



## Gendered Ideology and Creation Care

How do we engage with gendered language and pronouns?

Do we really need to care about our environment?

**Sunday April 21, 2024**

Today, in the first half of this sermon we are focusing specifically on **gendered language and pronouns**. In the second half of this sermon, we will shift and talk about **creation care**.

### DEFINITIONS - WHY GENDERED LANGUAGE AND PRONOUNS

Sexual orientation, gender identities and gendered language is increasingly becoming common in public life, and we must learn how to engage.

**LGBTQ+** is an acronym that stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (the + is extended to include more identities). It's an umbrella term for people with various sexual orientations and gender identities that fall outside of the **heterosexual** and **cisgender** (identifying with the sex assigned at birth) norm. **Transgender** is a specific identity under the LGBTQ+ umbrella. It refers to people whose gender identity differs from the sex they were assigned at birth. Their internal sense of being male, female, or something else doesn't match their biological sex at birth.

**Biological sex** - who you are physiologically. A child's sex is recorded as male or female at birth, based on physical characteristics.

**Gender identity** is our internal sense of who we are—whether we resonate with being male or female.

**Gender expression** is how we manifest inward identity, typically with clothing or mannerisms that suggest masculinity or femininity.

**Gender roles** refer to societal expectations for males and females.

A **transgender** person's gender identity is not the same as the sex recorded on their original birth certificate. A **transgender man** is someone registered female at birth, but who identifies as a man. A **transgender woman** is someone registered male at birth, but who identifies as a woman. **Trans** is a shorter way of saying transgender. Many transgender people live according to their chosen gender identity - including how they dress, and the name and pronouns they use. Some may take hormone medication or have surgery to help change their physical characteristics and relieve distress about



their body not aligning with their gender identity. People may also request to alter the gender listed on official documents. These social, physical, and legal changes are known as **transitioning**.

**Gender dysphoria** describes the "unease or dissatisfaction" some people feel about the difference between their biological sex and gender identity.

**Non-binary:** Some people who do not consider themselves to have a solely male or female gender identity describe themselves as **non-binary**. They don't completely resonate with either masculinity or femininity.

**Intersex:** Some people are born with genital abnormalities or other physical differences so that their sex is ambiguous. They are sometimes referred to as intersex or having differences of sexual development (DSD).

## HOW THINGS ARE CHANGING

The transgender rights movement has been gaining momentum, perhaps from the 1950s on, and today has its place in everyday life.

About 10 years ago, in 2014, Facebook rolled out 50 new gender identity options for users. In 2019, Merriam-Webster declared the singular pronoun "**they**" its word of the year.

The rights of transgender or trans people - and whether they affect the rights of women - are often in the spotlight. Consider, **gender specific spaces, e.g. restrooms** for male and female. What do trans people do? How would women feel when a transgender woman (a male biologically) enters their space?

Consider **sports**, where men and women's sports events are held separately. Should a transgender woman be allowed to compete with other women?

The **workplace** is also trying to be inclusive. But it has its challenges. Should you disclose your pronoun in your workplace signatures (e.g. John, *she*). So then in workplace communications should you use a person's correct pronouns? Is this really providing gender affirmation, respect, and creating a more welcoming and tolerant environment? What if you unknowingly make a mistake, and address a he as she, or vice versa? While the workplace attempts to be inclusive toward a broader workforce and pushing people to identify their pronouns have the opposite effect and cause more harm?



Consider **schools**. Should such information even be discussed and addressed in schools? Should school facilities be adapted to accommodate these gender-based differences?

**Advertising and marketing** - transgender representation in marketing and advertising is slowly gaining momentum. Companies are using this to show inclusivity. The real question is if this is superficial or is the workplace genuinely a great place to work.

### QUESTIONS AND CHALLENGES

- 1, What do you do in situations where you are required to identify your pronoun? For some of us this is just a simple question like asking our gender.
- 2, What do you do when you must refer to someone by a pronoun that doesn't match their birth sex? Are we agreeing with and making inherent claims about the inconsistency of their physical and emotional being? In the United States multiple lawsuits have been filed in recent years over individuals who refused to use a transgender person's pronouns.
- 3, Youth - for the youth the question of how to relate to their transgender peers is already a challenge.
- 4, Scientifically, research is ongoing to understand if brain structure, genetics, prenatal hormonal exposure, or other physiological factors can explain transgender identity. Or is this a combination of social and biological factors. We do not know conclusively as there is no compelling evidence to suggest these.
- 5, One common question is whether someone can be born in the "wrong" body. While our answer is "No", we need to better understand why some people make this claim.
- 6, How much of your personhood is due to your brain, and how much to your body? That's a complex question!
- 7, How do we be Christians holding to our beliefs and witness, in contexts where some can see it as hateful or discriminatory to believe gender remains tied to biological sex. What is more important: using language that reflects God's immutable design, or using language that honors our neighbors' wishes and invites them into a place of friendship?
- 8, Is gender affirming medical intervention a violation of God's original plan? We must distinguish between gender-affirming surgeries, versus genital abnormalities that are



present at birth or that develop later. Those abnormalities can be addressed with the help of health care professionals.

