



BEREAN
SMALL GROUPS

FOR THE GOSPEL
ROMANS 1:16

VERBATIM: Gender

Genesis 1:26-27

Read Genesis 1:26-27 together:

Then God said, "Let us make man 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 all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in his image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Context:

We are living in a post-modern world that claims there is no absolute truth. The worldview has abandoned belief in truth, replacing truth with personal constructs of "truth." This transcendence of "personal truth" over absolute truth has permeated every segment of our society. In Sunday's sermon, we considered the truth of sex/gender and God's creative order.

Society no longer defines sex and gender as synonyms. According to society, "sex" refers to a biological distinction; this is the physical constitution of a person (the person's chromosomes). "Gender" now refers to the psychological or social identification a person feels or chooses; it is moldable rather than fixed.

Consider the big splash of Lia Thomas, the transgender U Penn swimmer once known as Will Thomas. After swimming for years as Will Thomas, Lia now identifies as a female and competes on the women's swim team.

- ? How have you seen the impact of "subjective truth" in the world in which we live (generally, not only specifically to gender)?
- ? What conflicts do you face at work, as a Christ-follower, due to the annihilation of absolute truth?
- ? What is the significance of Genesis 2:7 when God describes how he breathed life into Adam?

Content:

Think Clearly

The word "verbatim" means to quote the exact words of another. Christians must be committed to the source of truth: God's Word. Only by being grounded and rooted in God's Word can we have a comprehensive and coherent worldview that is God-honoring and true.

- ? What does God's Word say about gender and the creative order (Genesis 1:26-27)?

? How does God describe the creation of humankind for himself?

If you know a friend or loved one who is wrestling with gender identity, remember that truth is where we start; it is the truth that sets us free. As you speak with others about gender, remember that you can wield the truth as cold, hard steel (like a sword) or you can wield it like a cup of cold water for a thirsty soul!

Walk Graciously

All of fallen humanity is weak; we all have hungry hearts that are tempted and lustful. Gender dysphoria is simply one visible manifestation of the Fall. As believers, we must remember our redemption. Christ has rescued us from slavery; He has washed us from filthiness.

? Do you find it more difficult to have compassion on a person struggling with gender dysphoria or homosexuality than those struggling with other sins (addiction to alcohol, drugs, or pornography)? If so, why do you think that is?

? Read I Corinthians 6:9-11. What does God tell us through the Apostle Paul in these verses?

? Read Matthew 9:36-38. How does Jesus respond to the crowds?

Application:

Stand Confidently

It is reality that most, if not all of us, working a secular job will face the issue of “inclusivity” at work. Corporations are actively seeking to hire gay, transgender, and non-binary employees. Employees are required to address everyone by each person’s preferred pronouns.

? How should Christ-followers respond?

? What was Jesus’ last command to his disciples?

? In light of the Great Commission, what is the appropriate Christian mindset toward people who see gender as fluid or malleable?

Let us all labor at being grounded in the Word, guarding our hearts, and seeing people’s greatest need - salvation. Unbelievers are not our enemy; they are victims of the lies of *the Enemy*. More than anything else, they need to hear the gospel and the hope of Jesus.