



PARKSIDE GREEN

1 TIMOTHY 1:15

Gender Identity, Charity, and *Christian Hope*

Review

Creation—Fall—Redemption—Consummation

Traditional identity	Modern Identity
External	Internal
Chosen for you	You choose
Fit in	Stand out
Highest good: honor and moral good	Highest good: happiness and authenticity
Decisive validator: higher powers/parents	Decisive validators: you
You are your duties	You are your desires
You make the sacrifice for society	Society makes the sacrifice for you
Argument: happens inside (society>>then you wrestle in your heart)	Argument: happens outside (wrestle in your heart>>then go to society and demand acceptance)
River	Ocean

Preparing for biblically-informed, compassionate and wise conversation

- Christian response:
 - *Vaughan Roberts*: There are two common responses to this issue: an unquestioning “_____!” and an unquestioning “_____!”
- 2 extremes we need to navigate away from:
 - Outright _____ and outright _____

- *Amber Bowen*: Some Christians _____ that the person with gender dysphoria is actually experiencing a problem, identifying the issue as willful defiance or a political agenda. This conclusion causes many Christians to abandon the discussion and consequently marginalize those seeking to navigate this issue.¹
- Set out a positive vision for gender and sexuality as early as wise and possible
 - Brian Seagraves & Hunter Levine, *Gender: A Conversation Guide for Parents and Pastors*
 - “We all live in a world that is vying not only for our _____ but also our _____. This sets Christians—especially children—up for an inevitable collision. When two objects collide, the stronger prevails over the weaker.”
 - *Dr. Howard Hendricks*: We should not be _____ to discuss what God was not ashamed to _____.²
- Talk to transgender people when possible
 - *Brad Hambrick*: In the _____ of relationship, our theology becomes theory.

¹ Amber Bowen, “Stuck: Christians and the Transgender Narrative” January 12, 2016. <http://intersectproject.org/faith-and-culture/stuck-christians-and-the-transgender-narrative/>. Accessed 10 March 2017.

² Juli Slattery, *Rethinking Sexuality: God’s Design and Why It Matters*, (Colorado Springs, CO: Multnomah, 2018), 32.

- Know the goal of the conversation
 - *Mark Yarhouse*: The tip of the iceberg may be gender atypicality — ‘Use this pronoun,’ or, ‘Call me this.’ Many times ministers respond to what’s above the surface of the iceberg. What’s under the surface of the iceberg is much more substantive, and that is a need for _____, a need to be loved, a need for identity, compassion, spiritual questions (‘Does God love me? Does God like me? Do you want me here?’). A lot of churches, in my view, are at their best when they minister to what’s under the surface, and not overreact to what’s above the waters.³

- Addressing the pronoun and name issue
 - *Kevin DeYoung*, *The Church and Homosexuality- 10 Commitments*⁴
 - If we are speaking to cultural elites who despise us and our beliefs, we want to be bold and courageous.
 - If we are speaking to strugglers who fight against same sex attraction, we want to be patient and sympathetic.
 - If we are speaking to sufferers who have been mistreated by the church, we want to be apologetic and humble.
 - If we are speaking to shaky Christians who seem ready to compromise the faith for society’s approval, we want to be persuasive and persistent.
 - If we are speaking to liberal Christians who have deviated from the truth once delivered for the saints, we want to be serious and hortatory.
 - If we are speaking to gays and lesbians who live as the Scriptures would not have them live, we want to be winsome and straightforward.
 - If we are speaking to belligerent Christians who hate or fear homosexuals, we want to be upset and disappointed.

- Avoid coarse humor or insensitive jokes

³ Mark Yarhouse, “Ministering to People Navigating Sexuality and Gender”, August 11, 2016. <http://intersectproject.org/faith-and-culture/mark-yarhouse-minister-people-navigating-sexuality-gender/>. Accessed 10 March 2017.

