

**Genesis 5:1-2**  
**“We Are Created Male and Female:**  
**The Nashville Statement: Article 5”**

**Genesis 5:1 This is the book of the genealogy of Adam. In the day that God created man, He made him in the likeness of God.**

**2 He created them male and female, and blessed them and called them Mankind in the day they were created.**

In 1975 at the Pan American Games Bruce Jenner won the Gold Medal for the Decathlon, a feat he repeated a year later in 1976 at the Montreal Olympics. In 2015 he won Glamour Magazine’s Woman of the Year.

What happened between 1976 and 2015? How did the male Decathlete Bruce Jenner, who every kid raised in the 1970s remembers from the iconic Wheaties box image become the female celebrity Caitlyn Jenner who suddenly started racking up award after award and who suddenly had to be referred to with feminine pronouns by everyone lest they be labeled with a harmful epithet. In fact if you ask Siri or Alexa about Bruce Jenner, both devices will correct you and tell you it is “Caitlyn Marie Jenner.”

In Jenner’s personal case he told Diane Sawyer in 2015 after his “transition” to Caitlyn that he had always struggled with gender dysphoria since his youth. What is Gender Dysphoria?:

Well it’s defined as *a psychological condition marked by significant emotional distress and impairment in life functioning, caused by a lack of congruence between gender identity and biological sex assigned at birth.*

In other words, because he was born with male genitalia, Bruce Jenner was regarded as male, but in his mind he always felt he was female.

In the past however Gender dysphoria was consider a psychological aberration, in other words, when someone biologically male said they were female, and identified as female, and dressed as females and used female names, society said there is something psychologically wrong with that person and society said, you may think you're female, but everything biologically about you says you're male right down to the chromosomal level, therefore you are male. You are pretending to be female, but you aren't, and you need help. It wasn't really too different from someone who thinks they are a cat. Merely thinking you are a cat doesn't change your species.

But a more radical and far-reaching shift has taken place in society since 1976, now if formerly Bruce Jenner says he is in fact Caitlyn Marie Jenner, a woman, then he is, and it is the people who say he isn't and keep using the pronoun he, who are wrong and hateful and who probably need help. So when Jenner told Dianne Sawyer in 2015, "*for all intents and purposes, I'm a woman.*" Society said, "TRUTH!"

This is because at this point society has separated gender, the male/female division of the species according to roles, from sex the male female division of the species according to reproductive functions. You are, they tell us, whatever you think you are. And because of something called "gender fluidity" in which your gender shifts from time to time that can also be subject to change at will with someone being male one day and female the next.

But even in that description, I'm being anachronistic and potentially harming or triggering people who might be listening, because male and female aren't used anymore in polite society, the media or academia to describe people, because that would imply that sex is binary and consists of only two options. In fact these days someone who identifies as the gender conforming to their biological sex at birth is merely considered a cisgender male or a cisgender female. Incidentally if you are wondering where the CIS comes from, *Cisgender has its origin in the Latin-derived prefix cis-, meaning "on this side of", which*

*means the opposite of trans-, meaning "across from" or "on the other side of".* Calling people Cisgender serves to norm transgender. But even those terms are becoming outmoded as more and more genders are being “discovered by society” everyday. At present when you sign up for Facebook, for instance, you have over 71 options for gender including:

**Agender**

**Androgyne**

**Androgynes**

**Androgynous**

**Bigender**

**Cisgender Female**

**Cisgender Male**

**Cisgender Man**

**Cisgender Woman**

**Female to Male**

**Gender Fluid**

**Gender Nonconforming**

**Gender Questioning**

**Gender Variant**

**Genderqueer**

**Intersex**

And it just keeps getting more confused and confusing every day with more genders being added on an almost hourly basis and with nothing at all fixed or objective about human identity any longer. In fact now if you think you're a cat, you are a cat, so that when a Norwegian woman named Nano proclaimed that she knew at the age of 16 that she was a cat, claiming, *"I realized I was a cat when I was 16 when doctors and psychologists found out what was 'the thing' with me. Under my birth there was a genetic defect . . . I was born the wrong species."* As modern people we are supposed to be uber sensitive and

take her seriously.

But God, as 1 Cor. 14:33 tells us, is not the author of confusion. The bible, as we have seen in prior sermons, only acknowledges two genders, male and female, and that they exist because of God's intention and that not only are male and female important because only males and females together can reproduce but because we have seen, only males and females together in the marriage bond can express that one flesh union that God intended, only these two genders together are helpers suitable for one another, and only these genders together represent a full orbed idea of the image of God represented in humankind and therefore our own self-conception, that is ***“the idea or mental image one has of oneself”*** should reflect the way God created us. In fact part of becoming Christian is to end our rebellion against God and stop defining ourselves rebelliously according to our will, and begin to know ourselves as God created us.

So that as Calvin puts it in the beginning of the Institutes: ***“Our wisdom, in so far as it ought to be deemed true and solid Wisdom, consists almost entirely of two parts: the knowledge of God and of ourselves. But as these are connected together by many ties, it is not easy to determine which of the two precedes and gives birth to the other.”*** He goes on to say later, ***“On the other hand, it is evident that man never attains to a true self-knowledge until he have previously contemplated the face of God, and come down after such contemplation to look into himself.”***

So if we ask, why is there such confusion about our gender, why are we no longer defining people according to the two sexes that God created, male and female? The answer is because we have lost our knowledge of God. We no longer look to His revelation in scripture to help us to know ourselves. We have put ourselves in the place of God and fallible and fallen man the measure of all things. We no longer know ourselves as we are, but have grown content to tell ourselves fairy tales about ourselves and then insist that everyone believe

them. We have become fools and insist that our foolishness is wisdom.

But this is what Romans 1:18-25 tells us is the inevitable result of idolatry

*18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,*

*19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.*

*20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,*

*21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.*

*22 Professing to be wise, they became fools,*

*23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man -- and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.*

*24 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves,*

*25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.*

This is why the Nashville statement is right to go back to the right standard, that is the word of God, in defining sexuality and how we should conceive of our sex. Therefore the Nashville statement states, in Article 5:

***WE AFFIRM that the differences between male and female reproductive structures are integral***

***to God's design for self-conception as male or female.***

***WE DENY that physical anomalies or psychological conditions nullify the God-appointed link***

*between biological sex and self-conception as male or female*

Now one brief note, they mention physical anomalies in the denial section, and we'll discuss them at greater length in the next sermon. That would be people who are born with either male and female genitalia, what used to be called Hermaphrodites or people who are born with sexual anomalies either of the hormonal or physical types, not enough male hormones, not enough female hormones, no ovaries where would expect them or gonads where we wouldn't and so on. People in those categories, represent less than 0.05% of the population and the statement rightly points out that exceptions or the kind of more widespread but still incredibly rare dysphoria, does not nullify the God appointed link between biological sex and self-conception any more than the fact that there are some people who are born without legs should in someone cause us to stop defining humans as bipeds.

The key here is that it is beyond time for us to stop seeking our identity as our creation and accept ourselves as God created us, to see ourselves as we really are. Key to salvation is to know ourselves to be sinners incapable of saving ourselves and to turn to God for salvation, key to understanding humaninty is to know God and then know ourselves via scripture.