

'RE'DEFINED gender

INTRO:

- Briefly review...(June 2 Q&A)(not provocative, no offense, talking, etc.)
- *"It doesn't affect me"? We can't say that...*(contentious issues)
- Sam Oosterhoff....**Assaults on our faith....clarifies our faith**
- The **hostility** of mission (being a missionary)

- Today: gender. Again, what does God say and what does that mean for me personally AND what does that mean for me in the culture that we live in. And when it comes to gender that is a fluid term as we live in a day and age where transgenderism is more common.

- Just to be 100% clear....it is NOT a sin to have "gender confused feelings". It is not wrong for someone to **begin to think** that they are a woman trapped in a mans body and vice versa.
- Transgender: many ways **that people might perceive their gender identity to be "out of sink" with their biological sex.**

- Gender Dysphoria: is **mental distress that is due to their perception of their gender identity being “out of sink” with the gender they were born with (assigned at birth).**
- Harry and Meghan “the royal couple”; raising their child genderless/fluid, celebrities doing the same thing....

If Harry and Meghan are indeed planning to raise their baby with more progressive ideas about gender (gender neutral or gender fluid) there is plenty of research to back them up. According to a study in the *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*, children enrolled in Sweden’s gender-neutral kindergarten system had access to more opportunities, which the researchers have predicted would equate to more success as adults.

- This is a modern day parenting model to raise children “gender-neutral” or “gender fluid”.
- This is not denying the sex of the child, boy parts = boy & girl parts = girl. **BUT** gender is chosen or appropriated as the child grows up.
- *The world we live in has separated “sex” & “gender”.* One is biological (born that way) the other is social expression (living out).
- This is not new.....warning - this may sound a bit like a lecture: (email notes)(Dr.Denny Burke: professor Boyce College Kentucky, Dr.Quentin Van Meter: pediatric endocrinologist New York, Dr.Ryan Thompson: The Heritage

Foundation Washington DC, Dr.Paul McHugh: Johns Hopkins University of Medicine)

- ❖ Johns Hopkins University of Medicine; is a private medical research university in Baltimore, Maryland.
- ❖ 1950's - 3 "Doctors"; Alfred Kinsey, Harry Benjamin, **John Money**
- ❖ John Money introduced "gender" as a psychological construct. Perception of "gender", changing gender. Developed trans-sexual program; people who believed they were born in the wrong body. Experimented with different therapies....All of it was based on an "idea", let's see if this "works" - no good science.
- ❖ Betrayed his colleges with an agenda; Johns Hopkins fired John Money. Early research at Johns Hopkins was that gender was not a social construct - gender cannot be changed by society (teenagers). With adults, researchers found that in early research gender dysphoria (called at the time) that the procedure(s) (hormone blockers, surgical procedures) did not change any of the psychological issues leading to the gender change.
- ❖ At this time (1960's) there came a split....**John Money** went east to Boston - connected with **Dr. Norman Spack**; brought back from the Netherlands type treatment in Boston.... gender dysphoria treated medically and surgically.

- ❖ **Dr. Paul McHugh** shut down Psycho Hormonal group late 1960's & **Dr. Kenneth Zucker**: counseled toward a goal of accepting natal sex (sex you're born with). He coined the phrase "*Gender Identity Disorder*". He treated 560 patients. 98% success rate in boys and 89% success rate in girls. 35-40 years of work. *Zucker proved that 89-98% of children and adolescents with "Gender Identity Disorder" revert to the identity of their natal sex if allowed to go through puberty spontaneously with counselling.*
- ❖ BUT in 1979...WPATH (World Professional Association of Transgender Health) came to be. They created its own bibliography. Poor research, small number of patients, biased recruitment. Small group of "interested professionals".
- ❖ WPATH is on the move as the paramount organization in transgender studies. They lobby the American Psychological Association to change the "**Gender Identity Disorder**" to "**Gender dysphoria**" (2013). They changed what was a disorder to something that was "caused" by society and people who experience gender confused feelings are the victim of society. Get insurance coverage.
- ❖ WPATH convinces the Canadian Government to fire Dr. Zucker and shut down his clinic in Toronto. "**In 2015, the Ontario provincial parliament introduced legislation banning conversion therapy.**"
Members of Rainbow Health Ontario, a provincial health promotion and

navigation organization, approached CAMH (Centre for Addiction and Mental Health) expressing their concerns regarding Zucker's clinic. They alleged that cases of suicide of transgender youth results from methods used by Zucker and that the ban on conversion therapy made those methods illegal. CAMH stopped the clinic from accepting new patients and initiated an external review of the clinic's practices. The review noted numerous strengths of the clinic, but also described it as an insular entity with an approach **dissimilar from other clinics and described it as being out of step with current best practices**, including WPATH SOC version 7. After the review, CAMH shut down the clinic and fired Zucker. Kwame McKenzie, medical director of CAMH's child, youth, and family services, said "We want to apologize for the fact that not all of the practices in our childhood gender identity clinic are in step with the **latest thinking**" and that Zucker is "no longer at CAMH."

