genesis 1:27). We are fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:14).

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- B. Secondly, we are man (mankind or human). Mankind is slightly lower than the angels (Psalm 8:5) because they are immortal, and we are mortal. But in the resurrection, we will experience glorification and ultimately immortality (1 Corinthians 15:53-54). We are made to have dominion over all the works of God's hands (Genesis 1:26-28). The future for humanity is shocking, as we will be eternally joined with the uncreated God. Our station and function in His eternal Kingdom are equally incredible: we will rule with Him and even judge the fallen angels (1 Corinthians 6:3).
- C. Finally, we are designed in two unique genders within humanity, male and female (Genesis 1:26-28). Male and female are equal in value, dignity, honor, and worth. There are differences between the male and female frame, but these differences are intentional to reflect God's glory.

**IV. The Massive Gender Drift**

- A. We are living in a sexually confusing and chaotic time.
- B. If you did a historical, sociological analysis on changes in human sexuality over the last 50 years, you'd find there has never been a society that has changed in its understanding of human sexuality like the current society has. What has become normal for us in this society is nearly completely foreign to every society that has ever existed.
- C. The outcomes of these innovations have left us spiraling into an identity milieu that is hard to comprehend. What has been historically understood in every generation of every society until the current society is that human gender is a binary concept determined by an individual's biological sex, which is by the XX or XY chromosomes in an individual, as scientists discovered in 1905.
- D. Gender is now being defined as a social and cultural construct that is an expression of an individual's internal sense of self-understanding.
- E. A simple google search right now will tell you that there are an infinite number of genders and that they are not related to an individual's chromosomal makeup or birth sex.
- F. Something is terribly wrong when in 24 states, a minor who cannot legally drive, vote, or get a tattoo, can begin to take puberty blockers and gender re-assignment drugs and receive gender re-assignment surgeries, even before they have completed puberty.

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- G. 26 states have prohibitions on minors receiving these treatments before their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. Which means they can receive transition therapy and surgeries, before they can rent a car or buy a beer.

**V. Jesus and the Transgender Community**

- A. Jesus loves the transgender community. People who deal with gender dysphoria are created in Jesus' image and likeness. He longs for intimacy with them and wants them to be a part of His Kingdom.
- B. This is a place of deep pain in our culture. The Church has often not expressed the compassionate heart of God towards people who are dealing with a variety of areas of brokenness. This is a deeply personal issue, although it is not simply an issue, but rather the reality that many people are dealing with right now.
- C. The statistics of mental health issues and attempted suicide among transgender people is off the charts. The national average for suicide attempts is 0.6% of the population, while over 40% of transgender people have attempted suicide.

**John 8:3-11** – “<sup>3</sup> Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery. And when they had set her in the midst, <sup>4</sup> they said to Him, ‘Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act. <sup>5</sup> Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?’ <sup>6</sup> This they said, testing Him, that they might have something of which to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with His finger, as though He did not hear. <sup>7</sup> So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, ‘He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first.’ <sup>8</sup> And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. <sup>9</sup> Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. <sup>10</sup> When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, ‘Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?’ <sup>11</sup> She said, ‘No one, Lord.’ And Jesus said to her, ‘Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.’”

- D. Jesus' message to the Pharisee is your self-righteousness is a repulsive as this woman's harlotry.
- E. Jesus' message to the harlot is: I don't judge you. Go and sin no more. This is the same message the Church is to give.

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- F. Jesus gets in the dirt with those who are struggling to help pull them out. This should be the Church's attitude toward anyone struggling with gender dysphoria.