

God's Design

Gender

Genesis 1:26-28, 31, Matthew 19:4-6

We're in a series about God's design for Marriage, Sex, & Gender.

Three Considerations for a Me-Controlled Life:

- **Community** We have no idea how our choices will affect those around us.
- **Self-Awareness** How well do I really know myself?
- **Self-Trust** Everyone has acted on feelings in a way we later regretted.

A Greater Authority – A Perfect Creator – Our Designer

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." **Genesis 1:1**

"This world has a Creator. And what is made belongs to its maker; so the Creator has authority. What is made is best known by its maker; the Creator has knowledge. Since I am part of the creation, and alive within creation, God has the right to tell me what to do. And he has the knowledge necessary always to understand what I should do – what is best for me and the world. There is a Creator, and he is all powerful, all-knowing, and all-wise."

Andrew T. Walker (God and the Transgender Debate)

Main Idea: God's Design for Gender Is Revealed in Scripture

I. God's Design of Gender

Moses: *"Then God said, 'Let us make man (mankind) in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.' So God created man (mankind) 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 and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.'...And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day."* **Genesis 1:26-28, 31**

Jesus: *"He answered, 'Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."* **Matthew 19:4-6**

Echoing Genesis, Jesus Affirms Four Principles on Gender:

- **We Are Created People**
- **We Are Created Male and Female**
- **We Are Created Different for a Purpose:** A man is someone who is able to become one flesh – have full sexual intercourse – with a woman, and a woman is someone who is able to become one flesh with a man.
- **God's Design is Permanent:** What God does, people should not seek to undo.

"And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed." **Genesis 2:25**

"Imagine that: a world where everyone is at ease with who they are and how they are made; and feels good about how they look, rather than embarrassed or awkward or deeply disturbed about it; where people are able to completely trust those around them, so that they are able to be open with them. It's a wonderful world." **Andrew T. Walker**

II. Issues Confusing Gender in the Modern Mind

"Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths." **Genesis 3:7**

Gender Dysphoria is the mental distress an individual experiences as a result of feeling misalignment between one's biological sex and so-called 'gender identity'. **Gender dysphoria is not a sin.**

Two Unforgivable Sins of the Postmodern, Post-Christianized, Individualist World:

- **Judging:** How dare you say that what I want or who I am is wrong? Who are you?
- **Unfulfilled Desires:** You do you, live your truth, be yourself above everything.

III. Individuals Adversely Affected by the Confusion about Gender

Transgender People: You are a human being made in the image of God & you are a neighbor that every follower of Jesus is commanded to love without hesitation. While Scripture does not affirm, & followers of Jesus cannot celebrate, your choice to identify & transition to another gender, we want you to know that church is a safe place for you to hear the Gospel & process your struggles in a loving environment. You are, & will always be, welcome at Salem Church.

People Suffering with Gender Dysphoria: You are fearfully and wonderfully made by a Creator who loves you. You are experiencing the effects of the fall in a very specific way, uncomfortable in your own skin. I'm sorry you are going through this. I want you to know that everyone who follows Jesus has a cross to bear, but it looks different for each.

"And he said to all, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.'" Luke 9:23

"No man hath a velvet cross." **Samuel Rutherford (17th Century Scottish Pastor)**

People with Family, Friends & Coworkers Identifying as LGBTQ+: While holding to God's design for gender & sexuality, we must be the most compassionate & kind people that those identifying as LGBTQ+ have ever met. We embody the love & spirit of Christ toward all! Jesus loved, listened, and was kind to people EVEN when he disagreed with them.

In all things, including marriage, sexuality and gender, deviating from God's design causes brokenness. Therefore, the invitation is to return to his design through repentance and faith.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." **2 Corinthians 5:17**

Sources & Further Reading Opportunities:

- *CSB Study Bible* – Editor Trevin Wax (2017)
- *The Meaning of Marriage* – Timothy & Kathy Keller (2011)
- *God & the Transgender Debate* – Andrew T. Walker (2021)

