

Series: **Aliens 3.0**
Today's Title: **"Created Male & Female"**
March 17, 2024 – *selected passages*

Objective: To help people know God's intent in creating humanity and His binary design of male and female.

Opening prayer

In our world, one of the great cultural sins is to preach what I'm preaching on today – and for the past few weeks.

It's a cultural sin to hold to the belief – and an even greater sin to proclaim the belief – that sex is binary.

To believe and proclaim there are only 2 sexes: male and female.

In early 2023, Dr. Johnson Varkey – a biology professor at St. Philip's College in San Antonio, Texas, was fired for teaching that sex is binary – determined by X and Y chromosomes.

Dr. Varkey had been teaching at the college since 2003. He claims he's been teaching the same realities about human biology for 20 years.

His teaching hasn't changed – but the culture's view on this subject has.

This cultural change is what baffles so many.

How did we get here? How did this happen?

How did we get to this 'place' where what sex you are, has for the first time in human history, become confusing?

Well... here are a few things that might help make sense of why so many people are confused on this issue.

One of the greatest mistakes that has led to the ‘crisis of identity’ in our culture – is that finding one’s identity - or to put it another way – answering the question, “*Who / What am I?*” – is now answered by **self-determination**.

Traditionally, our identity was something we received, and it was relatively stable from generation to generation.

‘*Who we are*’ was understood as determined by family of origin, nationality, biological sex, religion, and perhaps occupation. These matters were largely “givens,” arising not from feelings but from realities outside a person’s control.

But things have changed.

According to author Brian Rosner, “Today, identity is a do-it-yourself project based on self-discovery and self-expression.” (Brian Rosner, *How to Find Yourself: Why Looking Inward Is Not the Answer* (Wheaton,

IL: Crossway, 2022), 16.

This leads to a person’s feelings and sense-of-self having priority, and it rejects any external information or facts.

Like we talked about last Sunday when we discussed “**autonomous individualism**” – *the individual person is the absolute and final authority and self-determination ranks above all other opinions or truth.*

The implications of this are that a person's feelings about themselves are more authoritative than their physical body - genetic makeup – or even centuries of scientific fact.

The key is what you 'feel' you are – not 'what' you actually are.

This then leads to finding the answer to “*Who am I*” or “*What am I*” through external – not internal change.

As a result, the new way to help those with gender dysphoria is not through helping them to change their perspective and understanding.

They are told to change their appearance – their external self - by way of dress, hairstyle and make-up, hormone blockers, and top and bottom surgeries – in order to match what they *'feel'* inside.

This is how we get to the point where instead of 2 categories of sex: Male and Female –

We get all sorts of categories and labels.

Asexual – Pansexual – Heterosexual – Homosexual – Bisexual – Cisgender – Genderqueer – Nonbinary – Omnigender – Polygender – Agender – Androgyne – Bigender.

This is why the overall confusion on this topic even affects those who are elevated to the highest level of judgment and legal discernment in our country.

During her Supreme Court confirmation hearings last year, when she was asked to define the word “woman” – a very

important legal term, Ketanji Brown Jackson balked at an answer, saying *“I’m not a biologist.”*

Chase Strangio of the American Civil Liberties Union frequently claims that the binary concept of sex is a recent invention *“...exclusively for the purposes of excluding trans people from legal protections.”*

Scottish politician Maggie Chapman asserted in December 2023 that her rejection of the *“binary and immutable”* nature of sex was her motivation for pursuing *“...comprehensive gender recognition for nonbinary people in Scotland.”* (“Nonbinary” people are those who “identify” as neither male nor female.)

So, the question our culture is wrestling with is this:

Are sex categories in humans empirically real, immutable, and binary, or are they mere “social constructs” – that can be changed – **transformed** – by each person’s perception of their true self?

The question has public-policy implications related to sex-based legal protections and medicine, including whether males should be allowed in female sports, prisons and other spaces that have historically been segregated by sex for reasons of fairness and safety.

But...what does the Bible say?

The Bible is quite clear on the issue of sex / human sexuality.

From the opening chapters, God's creational intent is clear.

But...sin has degraded God's original creation.

We speak of the 'Fallen creation', which means the perfection of God's original creation is now scarred / fallen - due to sin – and there are problems we now experience in our world.

The biggest problem is our flesh – our sin nature – our desire to reject God – replace God – and to satisfy our flesh – our carnal desires.

But...

Just because I desire something doesn't mean it's OK for me to pursue it.

Just because I have a propensity for something – that doesn't mean it's OK for me to seek pleasure or satisfaction from it.

Today, I want to look at some things which will bring us Biblical clarity on human sex / sexuality – and some encouraging news in this arena.

Maleness and Femaleness were created by God. *Gen. 1&2*

A man and a woman – the binary nature of human sexuality – were created by God.

Genesis 1:26-28

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness.

So, God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth...”

The sexed nature of the man and woman were not only reflective of the imago dei – the image of God, but they were also part of His intent and functional design in creation.

“Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth...”

Adam and Eve’s biology and anatomy had a purpose.

The binary nature of man and woman was not a cultural construct, it was divine intent – divine construction!

God’s perfect design is heterosexual.

He created us to live heterosexual lives, in marriage.

This doesn’t mean that single people are somehow incomplete or not living up to God’s potential for them.

It simply means the normative standard of God’s intent is for a man and woman to become husband and wife – and for that heterosexual union to be the stabilizing force in human society and the means and institution for having and raising children.

There is dignity, worth, blessing, and purpose in our maleness and femaleness.

The two are neither identical nor interchangeable.

But when the woman, who was taken out of man, joins again with the man in sexual union, the two become one

flesh (Gen. 1:23-24). Dividing the human race into two genders, male and female - was God's idea.

A word about sex and gender.

Sex and gender used to be synonyms.

But now... generally speaking...

Sex refers to a person's biological sex.

Gender refers to a person's sense of self.

The issues we face today are centered in gender – and a person's inner sense of whether they are a man, a woman, or some other newly discovered gender category or nuance.

Some on the pro-trans / pro-LGBTQ+ side of this debate will use the occurrence of intersex people as evidence that sex / gender is not binary, but there are more than 2 categories.

What is Intersex?

There are rare cases of someone being born “intersex,” meaning a person who is born with one or more atypical features in their sexual anatomy or sex chromosomes.

The medical term for intersex conditions is “*differences or disorders of sex development*” or DSD. People with an intersex condition - with DSD - are statistically a very small percentage of the population.

The % of intersex births probably number less than 1%.

But even within the small percentage who fall into this category, 99.98% are still biologically male or female and the other .02% are anatomically both.

In other words – and this is what is important – intersex does not mean *neither* male nor female.

So, intersex is **NOT** a 3rd category of sex / gender.

These and other abnormalities or physical variations in our human bodies are the result of living in a fallen world.

The anomaly of intersex individuals does not undermine the creational design, but rather gives another example of the creation “*groaning*” and the “*not the way it’s supposed to be*” realities of a fallen world.

Likewise, the eunuchs in **Matthew 19** do not refer to sexless persons, but to men who were born: **a)** without the ability to procreate, or **b)** who were castrated, likely for a royal court.

God’s perfect creation is marred by sin. Sin has rendered it imperfect – not just with thorns and thistles, but with many other problems throughout the creation.

Humans are binary by nature and design, not by choice.

Psalm 139:13-16

“For You formed my inward parts; You knitted me together in my mother's womb.

I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are Your works; my soul knows it very well.
My frame was not hidden from You, when I was being made in
secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in Your book were
written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me,
when as yet there was none of them.”

This Psalm – and other passages in the Bible – speak of God’s involvement in our conception and fetal growth. Our conviction to the sacredness of human life – including life in the womb – is based in this and other passages.

We also see God’s sovereign and providential plan for the unborn in these verses.

The binary nature of humanity is an intentional part of God’s creative design.

We’ve already seen how our sexed bodies are part of the image of God in each of us.

But the Bible makes clear there are other reasons for our binary nature.

There are roles and responsibilities that God has intended for our lives.

Marriage and the procreation of children and the raising of those children – are part of the natural order of God’s binary creation.

Our sex is also based on the genetic level.

Specifically, the presence of a Y chromosome is what distinguishes males from females. That we are sexually dimorphic – biologically male or biologically female – is simply an established, objective, scientific fact.

Male and female are categories of biological sex.

We are, biologically, a race of men and a race of women. Biologically, there is no “*in between*” and there is no third option (or 4th, 5th, 6th option, etc.).

Our interpretations of sex and the way we view our sexed bodies may be socially constructed or personally informed, but sex itself is not socially constructed.

Our struggle with God’s perfect design.

Each and every person – at various levels – rejects God’s design and intent – and we prefer our own desires and intentions.

Following Christ means dying to ourselves (Matt. 16:24).

It means being renewed in our minds (Rom. 12:2).

It means no longer walking as we once did (Eph. 4:17-18).

Contemporary academia, political parties, and social activists may say otherwise, but the Bible clearly states the organic unity of our biological sex and gender identity.

This is why one of the purposes God gave our binary nature was reproduction (Gen. 1:28; 2:20).

It's why homosexuality - a man lying with a man as with a woman (Lev. 18:22; Rom. 1:26-27)

When we act in ways that go against or deny God's binary design, it is sin and displeasing to God.

(Lev. 18:22; Rom. 1:18-32; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; Deut. 22:5; 1 Cor. 11:14-15)

We do not have an inalienable right to do whatever we want with our physical selves. We don't have a right to redefine sex and gender – and to reject what God has created. We belong to God and should glorify Him with our bodies (1 Cor. 6:19-20).

Getting back to a Biblical view...

I want you to be encouraged.

Not blindly optimistic...but encouraged that some sanity is beginning to surface in this ideological struggle.

