

Series: **Aliens 3.0**
Today's Title: **"Gender Confusion"**
March 3, 2024 – *Selected Passages*

Objective: To help people know the truth about God's design for human sexuality.

Opening prayer

If you're new – if today is your first time with us, I'm glad you're here – ***Welcome!***

I'm in a sermon series called **"Aliens 3.0"** – which is based on what the Apostle Peter wrote in his 1st letter:

1 Peter 2:11 - NASB

"Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul."

Since we are "aliens" in this world – our true home being heaven, how are we to live – especially in light of the various beliefs and values in our ever-changing culture?

That's what this sermon series is about.

I want to begin this morning with a disclaimer.

I want everyone to know that what I'm going to say today – and over the next 2 Sundays on this topic – will be direct, and I hope clear – gracious - and Biblical.

I am not approaching this topic with any hatred toward anyone who is dealing with gender dysphoria or any sexual confusion.

Quite the opposite is true.

I want to help you.

You are made in the image of God.

God loves you – and I love you – because you and me are a lot alike – sinners – who are loved dearly by God – and He showed the depth of His love by sending His Son – to die on the cross for us – as the total and complete sacrifice for our sins.

We both have a tremendous need for God’s love, grace, forgiveness, and His truth in our life.

I don’t have any hatred toward those who are suffering, confused, and/or questioning their sexuality.

But I am outraged toward the forces and powers behind the suffering – those who are contributing to and compounding the suffering – which we are only beginning to see.

The years to come will reveal the true levels of pain and misery the medical profession and some in the educational field, and other activists have inflicted upon our children.

I want this sermon – and the next 2 sermons also on this topic – to reveal and explain God’s love – grace – forgiveness – **and His truth** in regard to sexuality and gender.

I also want to remind all of us here – especially those of us who go to church on a regular basis – and we do our best to live according to the commands of Christ each day.

All of us are broken – imperfect sinners.

None of us can cast the first stone – because if it wasn't for the grace of God in Christ – none of us could stand before the Lord!! So, we must approach today and the next 2 Sundays – with a heart of humility – and a love for others – especially those who are confused and hurting.

We are living in a time that is beyond belief – beyond reason. The old saying, '*Boys will be boys...girls will be girls.*' – is apparently no longer valid – because there is a belief in our culture that boys are not really boys – and girls are not really girls.

I first preached the “**Aliens**” series in the first part of 2019. In October & November 2021, I preached “**Aliens 2.0**”. In both of those – I preached on the LGBTQ and Transgender movement.

But since then – our culture has gone insane – and it has turned from gender and sexual confusion to outright evil and destructive intent.

I admit – I was probably a bit naïve to the larger forces behind these movements when I preached the previous 2 Aliens series.

But over the past few years – the veil has been pulled back – and we can see what the Wizard really is!

Over the past few years – those promoting and believing these lies have gone after children.

COVID lockdowns gave parents a window into the classrooms their kids were in – and what was previously hidden became visible.

And when this all became visible...it was clear something was horribly wrong.

- Drag Queen story hours at schools and public libraries...
- The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence honored at a LA Dodgers baseball game...
- Biological boys and men are allowed to play in girls' sports...
- Target selling women's bathing suits that are 'tuck-friendly'...
- Disney having a man dressed in a fairy-godmother-apprentice costume helping kids at Disneyland.
- Approved reading material in school libraries – when read by parents at school board meetings – are told to stop reading because what they're reading is inappropriate...
- Bud Light hires Dylan Mulvaney (Tick-Tock fame trans-woman) for a marketing campaign – losing billions of dollars – and they don't change course!
- When former NCAA champion swimmer Riley Gaines is canceled and assaulted when she went to speak at San

Francisco State University – and she needs bodyguards and police to escape without harm...

- When churches fly the rainbow flag and affirm sexual sin...

Something has gone wrong... very wrong.

And if you try and say something – push back – question why these things are happening, there is no discussion or conversation, just name calling and accusations.

You're a: "Bigot" – "Hateful" – "Transphobic"

"When the whole world is running towards a cliff, he who is running in the opposite direction appears to have lost his mind."

- C. S. Lewis

It appears we've lost our mind!!!

So, this is where we find ourselves.

Our culture has moved far away from God and a Christian ethic – in a very short time.

As Christians – or those interested in the teachings and message of Christ – how are we to act / think / interact?