9, Should Christian hospitals provide gender identity services and gender-affirming care? Should Christian hospitals perform medical interventions in gender care (e.g. hormone therapy, pubertal suppression, surgery, etc.)?

10, Mental health challenges - Individuals reporting higher body dissatisfaction and gender dysphoria have a worse prognosis in terms of mental health. They are found to have higher rates of depression, suicidal ideations, and substance use.

11, Intersex people - bodies aren't fully male or female in a conventional sense. What about newborns whose sex is ambiguous: Should they be operated on right away? And who gets to determine which sex is the preferred outcome? These are big concerns within the intersex community.

These are some of the questions and challenges for which we as Christians/Believers need to seek out wisdom and God-honoring, people-loving answers.

## **OUR CHRISTIAN BELIEF**

Thinking Biblically About sex, gender, and gender identity.

The ideas that one's pronouns are preferred, subject to change, and may be inconsistent with one's biological sex are inconsistent with our Christian beliefs. We believe the assignment of one's sex and gender is a divine prerogative assigned by God at birth.

### **Genesis 1:27**

**So God created man (adam) in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male (zakar) and female (nequeba) He created them.**

male (zakar) and a female (nequeba), identifying sex and the biological terms for the created man and woman.

### **Genesis 2:23-24**

**23 And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman (ishshah), Because she was taken out of Man (ish)."**

**24 Therefore a man (ish) shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife (ishshah), and they shall become one flesh.**



man (ish) male person, and woman (ishah) female, wife, identifying person and personality, could be considered gendered terms.

**We conclude that biological sex and gender is something that is God-bestowed and not socially constructed.**

About homosexuality, lesbianism and other forms of sexual perversion, the Bible is unambiguous and clear on its teaching, which is what we believe and affirm. These lifestyles are unacceptable before God and God delivers us from these. *1 Corinthians 6:9-11 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.*

## OUR RESPONSE

### A FRAMEWORK TO GUIDE OUR THINKING

Having a framework to make decisions based on how God deals with us as sinners:

#### 1. GOD DOES NOT OVERRIDE HUMAN WILL.

God gives us the freedom to choose. He does not control us.

#### 2. GOD EXPRESSES WHAT IS RIGHT AND WRONG AND INVITES US TO CHOOSE RIGHT.

##### Deuteronomy 30:19

**I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;**

#### 3. GOD DEALS WITH EVERYONE WITH LOVE AND FAIRNESS.

##### Matthew 5:45

**that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.**



*Be kind and express the goodness of God:* People want a proof of the goodness of God. If God is a good God, prove it. And it has to be proven through our lives, through the way we treat people with empathy, love, and sensitivity.

*Be sensitive:* strive to be sensitive to those struggling with gender dysphoria while upholding Christian teachings on gender and sexuality.

*Be patient:* People are still trying to figure things out and we should give each other grace.

All of the above has to be mutual. We expect the transgender person to extend the same kindness, patience, and respect to us who stand by Biblical truth.

#### **4. GOD IS WILLING TO REASON TOGETHER.**

##### **Isaiah 1:18**

**"Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD, "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.**

##### **Isaiah 43:26**

**Put Me in remembrance; Let us contend together; State your case, that you may be acquitted.**

Just as God is willing to “reason” with us, we do so to other people.  
We must do both: Love people well and think well.

**Think and reason Biblically, logically, and scientifically** on all the various topics that gender-identity conversations stir up: male and female sexual embodiment, relationships between body and soul, and gender stereotypes surrounding masculinity and femininity. We understand that scientifically, research is ongoing to understand if brain structure, genetics, prenatal hormonal exposure, or other physiological factors that explain transgender identity. Or is this a combination of social and biological factors. We do not know conclusively. Nothing has been proven.

#### **5. GOD DOES NOT COMPROMISE HIMSELF. HE IS TRUTH, HOLY, JUST, LOVING.**

##### **Ephesians 4:15**

**but, speaking the truth in love, ...**



### **1 Timothy 3:15**

**but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.**

While God is loving, compassionate, merciful, and kind, He is also God of truth, holiness, and justice. All of His attributes flow together beautifully, without compromising each other. God will never compromise His truth or Himself (His holiness) in His love.

The Church is the pillar and ground of truth, and even so we must uphold truth in love.

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## **CREATION AND THE PROCESS OF CORRUPTION**

### **Genesis 2:15**

**Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.**

God gave us the responsibility of tending and guarding the planet.

### **Psalms 115:16**

**The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD's; But the earth He has given to the children of men.**

We are responsible for this planet. In one sense we are stewards or managers of this planet.

We learn from Scripture that the whole earth has temporarily become subject to corruption.