- ❖ Remove/discredit Dr.Kenneth Zucker (pioneer in gender identity disorder) and all his research. WPATH creates guidelines to establish treatment (2009) "TRANSEXUAL GUIDELINES" (which contain NO COUNSELLING where staying with your natal sex is an option.) Revised guidelines in 2017.
- ❖ WPATH has 15 people that make the decision on guidelines and practices. Their membership is 65,000 people (not only doctors BUT people who have an interest in transgender studies).
- ❖ Do a psychological assessment
- ❖ Affirmation and plan of transition (any child who states they are born into the body of the wrong sex.)

- ❖ Block puberty as it begins.
- ❖ At age of 12, cross-sex hormone therapy
- ❖ At age 16, if the patient desires - offer “corrective” surgery
- ❖ Of the 22 guidelines, only 3 are based on a moderate amount of scientific evidence - and those 3 are all concerning the need to monitor the known and theoretical **side effects** of the hormonal manipulation.

- ❖ Issues with infertility and risk of cancer with hormonal treatment. Plus risks of heart disease, heart attack, stroke, diabetes, diminished bone mineral density acquisition, osteoporosis, weight gain, abscesses at the site of injection, irregular internal bleeding, and emotional stress. **This is on the treatment consent form!** Not even sure if treatment is 100% safe?!?!?!?
- ❖ A study from Sweden (same in US) reveals - “Ten to 15 years after surgical reassignment, the suicide rate of those who had undergone sex-reassignment surgery rose to 20 times that of comparable peers.” Dr.Paul McHugh points to the reality that because sex change is physically impossible, it frequently does not provide the long-term wholeness and happiness that people seek. The distress that was there before - worsens after therapy and surgery.
- ❖ 50 transgender clinics world wide

- ❖ Only transgender affirming opinions by doctors are heard. Counselling to return to natal sex identity is outlawed in some states (license taken away, even jailed). Pennsylvania...

Fallout in local communities (“doesn’t affect me?”):

- School boards are railroading through regulations without public hearings
- Large corporations are threatening to pull out of municipalities (accept transgender rights or we will not do business with you)
- “Gender Centers of Excellence” (The Center of Excellence for Transgender Health) are actively treating patients from age 3 and older despite no scientific evidence of safety or efficacy.

“Over the past five years, it has become increasingly common for families with young children to request advice about the best way to approach their gender non-conforming child. Children as young as **18 months old** have articulated information about their gender identity and gender expression preferences. Most parents are at a loss as to how to best help their child, and may seek the advice of a professional; commonly a psychiatrist or pediatrician. At this stage of development, no medical intervention is warranted or necessary. For young children, decisions must be made to create safe environments that promote healthy growth and development. For some children this may include a social transition - changing of external appearance (clothing, hairstyle) and possibly name and pronouns to match one's internal gender.”

(Amanda in Windsor...)

- IN B.C.,...“A three-page “informed consent form” spelled out the risks of testosterone therapy, including that the “treatment in young adolescents is a newer development, and the long-term effects are not fully known.” The form indicated that testosterone use would likely lead to permanent changes — such as a lower-pitched voice, facial hair and

thicker hair on the arms, legs and torso — even if the treatment stopped. Taking testosterone could also lead to elevated risk of heart disease, stroke and diabetes. “It is not known,” the form says, what the effects of testosterone are on fertility. “You may or may not be able to get pregnant in the future.”

- “If this is what alleviates my child experiencing this dysphoria, I’d rather move forward. ... If it happens to have side effects down the road, we’re OK to handle that — at least our child would still be alive.” (Sarah - parent of 14 yr. old Max)
- Last month, however, Clark received a letter from the hospital. It stated that under the B.C. Infants Act, as long as a health care provider is satisfied a child understands the nature, consequences, benefits and risks of the proposed treatment and concludes that the treatment is in the child’s best interests, the right to consent “belongs to the child alone.” The letter goes on to state that while staff always strive to get parents onboard with a proposed course of treatment, “under these circumstances we are of the view that it is ultimately up to Max to give or withhold consent to his own medical care; neither you nor his mother can make this decision for him.”
- As of Mar.1/19 - the judge ruled the father cannot stop the procedure. “Any attempt to persuade A.B. to abandon treatment or references to A.B. as a girl or using female pronouns ‘shall be considered to be family violence’ under the Family Law Act,” ruled the B.C. judge.
- The number of referrals to the gender clinic at the B.C. Children’s Hospital rose from seven in 2007 to 80 in 2017. The transgender youth clinic at Toronto’s Hospital for Sick Children now sees over 200 referrals

each year, while the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario saw 180 in the last year.

