

GENDER CONFUSION

A PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Introducing the Issues

- An urgent and controversial subject
- A need to think calmly, carefully and Christianly

1. The Brave New World of Gender Fluidity

a) Who am I?

- What do I identify as?
- Examples of radical change

b) The transgender 'tipping point'

- A new way of thinking about gender
- The separation of sex and gender

c) Transgender ideology

- The link to the homosexual revolution
- The difference between orientation and identity

d) How should Christians respond?

- Distinguishing the political and the pastoral
- Acknowledge the complex pastoral questions

2. Terminology and Definitions

a) Biological sex or birth sex

b) Gender or gender expression

c) Gender identity

d) Gender roles

e) Cisgender

f) Gender bending

g) Gender dysphoria

h) Heteronormativity

i) LGBTIQA

- L
- G
- B
- T
- I
- Q (or QQ or C)
- A

j) Assigned sex

k) Sex reassignment surgery (SRS)

l) Other language changes

3. Further Examples of Significant Social Change

a) Legal issues

- Regarding children

- Surrounding marriage

b) Children's literature

c) Entertainment

4. Biblical and Theological Reflections

a) The binary nature of sex

- Male & Female
 - Gen. 1:26-27; Matt. 19:4; Mark 10:6

b) The relationship between sex and gender

- Male = man + Female = woman
 - Gen. 2:18-25; Matt. 19:4-5; Mark 10:6-7

c) The threefold purpose of marriage

- Unitive, procreative & typological
 - Gen. 1:26-28; 2:18-25; Mal. 2:15; Eph. 5:22-33

d) The destructive effects of the fall

- The category of the eunuch
 - Matt 19:12; Deut. 23:1; Acts 8:26-40

e) The Bible's condemnation of gender bending

- The rejection of the sexually embodied self
 - Deut. 22:5; 1 Cor. 6:9; 11:3-15

f) The saving and sanctifying power of Jesus

- New birth and new identity in Christ
- Mortification and vivification
- Prayer, patience and peace
- Congregational support
 - 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Col. 3:1-15; Phil. 4:4-7; Gal 6:1-2

g) Gender in the resurrection

- Androgyny
- Monosexuality
- Asexuality
- Eternal sex/gender distinctions

h) Summing up

5. Towards a Pastoral Response

a) Our personal acquaintance with these issues

- The priority of eternal salvation
- The importance of truth and relationship
- The need for patience and long term commitment

b) Three pastoral approaches

- The diversity approach
 - Confirmation/Celebration
 - Morally positive

- The integrity approach
 - Condemnation/Correction
 - Morally negative

- The disability approach
 - Concession/Compassion
 - Morally neutral

c) A preferable approach

- Consistently evangelical
 - Submitting to Scriptural authority
 - Applying Scriptural wisdom

- Theologically integrative
 - Doctrines of creation, fall, redemption and consummation
 - Including the disability within the integrity approach

- Pastorally humble
 - Recognising shared brokenness and aetiological complexity
 - The need for pastoral patience and prayerful support

- Eschatologically hopeful
 - The now: progress and contentment
 - The not-yet: full and final resolution

6. Concluding Thoughts

- The pastoral task and the political task

If you or someone you know is feeling distressed, in need of support or would like to talk to someone, please contact:

- Lifeline: 13 11 14 – for urgent support, 24/7
- Beyond Blue: 1300 22 4636 – national 24/7 helpline

Significant Landmarks in the 'Transgender Revolution'

1952 – Christine Jorgensen, previously a soldier named George, becomes an American transsexual media sensation. *TIME* described Jorgensen, after surgery, as “a blonde with a fair leg and a fetching smile.” The ‘Jorgensen story’ effectively marks the beginning of the transgender revolution – although Jorgensen was referred to as a ‘transvestite’.

1964 – TransMan, Reed Erickson, creates the Erickson Educational Foundation in order to promote gay and transgender equality.

1966 – On February 18, the National Planning Conference of Homophile Organizations, which later in the year became NACHO (North American Conference of Homophile Organizations), was established.

– On April 21, the Mattachine Society (one of the earliest homosexual organisations) staged a ‘Sip-In’ at *Julius Bar* in New York City, challenging a New York State Liquor Authority that prohibited serving alcohol to gay people.

– Harry Benjamin publishes *The Transsexual Phenomenon*.

– The Compton Cafeteria Riots in San Francisco where trans women take a stand against discrimination and police harassment. The clash with police led to a major demonstration at the site on the following day.

1967 – On New Year’s Day, 12 plainclothes police officers raided *The Black Cat Tavern* in Los Angeles and beat and arrested a number of employees and patrons.

– A series of protests began on January 5, in response to the New Year’s Day events. These were organized by P.R.I.D.E. (Personal Rights in Defense and Education). It was this connection that led to the term ‘Pride’ becoming associated with LGBTI rights.

1968 – The International Olympic Committee tests the chromosomes of athletes, and puts a stop to transsexuals competing. Universities operate on non-intersexed transsexuals.

1969 – On June 27, the Stonewall riots took place in New York City’s Greenwich Village, when the NYPD raided the *Stonewall Bar* with the aim of arresting patrons engaged in homosexual activity. The significance of this particular raid was that, for the first time, the gays fought back, and a mini-riot took place. Transgender and other gender-nonconforming people were also among those who resisted arrest. Not surprisingly, Stonewall (as it is now called) became a symbol for LGBT pride and gay militancy in the decades ahead.

– The Daughter’s of Bilitis is founded in Melbourne.

