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The Word of God and Gender; Genesis 1:26-27

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Introduction – The transgender issue is a relatively new development in the ever growing, rapidly evolving sexual revolution. It is a logical outgrowth of homosexuality. Homosexual couples, although of the same gender, but often one individual in the couple will take on the gender role of the opposite sex. So with two females, one will usually take on a masculine role, even in appearance. With two males, one will take on a more feminine role. Which, btw, just goes to show you, that even when God's good design and purpose is distorted, remnants of it remain because that's how God designed intimate relationships, one male and one female. But you can observe with the rise of homosexuality, more individuals take on the role of the opposite gender. In some ways, this paved the way for the introduction of transgenderism. Transgender means to cross from one gender to another, to be born one gender but to realize you are meant to be another gender and so begins the pursuit to become who you think you are truly meant to be.

In order to accept and normalize transgenderism there are several hurdles that we are forced to believe. First, there is the separating of biological sex and gender. In 6000 years of human history, biological sex and gender have always meant the same thing. If someone is born a biological male, male has always been his gender identity, and the same with female. Now we're told that biological sex and gender are actually two different forms of identity. One's sex is his/her biological identity, but one's gender is simply a social construct. It's left up to the individual which gender he/she chooses to identify with.

Second, gender has been redefined. No longer tied to biology, binary gender, that is male or female, is rejected. Gender is now considered to be a spectrum of various options rather than being restricted to only two options. So now we have biological males who choose to identify as female, biological females who choose to identify as males, and non-binary individuals who choose to identify as neither male or female. With that being the case, individual pronouns tied to biological identification are to be rejected. Individuals who are on this gender spectrum prefer to be referred to as they or them, rather than he or she.

All of this results in tremendous confusion. Imagine if one of these individuals are missing and the police are asked to locate them instead of her? Imagine the medical community being required to treat patients according to their gender preference rather than their biological identity. Imagine the child being told that while he may have boy parts, it's his decision whether he would rather be a girl or not. The resulting confusion upon society is enormous. The Bible says in 1 Cor 14:33 that God is not the author of confusion. Sin distorts God good design and purpose for gender and therefore results in great confusion. The Bible offers great clarity amid such drastic confusion.

- I. The Image of God and Gender
 - a. What does being created in the image of God mean and how does that relate to gender? Both of these issues are addressed in v27. The Bible says we are created by God in His image and then it tells us that being created in the image of God, we are created male and female.
 - b. Created in the image of God means that we, apart from the rest of God's creation, are image bearers of God. We reflect something of God and His glory in our very being. But what is that? We don't have a specific verse of Scripture that says created in the image of God means this, but we do have clear indicators in Scripture that help us understand being image bearers of God.
 - c. The first indicator is in this very passage. V26 clarifies that God's image means that there is a clear distinction between man and the rest of living, breathing creation.
 - i. We are to exercise dominion over the animals. We are not animals. We didn't evolve from animals. We were created separately and distinctly from animals. God exercises dominion over all creation and we bear His image in exercising dominion over the animal kingdom.
 - ii. God works and cares for His creation. We bear His image by working and caring for His creation – 2:15.
 - iii. God thinks rational thoughts and we were created in His image with the capacity to think rational thoughts.
 - iv. God creates from nothing and we were created in His image with the capacity to imagine and develop knowledge and skill so as to take from His creation and make our own creations – paintings, buildings, essays, surgeries are all creations of man.

- v. 2:7 – created with an eternal soul.
- d. God, in His being, is the Triune God. One God, eternally existing in three persons – the Father, the Son, and the Spirit. In the being of God there is unity and diversity. V26. The Father, the Son, and the Spirit are the same in essence and power and glory. They are God. And yet there are very distinct and different in role and function. The Father is God, but He is not the Son. The Son is God, but He is not the Spirit. Part of the glory of God is His very essence – great diversity within inseparable unity.
 - i. God created us in two genders as image bearers, reflectors of Him and His glory. He created man, mankind, humanity – one species, and He did so in two genders – male and female. Inseparable Unity and yet great diversity.
 - ii. As humans, we are the same in essence and value and significance and worth. That’s why racism is sin. There is only one race – mankind.
 - iii. But to bear His image God made us different and diverse. Man and woman are the same, and yet we are very different.
- e. In fact, God created the male and female gender distinction across His creation in plant life, animal life, and human life for the purpose of procreation.
 - i. God designed plants and animals to reproduce for the enjoyment and good of mankind. That’s why if you go to Mars you won’t find a forest or a herd of buffalo.
 - ii. He designed man, male and female, to reproduce and multiply and fill the earth, so that His image would be reflected over the whole earth. That gives some indication as to why the gospel is to be proclaimed to the ends of the earth – for the glory of God shall fill the earth.
- f. Mankind was created with gender as part of bearing the image of God.

