

Truth and Gender 12-13-20

John 17:17 "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth"

If you have been to a public gathering, particularly at a university in the last few years, you will have heard something new. When a public speaker introduces themselves, they may follow their name with "my preferred pronoun is....". It could be him or her, or even something else. For many of us, this is a surprise change in society. As Christians, we need to know how to view these issues (issues such as transgender, gender identity, non-binary, body modification/gender reassignment, gender fluidity). It does not matter what we think or feel, but only what the Bible reveals to be God's view of these things.

What does the Bible say? In Genesis 1:27 we are told the following: *So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.* Jesus repeats this in Mark 10:6: *"But from the beginning of the creation, God 'made them male and female.'" The Word of God states clearly that God made humans in two genders; both genders are in the image of God. Furthermore, God made distinctions between them that are both spiritual and physical. These distinctions are clearly stated in Genesis 3, and become part of both the Law of Moses and the Law of Christ. Therefore, it is a matter of Truth that there are only two genders, and that we are fashioned (from the womb – Jer. 1:5) as either male or female.*

If this statement were not clear, we see that God made rules about any blurring of these lines. In Deuteronomy 22:5 God declared that *"a woman shall not wear anything that pertains to a man, nor shall a man put on a woman's garment, for all who do so are an abomination to the LORD your God"*. In the New testament Paul elaborated a similar ruled in 1 Corinthians 11:1-16, declaring that the distinctions between men and women were not to be blurred.

Often transgender issues are identified with or as issues pertaining to homosexuality. The Bible declares that homosexuality is a sin in places such as Romans 1:24-28 and 1 Corinthians 6:9. It is important to note that in the passage in 1 Corinthians 6, two types of homosexuality are mentioned. The second is called "effeminate", and refers to a man who behaves as a woman. The New Testament makes very clear genders roles for men and women, both in the home (Ephesians 5, Colossians 3) and in the church (1 Timothy 2, 1 Corinthians 14).

For many, these are issues that they base their views on emotions and feelings. This fails to accept the concept of the sinfulness of sin. Sin is not based on human feeling or understanding; the nature of something being sinful is based on God's decree. As John says, "Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness" (1 John 3:4). But there is something more sinister in considering the sinfulness of sin; that is, that often when we base our moral expression on our own understanding, it is an intentional (or unintentional) rebellion against the will of God. Such is the case made in Romans 1:24-32, which concludes with the dramatic point: *"those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them"*.

For others, there is some concern that perhaps these issues are based on uncontrollable biological conditions or damages. The expression "born this way" is commonly used to describe those who are participating in homosexual or transgender matters. Yet this claim is founded not on science or biology, but instead in emotion and feeling. No systematic study has produced conclusive proof or evidence that

these issues are biological; instead, it has been viewed by the medical community as a matter of personal choice.

But Jesus does mentioned that there are some who are “born eunuchs” in Matthew 19. This suggests that there are some who are biologically damaged, handicapped in regards to their gender, and such live lives of celibacy for the sakes of the kingdom of heaven.

"For there are eunuchs who were born thus from their mother's womb, and there are eunuchs who were made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. He who is able to accept it, let him accept it." Matthew 19:12

The Bible does not rule out that some are born with a propensity to certain specific types of sin. Homosexual and transgender sins may be part of that. Yet that propensity, which is called “sinful flesh”, is common to all men. Even Jesus came in the likeness of sinful flesh (Romans 8:3); He was tempted in all ways as we are, yet without sin (Heb. 4:15). There is no excuse for sin.

What is the Truth about gender politics? God has revealed that He made two genders alone. God demands that we conform to His expectations for our gender. When people refuse to comply, it is ultimately due to rebellious hearts. There are no exceptions.