

MALE & FEMALE

God, Gender, and Sexuality 4

What is gender?

Historically, gender has referred to a grammatical distinction between the two sexes.

In simple modern terminology, gender is your sense of how male or female you feel.

We can appreciate that each person is on a spectrum of stereotypical gender traits.

Important question: Who are you really?

Traditionally: If your anatomy and chromosomes say you are male, then you are male regardless of how masculine or feminine you feel.

Recently: How you feel reflects your thinking, which comes from your brain, and your brain reflects the true you. And the true you may not align with your anatomy and chromosomes.

How to think about this biblically:

God created male and female.

Genesis 1:27 So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. NIV

Genesis 5:2; Matthew 19:4, Mark 10:6

God has designed a spectrum of masculine and feminine traits when compared to the stereotypical.

1 Corinthians 12:18 But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. NIV

We should accept God's design as good and beautiful.

Psalms 139:13-14 For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. NIV

John 9:1-3 As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

³ "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him." NIV

Men should strive to act like men and women should strive to act like women.

Deuteronomy 22:5 A woman must not wear men's clothing, nor a man wear women's clothing, for the Lord your God detests anyone who does this. NIV

1 Corinthians 11:14-15 Does not the very nature of things teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a disgrace to him, ¹⁵ but that if a woman has long hair, it is her glory? For long hair is given to her as a covering. NIV

Men should only have sexual relations with their wives, and women should only have sexual relations with their husbands.

Romans 1:27 In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error. NIV

1 Corinthians 7:2 But since sexual immorality is occurring, each man should have sexual relations with his own wife, and each woman with her own husband. NIV

Trying to perfectly align your sex and gender identity is not the path to happiness.

Acts 2:28 Instead, You direct me on a path that leads to a beautiful life. As I walk with You, the pleasures are never-ending, and I know true joy and contentment. VOICE

Focus on inner change, not outer.

1 Timothy 2:9-10 I also want the women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, adorning themselves, not with elaborate hairstyles or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, ¹⁰but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God. NIV

1 Peter 3:3-4 Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. ⁴Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. NIV

If that was God's thought on hair, jewelry, and clothes, what would he think about gender reassignment?

How to treat LGBTQ people.

Lovingly

James 2:8 If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. NIV

Compassionately

Colossians 3:12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. NIV

Prayerfully

James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. NIV

Hopefully

Acts 2:40 With many other words [Peter] warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." NIV

Unashamedly

Romans 1:16a For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes NIV

John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. NIV