II. Gender as Created by God

- a. Note God did not create a spectrum but rather two distinct genders. Male and female He created them. Gender is not a construct, it’s a divine creation. Gender is not an individual choice; it’s a divine design. There is no blurry, fuzzy in between. There is no question as

to what is male and what is female. Gender is made by God with great clarity and distinctive, decisive, unalterable differences.

- b. Males and females are created by God to be distinctively different.
 - i. The way God has created and designed us speaks to god's purpose for us. Our bodies are different. Men are built to provide and protect. Women are built to nurture and sustain. Women were made for beauty, to be admired. Men, we were made for function, to do stuff.
 - ii. Our muscular and skeletal structures are different. Our hormones are different. Our organs are different. We even think differently. Remember the popular title, Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus?
 - iii. We are different by divine design and for wonderful divine purpose. If God created you male, He means for you to live out manhood to His glory, fulfilling His purpose, and finding your joy and good along the way. If He created you female, He means for you to live out your womanhood to His glory, fulfilling His purpose, and finding your joy and good along the way. He created you. He designed you male or female.
- c. And His design for male and female are so distinct and so clear and undeniable and unalterable that God created gender to be reflected in every single cell of the human body. In every cell of the human body, there are 23 pairs of chromosomes. One of those 23 pairs are referred to as the sex chromosome. In that pair, the female has two XX chromosomes in every cell of her body. The male has one X and one Y in that pair in every cell of his body.
- d. God designed gender to be determined not only by the reproductive organs you are born with, but by every single cell in your body.
- e. That fact of creation has massive implications and hope for the person pursuing a transgender life.
 - i. You can't undo what God has done. Don't spend another moment of your life trying to reverse or change or alter how God has made you. It can't be done. You don't choose your gender just like you don't choose the color of your eyes or the color of your skin or the date you were born or who your parents are. Some things are left totally in the realm of the divine for His glory and our good. But sin enters and distorts

and confuses and causes discontentment. Transgender is a horrible, deception. There is no such thing. You will never find completion and satisfaction in trying to be a gender separate from your biological identity.

1. I know you can change your clothes and your appearance. I know you can alter your body through hormone therapy and even radical surgery. I know you can change the way you carry yourself and the way you talk. But you'll never change every cell in your body. You'll never change the overall structure and design of your body. You will never cross from one gender to another. And no one is truly, biologically caught somewhere in between.
 2. Listen to Psalm 139:13-14. 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.
 3. God took such great care when He created you and was so intimately and intricately involved that the psalmist calls it knitting. God created you male or female, by divine design with divine purpose. He does love you. He does have the best for you.
 4. Our discontentment with who God created us to be must be met with faith in the goodness and wisdom of God. You are who you are because that's the best you that can be. God made you! Science didn't make you. Nature didn't evolve you. God made you perfectly, completely, and wonderfully.
 5. The enemy would have you waste your life attempting to be something you are not. God would have you experience abundant life by knowing Christ and living for His glory.
- ii. Another implication and hope is this: if you believe that although you were born male, you are truly female, or you were born a male trapped in a female body, what you believe then is that God made a huge mistake when He made you.
1. That's exactly what the enemy wants you to believe. That you are a mistake. That God messed you up.

Therefore He doesn't care about you, or if He does, He is powerless to help you.

2. Nothing could be further from the truth! God did not make a mistake when He made you. He crafted you, knitted you, carefully and wonderfully created you to know Him, love Him, live for Him, and enjoy who He made you to be.

III. What Happens When We Reject God's Good Design and Purpose for Gender

- a. Embracing transgenderism points to a radical discontentment with yourself, with who you are. I'm not content with being a male, so I must need to be a female. The same is true for all sin. I'm not content with what God has allotted me so I grab and cheat and steal and lie and do anything to have more.
 - i. The race to be content with self is a vain endeavor. Even the best of believers are not content. We will always desire to grow in our holiness before God. Paul the apostle cried, O wretched man that I am!
 - ii. Contentment is only found in Christ. Paul also says I have learned to be content in whatever state I am for I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.
 - iii. Chasing contentment by trying to be someone different will always be a dead end. You can never truly be anyone or anything else than God created you to be. Discontentment with who you are will never be satisfied because you will never arrive at anything other than who you are.
- b. Embracing transgenderism is to be deceived by sin, we then live a life of sin apart from God. Deut 22:5 says, "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."
 - i. God's plan for you is not to cross dress or to cross gender. That's a lie of the enemy. And that's not some outdated law relegated to the OT.
 - ii. 1 Cor 11:14-15. In other words it is wrong for a man to present himself as a woman or a woman to present herself as a man.

- iii. You can't pursue a transgender life and be right with God, and if you are not right with God, you will never know true life and joy and peace.
- c. Lastly, if you live your life apart from God, you'll enter eternity apart from God. But if you give your life to Christ today, He promises you to impart to you not only abundant life now, but eternal life and joy and bliss forevermore. Another gender just won't fix what's eating you up deep inside. But deep inside is where God does His greatest work!