⁴ Kevin DeYoung, *What Does the Bible Really Teach About Homosexuality?* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2015), 148-149.

- Be there when their sense of identity is not fulfilled through whatever non-biblical ways they've pursued it

- Strive for relational credibility
 - *Matthew 5:16*: In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.
 - *John 13:35*: By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.
 - *Romans 12:9*: Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.
 - *1 Thessalonians 4:9-12*: Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another, for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more, and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one.
 - *1 Timothy 2:1-3*: First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for *all* people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior.

Discussion Questions:

- Where is growth needed in my own heart and mind as I think about this issue of gender identity?
- What sorts of discussions am I having or do I need to have in my family to put forward a positive, flourishing vision of gender and identity?

Resources:

- Anderson, James, Reformed Theological Seminary, Associate Professor of Theology and Philosophy, “8 Theses That Help Us Think Biblically About Transgenderism”, <https://michaeljkruger.com/8-theses-that-helps-us-think-biblically-about-transgenderism/>.
- Anderson, Ryan T., *When Harry Became Sally: Responding to the Transgender Movement*
- Andreades, Sam A., *engendered: God’s Gift of Gender Difference in Relationship*
- Burk, Denny, *What is the Meaning of Sex?*
- Carter, Joe, “Agender to Ze: A Glossary for the Gender Identity Revolution” <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/from-agender-to-ze-a-glossary-for-the-gender-identity-revolution>
- Hambrick, Brad, “Talking to My Boys After the Transgender Talk at Their Public School”, <http://www.bradhambrick.com/talking-to-my-boys-after-the-transgender-talk-at-their-public-school/>.
- _____, “Conservative Christians and Debates Over Public Restrooms”, <http://www.bradhambrick.com/conservative-christians-and-debates-over-public-restrooms/>.
- Holmes, Jonathan, “I Don’t Know Caitlyn Jenner”, June 15, 2015. <http://biblicalcounselingcoalition.org/2015/06/15/i-dont-know-caitlyn-jenner/>.
- Keller, Timothy, “How to Raise Your Kids in Christian identity” https://clyp.it/1h2sp5la?utm_content=bufferce530&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook.com&utm_campaign=buffer.
- _____, *Making Sense of God: An Invitation to the Skeptical*
- Lambert, Heath, “Transgender Confusion and Transformational Christianity”, <https://vimeo.com/201035773>.
- _____, “What’s Wrong with Reparative Therapy?”, <https://biblicalcounseling.com/2014/11/whats-wrong-with-reparative-therapy/>.
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- Peel, Warrne, “Boy or Girl? How do we related to Transgender people?” <http://gentlereformation.com/2017/09/15/boy-or-girl-how-do-we-relate-to-transgender-people/>
- Powlison, David & Alasdair Groves, “Gender Identity”, <https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/ccef-on-the-go/id1196426810?i=1000380914396&mt=2>.
- Reinke, Tony, <http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/all-of-us-sinners-none-of-us-freaks>
- Roberts, Vaughan, *Transgender*
- Seagraves, Brian and Hunter Levine, *Gender: A Conversation Guide for Parents and Pastors*

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<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/life-in-a-foreign-country-navigating-our-cultures-change-on-sexuality>.
- Snodgrass, Klyne R., *Who God Says You Are: A Christian Understanding of Identity*
- Walker, Andrew T., *God and the Transgender Debate*
- Wallis, Jean-Yael, “Confessions of a Christian Who Struggled With Gender Identity”, <http://intersectproject.org/faith-and-culture/confessions-christian-struggled-gender-identity/>.
- Wilson, Andrew,
<https://blogs.thegospelcoalition.org/justintaylor/2016/06/16/gender-and-intersex-andrew-wilson-on-how-should-the-church-interact-in-love/>.
- Yarhouse, Mark, *Understanding Gender Dysphoria: Navigating Transgender Issues in a Changing Culture*
- _____, *Understanding Sexual Identity*