

Tough Questions
How Should We Respond To Transgenderism
Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / March 17, 2019

I. Our gender is not assigned to us by anyone, but a gift given to us by our good Creator God.

Genesis 1:27 “So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; **male and female he created them.**”

Genesis 5:2 “**Male and female He created them**, and He blessed them and named them Man when they were created.”

Matthew 19:4-5 “He answered, ‘Have you not read that **He who created them from the beginning made them male and female**, and said, “Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh?”’”

Genesis 17:16 “I will bless her, and moreover, **I will give you a son by her...**”

Isaiah 7:14 “...Behold, **the virgin shall conceive and bear a son**, and shall call His name Immanuel.”

Luke 1:13 “But the angel said to him, ‘Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, **and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son**, and you shall call his name John.’”

Luke 1:31 “And behold, you will conceive in your womb **and bear a son**, and you shall call His name Jesus.”

II. God’s creation is very good, including our bodies.

Genesis 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25 – “...And God saw that it was good.”

Genesis 1:31 “And God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good...”

1 Timothy 4:4 “For everything created by God is good...”

We’re not just souls trapped inside a container of flesh. It was God’s will for us to be **embodied souls**. If we submit to our Creator, we’re to accept our bodies and our biological sex as good gifts from Him, and seek to live accordingly.

III. We can all relate to people who struggle with “gender dysphoria.”

dysphoria: (noun) a state of feeling very unhappy, uneasy, or dissatisfied (Merriam-Webster Dictionary)

The first recorded case of “dysphoria” is in the Garden of Eden.

Genesis 3:7-8 “Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. **And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.** And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and **the man and his wife hid themselves** from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.”

5 Points of Application Concerning Transgender People

A. Ask God today to be used by Him to reach people that are hurting.

Romans 12:1 - Be the living sacrifice God has called you to be.

Philippians 1:20-21 - Honor Christ no matter what. To live is Christ, to die is gain!

B. Remind yourself of the battle in which God has called us to fight.

1 Timothy 4:12 - fight the good fight of faith

Acts 1:8 - be witnesses

C. Remember that in order for people to know Christ's love, we should exhibit Christ's love.

Matthew 11:28 "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

D. Show compassion by not oversimplifying sin issues you either haven't experienced or may know very little about.

Proverbs 18:13 "If one gives an answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame."

Proverbs 18:15 "An intelligent heart acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge."

E. Be a warm, non-judging person, ready to welcome anyone and everyone who might enter your life or our church.

Hebrews 13:2 "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers..."

Questions for Community Group and/or Personal Application:

- 1) How are you discontent with the way God made you? How have you struggled with this in the past?
- 2) Do you think "Sam" would be welcome in your social circles? Would "Sam" be welcome in your Community Group? Why or why not?
- 3) If you heard "Sam's" story and desire to repent and be baptized, how would you respond?
- 4) Pastor Peter said that if someone chose to disclose their struggle with gender dysphoria to you, you should be grateful to God, humbled, and honored. Do you agree with that? Why or why not?
- 5) Look over the 5 points of application. Which one should you focus on? Why?