

Created Male and Female

Preamble - A Year Of the Lords Favour

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim (announce) good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, [2] to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, **Isaiah 61:1-2**

- His grace, kindness and love towards us
- Him being present with us and giving us Encounter with him
- The growing family here and depth of relationship
- The increasing growth in prayer
- Stewarding the favour is what is important - Joseph

Introduction

The first three chapters of Genesis are foundational to our understanding of scripture. All the key themes are there. This series focuses on the facts that human beings are:

We are created by design in the image of Creator God

There is ONE GREAT STORY WHICH DOES MOMENTOUSLY ACCOUNT FOR WHERE WE'VE COME FROM, WHY WE'RE HERE AND WHERE WE'RE GOING. ONE 'PLOT-LINE' which reveals and reflects the true meaning of existence. The plot-line of creation, fall, redemption and final consummation contained in the Old and New Testament Scriptures... Rev

Dr **David Hilborn**

- In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1
 - In the beginning God
 - He created, this is his design
 - We are not here by accident but by God's divine design
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- Created to be in friendship with Creator God
 - Created to express his character on earth
 - Created with purpose to steward God's earth and creation and be fruitful
 - Created to reach all peoples with the good news of friendship with God

Today we look at the fact that we are created male and female

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. [28] God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth... **Genesis 1:27-28a**

1. God gives us our identity

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. **Genesis 1.27**

- God made men and women beautifully different
 - God created mankind in his own image
 - Created by design, created for a purpose, significant not incidental
 - In the image of God he created them
 - Created in the image of our creator
 - Male and Female he created them
 - God gives us our identity
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- Males have XY chromosomes and females you have XX chromosomes
 - There are differences in men and women's reproductive systems
 - There are general physical differences in adult men and women- body shape, emotional differences and voice differences
 - And men and women are designed differently by God in how they ought to function in family

At the heart of mature manhood is the God-given sense (disposition, inclination) that the primary responsibility (not sole responsibility) lies with him when it comes to leadership-initiative, provision, and protection. And at the heart of mature womanhood is the God-given sense (disposition, inclination) that none of this implies her inferiority, but that it will be a beautiful thing to come alongside such a man and gladly affirm and receive this kind of leadership and provision and protection. **John Piper**

That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh. **Genesis 2.24**

- The beginning of marriage - Marriage as God instituted is a life long covenant between one man and one woman for life
- Children come from this union and family begins
- And family is the building block for society
- Being male and female and recognising, celebrating and submitting to one another's differences is foundational

Jesus affirms that God has made us Male and female and the identity is set at birth

"Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' **Matthew 19:4**

2. Our world is Broken

For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope [21] that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. **Romans 8:20-21**

- The world is broken, it's not right

- It's subjected to frustration
- Our bodies too are broken and don't always work properly
- We have health issues
- We have body image issues
- And others who have body dysphoria - feeling trapped in the wrong kind of body
- All of us experience some kind of bodily brokenness
- Sin coming into the world caused us to be out of sync with God, with each other and even with ourselves

Transgender - As believers we have to grapple with what is happening

- We cannot bury our head in the sand and hope it will go away
- In some way we are all affected and it becomes deeply personal
- Whether it's for those who are at school and relating to school fiends or our own family members, or those we work with
- Transgenderism is not just another ism.
- These are people, people who are often hurting, confused and often experience disproportionate rates of depression, thoughts of suicide and even suicide

Gender identity - That people have an internal self perception that someone feels male or female

Gender dysphoria

Someone has a mismatch or a perceived misalignment between their gender identity and their biological sex

- Example someone born as male perceives that they are female

Transgenderism

Transgender is an umbrella term for persons whose gender identity or gender expression or behaviour does not confirm to that typically associated with the sex to which they were assigned at birth

- This is broader than gender dysphoria because it means that person is taking steps or actions to live in accordance with their gender identity
 - Hormone replacement therapy
 - A new name or pro noun
 - Or surgery to cosmetically alter and surgically reshape their physical appearance to match they perceive as their gender identity

Not everyone who experiences gender dysphoria is going to identify as transgender. Some experience gender dysphoria but choose not to take steps to live out that identity but to stick to their biological sex as their identity.

- Gender always follows from biological sex, but what's happening today we are severing gender from biological sex

At the most basic level you cannot reengineer your chromosomes

- Can a man simply decide to become a woman - NO
- Altering one's appearance cosmetically or surgically cannot change the underlying reality of a person's biological makeup
- That the psychology of the mind cannot override the facts of a person's biological identity
- Biological Sex - Objective and discernible
- Psychology - Is subjective and only known by the person experiencing it

Totalitarian Impulse around the Transgender Movement

'Ordinary authoritarians are content to forbid people from speaking truths. Totalitarians insist on forcing people to speak untruths.' **Prof Robert George** (Princeton University)

- Transgenderism movement wants us to affirm the assumption that a man can become a woman and a woman can become a man. But this is not biologically possible.
- Ultimately this is debate around reality. Can we create and manufacture our own reality on how we feel.
- And if so where will it stop

Sin distorts and skews our thinking

For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. **Romans 1:21**

- Their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts became darkened in their minds
- Paul is speaking here about all of us, the whole human race
- Therefore we are not qualified on our own to determine our own identity
- The only identity that will be a good fit will be the identity that God gave us because he is the one who made us

3. We have a hope in Christ

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! **2 Corinthians 5:17**

- God is interested in redeeming our bodies
- Our hope is not ultimately in our physical bodies but in the Lord Jesus

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. [14] I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. [15] My frame was not hidden from

you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. [16] Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

Psalm 139:13-16

- We must not despise our bodies but also must not idolise our bodies

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. [2] I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. [3] And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. [4] 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” **Revelation 21:1-4**

4. Our Response - Courage, Conviction, Compassion

Courage to live according to God's created order

- God's word the Bible must be our pattern for living
- For what we believe to be true and right
- We must guide our children from God's Word the Bible
- It will take courage to do so in our world

Conviction to hold biblical view when it comes to being made in the image of God

- If you hold a biblical worldview it will cause you to be in conflict with family, friends and coworkers around you

Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage---with great patience and careful instruction. **2 Timothy 4:2**

- Preach the word - Bible becomes our blue print
- Be prepared - you must know what you believe and why, study, wrestle etc
- Correct - There are and will be times to speak up and be light and salt
- Rebuke - Times of sharp disapproval against
- Encourage - Give courage to others with the truth
- With great patience and careful instruction

Compassionate in the way we speak, live and treat others

- All people need to be loved and treated as people made in the image of God
- Transgenderism is not just another ism.
- These are people, people who are often hurting, confused and often experience disproportionate rates of depression, thoughts of suicide and even suicide

- Without true compassion for people we don't deserve to be heard and will not be heard
- The bible teaches us to walk in love, to be kind, to be gentle
- And you will need to be compassionate people in how you talk and relate - gentle, humble and loving

We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. [20] Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. [21] For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. **2 Peter 1:19-21**

I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray. [27] As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit---just as it has taught you, remain in him. **1 John 2:26-27**

But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. **John 16:13**

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