First, what is Gender Dysphoria?

Mayo Clinic: "Gender dysphoria is the feeling of discomfort or distress that might occur in people whose gender identity differs from their sex assigned at birth or sex-related physical characteristics."

(<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/gender-dysphoria/symptoms-causes/syc-20475255>)

From the American Psychiatric Association: “The term “transgender” refers to a person whose sex assigned at birth does not align their gender identity.”

(<https://www.psychiatry.org/patients-families/gender-dysphoria/what-is-gender-dysphoria>)

“...sex assigned at birth” – false terminology that is intentional and contributes to the trans-ideology.

But these at least give us a definition of Gender Dysphoria – and what those with this illness are coping with.

Gender Dysphoria is the basis – underlying cause - for those who want to transition – to *‘become’* the gender they feel they are – instead of being their biological gender.

This is not really a debate / struggle over science.

Transgenderism is not based in science – it’s based in psychology - ideology – and in extreme individualism – and extreme relativism.

It often exists to its adherents as a religious belief.

When someone identifies as trans, they are often rejected and mistreated by family and friends.

If this has happened to you, I’m sorry you have experienced such treatment.

When there is true gender dysphoria, someone’s internal sense of self doesn’t match with their biological sex.

According to the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* of the American Psychiatric Association - in 2013, gender dysphoria, afflicted roughly 1 in 10,000 people or .01% of the population.

(DSM-5, American Psychiatric Association, 2013, p. 454. ISBN 978-0-89042-555-8)

Today, some place that number around 0.5% of the population – ½ of 1%.

But in Generation Z - due to a number of influences, we are seeing a spike in cases of gender dysphoria with young adolescent girls - as high as 15%. (<https://news.gallup.com/poll/329708/lgbt-identification-rises-latest-estimate.aspx>)

This number reveals this is not a natural increase – but something is causing this – influencing our kids when they are at an age where they are unable to truly understand and comprehend these issues.

“If you have true gender dysphoria, you didn’t choose it. You’re not culpable for your condition. Having dysphoria is not a moral issue. But while gender dysphoria is a real psychological condition that causes someone to think and feel like a different sex, it doesn’t mean that you are a different sex. Our brokenness isn’t immoral, but there are moral choices that flow from how we respond to our brokenness.”

(<https://www.churchandculture.org/blog/2021/5/6/the-transgender-issue>)

What does the Bible say?

Next week – *March 10* - we will see what the Bible says about sexual fluidity. Is our sex ‘fixed’ or ‘fluid’?

The following week – *March 17* – we will see what the Bible says about the binary nature and reality of human beings and our sexuality.

For the rest of our time today, I want us to see what the Bible says about 3 areas related to thought, God’s view of gender, and the acceptance of truth.

1. The nature of human thought and belief.

In our sinful nature, our reflex is to set God aside, and put ourselves in the position of authority.

This is why Paul, in **Romans 12**, tells us to resist the pattern of this world – don’t conform to the pattern of this world.

Romans 12:2

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

Pride keeps a person from putting God’s truth over their ideas of what is true.

The world will choose self – over God.

But when that happens, spiritual and intellectual darkness will increase.

2 Thessalonians 2:9-11

“The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false...”

When a person – and especially when a culture rejects God – rejects the truth of God, that culture “will believe what is false...”.

Colossians 2:8

“See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.”

“takes you captive” – Greek: Image of a predator with its prey.

If you reject the truth of God – the truth of the Bible – you will believe something – and the only things left are things that are false – harmful – damning.

2. God’s distinction between men and women.

The Bible condemns trying to appear as the opposite sex.

Deuteronomy 22:5

“A woman shall not wear a man's garment, nor shall a man put on a woman's cloak, for whoever does these things is an abomination to the LORD your God.”

1 Corinthians 11:14

“Does not nature itself teach you that if a man wears long hair it is a disgrace for him...”

It uses very strong language – “abomination” – because it is contrary to the created order...the God-ordained created order.

Cross-dressing / dressing in drag - is a rejection of your biological sex, which is part of the image of God embodied in each of us.

The Bible also speaks to our behavior – specifically our sexual behavior as men and women.

God created sex for a man and woman in marriage.

We are not to use sex in ways that are contrary to what God intended and commanded (Genesis 1:28).