1970 – On June 27, on the first anniversary of Stonewall, a handful of people marched through San Francisco and held a rally at City Hall. In Los Angeles a similar march down Hollywood Boulevard drew about 1,000 people. In New York about 15,000 people participated in a “Christopher Street Liberation Day” march and a ‘gay-in’ in Central Park.

– On August 24, *The New York Times* ran a front page story titled, “Homosexuals in Revolt”.

– Carl Wittman published ‘A Gay Manifesto’.

– Campaign Against Moral Persecution (CAMP) was established in Sydney.

1971 – Society Five (a homosexual rights organization) is formed in Melbourne.

1972 – Sweden becomes the first European nation to legalize gender reassignment surgery, allowing citizens to legally change their sex.

1975 – South Australia decriminalizes of homosexual acts.

1976 – ACT decriminalizes of homosexual acts.

1977 – Trans woman, Renee Richards, wins her case against the US Tennis Association, gaining the right to play professional tennis as a woman.

1978 – The first gay and lesbian 'Mardi Gras' is held in Sydney.

1980 – Victoria decriminalizes of homosexual acts.

1984 – New South Wales decriminalizes of homosexual acts.

1986 – Trans man, Lou Sullivan founds FTM International – one of the first advocacy groups for transgender men.

1989 – The publication of *After the Ball: How America Will Conquer Its Fear and Hatred of Gays in the 90s* by Marshall Kirk and Hunter Madsen.

1991 – Release of the documentary "Paris is burning" focusing on gay and transgender culture in NYC.

1993 – Transgender youth Brandon Teena was raped and murdered in Humboldt, Nebraska. This hate crime brought widespread attention to transgender discrimination and violence and became the subject of the award-winning film, *Boys Don't Cry*.

1994 – Tasmania decriminalizes homosexual acts.

1997 – Trans activist Leslie Feinberg published *Transgender Warriors: Making History from Joan of Arc to Dennis Rodman*, a who's who of transgender people throughout world history that traces the roots of transgender oppression.

1998 – The murder of trans man Rita Hester in Massachusetts.

1999 – First Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) in honour of victims of anti-transgender violence.

2002 – Formation of the Transgender Law Center (TLC) which works to change law, policy and attitudes to reduce discrimination and increase acceptance of transgender people

2003 – National Center for Transgender Equality founded to advance equality for transgender people through advocacy, collaboration and empowerment.

2008 – Isis King is the first trans woman to be featured on "America's Next Top Model".

2010 – Amanda Simpson becomes the first transgender Presidential appointee.

2012 – The Equal Opportunity Commission (EEOC) issues an official opinion stating that employment discrimination against transgender Americans violates Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Transgender Resources: Online Links and Articles

Note: Not all of the articles listed below are written from a Christian perspective

Mark Yarhouse, Lecture on 'Gender Dysphoria':

<https://psychologyandchristianity.wordpress.com/2015/02/11/the-calvin-college-talk-on-gender-dysphoria>

Parakaleo – A Christian ministry seeking to uphold Biblical values to the transvestite, transsexual and transgendered person: <http://parakaleo.co.uk>

"The Transgender Moment" – article in *Christianity Today*

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2008/february/25.54.html?start=1>

Katie McCoy, "The Church and the Transgender Neighbour"

<http://erlc.com/article/the-church-and-the-transgender-next-door>

"The Transgender Agenda" – Article Anglican Mainstream

<http://anglicanmainstream.org/the-transgender-agenda>

"The Transgender Tipping Point" – Article in *TIME* Magazine

<http://time.com/135480/transgender-tipping-point>

"Gender Identity Disorder (GID)" – Article on Female to Male website (pro diversity)

<http://www.femaletomale.org/overview/what-is-transgender/gender-identity-disorder-gid>

Albert Mohler, "The Transgender Tipping Point": <http://www.albertmohler.com/?p=31837>

Who are women's colleges for? – Opinion piece in *New York Times*

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/25/opinion/sunday/who-are-womens-colleges-for.html?_r=2

Genderbread Person and Gender Unicorn – Educational diagrams

<http://www.vox.com/2015/3/10/8180533/genderbread-man>

The challenge of changing gender while in a relationship

<http://www.dailylife.com.au/life-and-love/real-life/the-challenge-of-changing-gender-while-in-a-relationship-20150306-13xajn.html>

Albert Mohler, "The Myth of the Genderless Baby"

<http://www.albertmohler.com/2011/05/24/the-myth-of-the-genderless-baby>

F.T. Olofsson, "God and the Genesis of Gender"

<http://www.touchstonemag.com/archives/article.php?id=14-07-036-f>

Russell Moore on Gender Reassignment

<http://www.russellmoore.com/tag/gender-reassignment>

Tranznation Report (2007)

http://www.glhv.org.au/files/Tranznation_Report.pdf

Michael Schulman, "Generation LGBTQIA"

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/10/fashion/generation-lgbtqia.html?_r=0

Robert A. J. Gagnon, "How Should Christians Respond to the Transgender Phenomenon?"

<https://www.firstthings.com/web-exclusives/2015/10/how-should-christians-respond-to-the-transgender-phenomenon>

Paul McHugh, "Transgenderism: A Pathogenic Meme"

<http://www.thepublicdiscourse.com/2015/06/15145>

Jereth Kok, A Medical Perspective on Transgender

<http://www.biblesociety.org.au/news/a-medical-perspective-on-transgender>

Brendan O'Neill, "A Crisis of Character: Identity Politics and the Death of the Individual"

<http://www.spiked-online.com/spiked-review/article/the-crisis-of-character/17691#.VtYiPceRAbD>