There is a long way to go in this battle for truth.

The number of gender clinics skyrocketed in the US— from 1 in 2007 to more than 100 in 2022...

(Chad Terhune, Robin Respaut, and Michelle Conlin, "As More Transgender Children Seek Medical Care, Families Confront Many Unknowns," Reuters, October 6, 2022, <https://www.reuters.com/investigates/>.)

But there are some bright spots to be aware of.

Colin Wright, an evolutionary biologist at Penn State, and **Emma Hilton**, a developmental biologist at the University of Manchester, wrote a *Wall Street Journal* op-ed piece, "The Dangerous Denial of Sex."

Their position can be summed up in a sentence:

“Increasingly we see a dangerous and antiscientific trend toward the outright denial of biological sex.” They write that in current cultural thinking,

“If male and female are merely arbitrary groupings, it follows that everyone, regardless of genetics or anatomy should be free to choose to identify as male or female, or to reject sex entirely in favor of a new bespoke ‘gender identity.’”

And their response to that as scientists?

“In humans, as in most animals or plants, an organism’s biological sex corresponds to one of two distinct types of reproductive anatomy.... In humans, reproductive anatomy is unambiguously male or female at birth more than 99.98% of the time.... No third type of sex cell exists in humans, and therefore there is no sex ‘spectrum’ or additional sexes beyond male and female. Sex is binary.”

From the American College of Pediatricians... (+/- 700 physicians)

1. Human sexuality is an objective biological binary trait: “XY” and “XX” are genetic markers of health – not genetic markers of a disorder. The norm for human design is to be conceived either male or female. Human sexuality is binary by design with the obvious purpose being the reproduction and flourishing of our species. This principle is self-evident. The exceedingly rare disorders of sexual differentiation (DSDs), including but not limited to testicular feminization and congenital adrenal hyperplasia, are all medically identifiable deviations from the sexual binary norm, and are rightly recognized as disorders of human design. Individuals with DSDs do not constitute a third sex.

5. According to the DSM-V, as many as 98% of gender confused boys and 88% of gender confused girls

eventually accept their biological sex after naturally passing through puberty.

(DSM-V = Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of the American Psychiatric Association)

(The American College of Pediatricians (ACPeds)—a socially conservative association of pediatricians and healthcare professionals in the United States, founded in 2002)

Several European nations have tightened restrictions for youth seeking to transition.

(Bazelon, “The Battle over Gender Therapy” – see: <https://www.texasobserver.org/emily-bazelon-transgender-healthcare-debate-new-york-times/>)

Feb. 2022 – Sweden’s National Board of Health & Welfare - *“The risks of hormonal interventions for gender dysphoric youth outweigh the potential benefits,”*

(“Summary of Key Recommendations from the Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare,” SEGM, February 27, 2022, <https://segm.org/segm-summary-sweden-prioritizes-therapy-curbs-hormones-for-gender-dysphoric-youth.>)

This past week, the National Health Service in the UK announced they have stopped prescribing puberty blockers for children and young people with gender dysphoria or gender incongruence, saying there is *“...not enough evidence to support the safety or clinical effectiveness”* of puberty-suppressing hormones.

NHS England said it made the decision, which was widely condemned by LGBTQ groups, after it *“carefully considered”* an evidence review it commissioned in 2020.

Also... one more thing...

Dr. Varkey – who was fired from St. Philip’s College in San Antonio, Texas, was rehired last month.

First Liberty Institute filed a charge of discrimination at the U.S. EEOC (Equal Employment Opportunity Commission) – and the school has now reinstated Dr. Varkey – as the parties have reached a *“favorable settlement”*.

Apply it...

How should Christians react / respond to the shift in sexual roles and ideas in our nation?

1. You are ‘salt and light’.

Jesus stated this as fact – a reality of who we are as His followers.

We must live with this understanding and remember the importance and responsibility we have been given.

2. We need to teach and live a Biblical view of human sexuality.

God created sex.

It is His idea!!

He gave us this gift to be enjoyed – in marriage – with only our spouse!

We need to cultivate Christ-honoring, loving marriages – where we love each other by serving each other – in the example of Christ.

Our marriages should create jealousy among non-believers – because we are followers of Jesus.

3. Love all people.

Love is the Christian's primary or driving ethic.

Love leads to godly morals and ethics – because love serves others – and prioritizes their good.

If morality or ethics is our primary motive – these don't lead to love, but most often to pride and judgmentalism.

Love people – those walking with Christ – and those far away from Christ.

4. Share the truth – in love.

Embody the Biblical sexual ethic God has given us.

Talk about it – when the opportunity arises.

Share the truth about human sexuality – but also focus on sharing the Gospel – a person's greatest need is not sexual health – it is **SPIRITUAL HEALTH!!!!**

1 Peter 3:15-16

“...always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.”

We must share the truth about sex and gender - lives are at stake – eternity is at stake!!

Close in prayer