Nature and biology give us a clear picture of how sex is to be used / experienced.

Leviticus 18:22

“You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination.”

Romans 1:22-27

“Claiming to be wise, they became fools...”

Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves...

God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing

shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.”

Homosexual behavior – cross dressing / dressing in drag – is contrary to the created order – and contrary to the intent of God and His image in men and women.

3. The **difficulty** of believing truth.

This has some overlap with the 1st point, but I want to go a little deeper with this one.

Today, our culture doesn't believe in objective truth.

However, when they say, “*There is no such thing as objective truth.*” – they are making an objective statement they believe is true!!!

But truth is not something we naturally embrace.

The reason we don't naturally embrace truth is because all truth is from God – and in our fallen state, the truth exposes us – points out what is wrong in our life / our world.

We also resist the truth – because Jesus was / is all about the truth.

Jesus came to reveal truth.

John 18:37-38a

Then Pilate said to Him (Jesus), “So you are a king?”

Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world--to bear witness to the truth.

Everyone who is of the truth listens to My voice.”

Pilate said to Him, “What is truth?”

Pilate’s sentiment is not new to our culture.

Our culture’s view of truth is nothing new!!

Let’s go back about 2,600 years – to the ministry of Isaiah – and his indictment of Israel – and their lies and denial of the truth.

Isaiah 59:12-15

“For our transgressions are multiplied before You...denying the LORD, and turning back from following our God, speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering from the heart lying words.

Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands far away; for truth has stumbled in the public squares, and uprightness cannot enter. Truth is lacking...”

Sinful humanity does not like the truth!!

Ecclesiastes 7:29

“God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes.”

You might wonder why is this the case?

Why does the world reject what is true?

Because sin has corrupted us in such deep ways.

We don’t realize how sinful and degraded – or to use a theological term: how depraved – we actually are without Christ.

Jeremiah 17:9

“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?”

If we go back to **Romans 1**, we can see the damage sin and the rejection of God and His truth has caused.

Romans 1:22-30 - NIV

“Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools...
Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts
to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one
another.

They exchanged the truth about God for a lie...

God gave them over to shameful lusts.

God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what
ought not to be done...depravity. They are full of envy, murder,
strife, deceit...slanderers, God-haters...they invent ways of doing
evil; they disobey their parents...”

Fools...

Sinful desires...

Sexual impurity...

Degrading of their bodies...

Shameful lusts...

Depraved mind...

Depravity...

Deceit...

Slanderers...

Disobey...

Without Christ. Without the truth of Christ, His love,
grace, and the Spirit of Christ – this is what we become
– in varying degrees.

Apply it...

If you have Gender Dysphoria, live for Christ.

God loves you and accepts you as a person – made in His image. But His acceptance of your personhood does not mean there is a blanket affirmation of the various ways you can respond to your orientation or dysphoria.

Look...we are all broken – every one of us.

Some more than others...but all are broken.

Each of us is broken in our sexuality.

But each of us is called to bring the truth and grace of Christ into our brokenness.

He wants to heal our brokenness and restore us to wholeness.

We're all spiritually disabled and have aspects of our life that are not as they were meant to be.

Being broken is not our fault.

But how we respond to our brokenness is our total responsibility.

We probably won't experience full restoration this side of heaven.

But the goal for each of us is to live in submission to Christ – no matter what our struggles are.

Rather than rejecting your biological sex, Jesus invites you on the journey toward living in full acceptance of it!

Live out the divine image God created in you.

Your sexed body is part of that image!

Transitioning would be moving you further away from who you are, not bringing you closer to it.

(James Emery White - <https://www.churchandculture.org/blog/2021/5/6/the-transgender-issue>)

Christian...know the truth about gender.

If you're a follower of Christ – you can't ignore this issue.

You can't put your head in the sand.

Even if your immediate family is not affected by this, your extended family is.

Your friends, neighbors, and co-workers are.

Children are being psychologically damaged and physically disabled for life through puberty blocking drugs and top and bottom surgeries.

We must know the truth – and we must share the truth!

1 Peter 3:15

“...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 respond with truth, gentleness, and respect.

We must respond with compassion and love.

No matter what, Jesus always had compassion on those who were lost.

He didn't show compassion to the religious people who were prideful and judgmental toward others.

He strongly rebuked their spiritual arrogance and pride.

Closing prayer