BUT....here's what God says:

BIBLICALLY:

Genesis 1&2

- *Both (male & female) created in God's image*
- *Both at work in the garden*
- *2 distinct genres: male & female*
- *God created sex & gender and they are inseparable. Roles and biology are connected.*

Here's what that means:

- So God creates man and woman, both of them in His image. Now this idea of being image bearers has been skewed a little and we think that since we have **personality**, and a **will** and we have **emotions**....it's **because God does and we bear that image**. Now that is true, but specifically in this context, in Genesis 2, He's not using the idea of image bearer that way. Here, **God is saying that we are God's representative rule in creation...on earth.**

- This is also where we get the idea of **stewardship**, because ultimately you and I **do not own the Earth**. You and I do not ultimately **rule the Earth**. We have been placed here by God and have been given **representative rule** to live out the shalom, the world as God made it, the peace of God so that we might show that **there is God**, that **He is good, gracious and beautiful**, and He **created man and woman to do this**.
- They (plural) are to be **filling the earth** (children) and **subduing it; creating, sustaining** and **building society** - that's God's plan.
- Man is naming the animals and the woman has been given charge by God to be his helpmate so she is helping in some of those tasks. **They complement one another** - they are **absolutely equal** and **absolutely seen as beautiful** and **significant in the eyes of God**. And yet, God has given them **distinct roles**, and they are operating in those distinct roles. There is nothing but joy and happiness in this.
- God has created male and female and He has designed us to thrive and flourish by that design and purpose; we (uniquely created male & female) are to be **filling the earth** and **subduing it; creating, sustaining, contributing** and **building society** - that's God's plan.

PERSONALLY:

Our identity is something that is given by God. God has made us - we are not an accident. Our life has value and meaning and how we were created has purpose.

God came up with the idea of YOU....as you were created - not a mistake.

Psalm 139:14, “14 I will praise you because I have been remarkably and wondrously made. Your works are wondrous, and I know this very well.

Jeremiah 1:5, “5 I chose you before I formed you in the womb; I set you apart before you were born. I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

Ephesians 1:4-6, “4 For he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless in love before him. **5** He predestined us to be adopted as sons through Jesus Christ for himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, **6** to the praise of his glorious grace that he lavished on us in the Beloved One.”

Ephesians 2:10, “10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do.”

1 Timothy 4:4

“**4** For everything created by God is **good**, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, **5** since it is sanctified by the word of God and by prayer.”

MISSIONALLY:

This is **not** a debate of whether it is right or wrong to experience gender confused feelings. **All of us** (blanket statement) have struggled at one time or another with our identity and purpose, haven't we?

All of us (blanket statement) will come to a point in our lives, in this confusion of identity and purpose, where **we will need help**. Someone who is struggling with their identity needs help. Someone who is struggling with finding purpose in life and needs help. Someone who is confused because their thoughts/feelings don't line up with their body - needs help. **Both the world and the church agree on this.**

Here is where we differ....what does help look like?

The world says:

- “Brain sex theory” - change the body to match the brain.
- Transgender affirming therapy, medical treatment (puberty blockers & cross sex hormone treatment), & surgery.
- Chromosome realities still exist after surgery.
- After sex reassignment surgery, the body will try to heal that wound, therefore medication will have to be taken for the rest of their lives to prevent that from happening.

Psalm 121:1-2, “I lift my eyes toward the mountains. Where will my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.”

***LOOK HIGHER!**

The only help that helps is from the Lord - the Maker; your Maker. It's in the truth of the gospel - that I am a sinner in need of a Saviour (the broken in need of help) that I can truly find what it is that I am looking for; forgiveness, love, peace, joy, purpose and identity - things that are soul deep and life fulfilling. It's Jesus! The gospel is not a “help wanted” sign. It is a “help available” sign. All are invited to come broken & confused and needing help.

“Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.” (Romans 12:2) **If they the body**

says male and the brain says female - the brain is WRONG!

Practical steps: (personally in this culture)

- 1. Pray like crazy!** - for our world. “God help us.”
- 2. Stand up & be bold.** “If we truly love our neighbors, we will not withdraw from the public square, particularly if we understand the way in which “today’s uncontested nonsense becomes tomorrow’s accepted wisdom” (Cater). Therefore we must not only pray fervently for our world but, as part of our prophetic task, take up our apologetic responsibility to expose the vacuous foundations and corrosive effects of contemporary gender ideology.” (Rob Smith - TGC) Stand firm with scientific - based convictions. Invite dialogue instead of engaging in a war. Never be afraid to weave your faith into the discussion.
- 3. Fight for what is good....God’s good!** You have been created good (very good) with purpose - to glorify God! I want us to be a community that is known for what we are *FOR* and not what we are *AGAINST*.
- 4. Really and truly love them** - “always rejoices in the truth”. Listen without judgement! Avoid bringing them to your conclusions for their life.
- 5. Don’t hold onto the “yuk” factor.** Lose it!
- 6. Be disciplined** - now!

***Always speak in a way that truly shows your compassion for the suffering individuals. We do not hate transgender people.**

“6 Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you should answer each person.” (Col.4:6)

God is pursuing us to help sort out our stuff....our confusion. The truth is we are in over our heads! We will never gain more of life by being further away from God. Let's not settle for help from the mountain - but from the Maker of the mountain.

We have to great this whole “being the church” thing right. This whole “love another” thing - we have to do it and do it well because it is the community we are invited people to be a part of. A community where real help and true love is found.