### **Romans 8:19-21**

**19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.**

**20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope;**

**21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.**



There is a process of corruption or decay, causing things to deviate from their original design. This explains why there are birth abnormalities, birth defects, sickness, and even catastrophic weather conditions. These are because “creation was subjected to futility” and “creation is presently in bondage to corruption. We know that one day creation itself will be delivered. There will be new heavens and new earth.

Until then, while we know that things on this earth are not in a perfect state, we should do our part of being good stewards of what God has put us in charge of.

## **BEING GOOD STEWARDS**

### **OUR WARMING WORLD: CLIMATE CHANGE AND WHAT WE CAN DO**

Climate change refers to long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns, primarily driven by human activities since the 1800s. The burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil, and gas releases greenhouse gases that trap heat in the atmosphere, causing:

- Rising temperatures: The last decade was the warmest on record, with global temperatures nearly 2 degrees Fahrenheit higher than pre-industrial times.
- Extreme weather: We're seeing more frequent and intense heat waves, droughts, floods, wildfires, and storms.
- Melting ice: Glaciers and polar ice sheets are shrinking, contributing to sea level rise and disrupting ocean ecosystems.

These changes have a significant impact on the environment:

- Habitat loss: Rising temperatures and changing weather patterns threaten plant and animal life, leading to biodiversity loss.
- Water scarcity: Droughts and changing precipitation patterns can lead to water shortages, impacting agriculture and ecosystems.
- Sea level rise: Coastal communities face increased flooding and erosion as sea levels rise.

The responsibility lies with us to take action. We must:

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions: Transition to renewable energy sources like solar and wind power and improve energy efficiency.
- Protect forests: Forests absorb carbon dioxide, so sustainable forestry practices and reducing deforestation are crucial.
- Change consumption habits: Choose sustainable products, reduce waste, and adopt eco-friendly practices in our daily lives.

By working together, we can mitigate climate change and build a more sustainable future for ourselves and the planet.





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### **CARING FOR OUR PLANET: SMALL STEPS, BIG IMPACT**

Our environment sustains us, so protecting it is essential. Here's how you can make a difference:

- **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle:** This classic approach is key. Reduce what you buy, reuse items whenever possible, and recycle accepted materials to minimize waste.
- **Conserve Energy:** Turn off lights and electronics when not in use. Consider energy-efficient appliances and light bulbs. Shorten showers and unplug chargers – every bit counts!
- **Embrace Reusable Bags:** Ditch single-use plastic bags. Invest in reusable bags for shopping and pack lunches in reusable containers.
- **Be Water Wise:** Shorten showers, fix leaky faucets, and water your lawn wisely. Every drop saved helps!
- **Love Local:** Buy local produce to reduce transportation emissions. Support sustainable businesses that prioritize eco-friendly practices.
- **The Power of Plants:** Plant trees! They absorb CO2 and provide fresh air. Even a small balcony garden helps.
- **Educate and Advocate:** Share environmental tips with friends and family. Stay informed and support policies that promote sustainability.

Remember, even small changes in our daily lives collectively create a significant impact. Let's be responsible stewards of our environment for a healthier planet!

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### **SUMMARY**

Our goal is to have a Biblical perspective on issues that challenge us. We have considered just two matters: gendered ideology and creation care. We must imitate our Heavenly Father in the way He loves. We must also imitate Him in the way He reasons, guides, and directs us to live by truth, righteousness and proper stewardship. We must think and reason Biblically, logically, and scientifically to glorify God, and love people.

### **GOSPEL AND SALVATION CALL**

### **SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY TIME**

**Minister as the Spirit leads**



## LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

### Gendered Ideology and Creation Care

How do we engage with gendered language and pronouns?

Do we really need to care about our environment?

**Sunday April 21, 2024**

This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

#### Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full-length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at our [sermons page](#). Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

#### Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship, and a fun activity.

#### LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture references: *given below*

#### INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

*Q1, In addressing gendered ideology, we presented the following as a framework to guide our thinking. Review these points and think about its application in situations that you may encounter in relating to transgender people or related matters:*

*1. God does not override human will.*



2. *God expresses what is right and wrong and invites us to choose right. Deuteronomy 30:19*
3. *God deals with everyone with love and fairness. Matthew 5:45*
4. *God is willing to reason together. Isaiah 1:18; Isaiah 43:26*
5. *God does not compromise himself. He is truth, holy, just, loving. Ephesians 4:15*

*Q2, Since creation is currently subject to corruption (Romans 8:19-21) and God is eventually going to create new heavens and a new earth, should we still care about the climate and the environment? Does Genesis 2:15, and Psalm 115:16 still apply to us?*

If time permits, each one can take a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

#### **FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey**

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

#### **ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another**

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

- 1, *families to be protected and strengthened*
- 2, *a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.*
- 3, *for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for all details to go well as we purchase land and build our facility to serve the Lord and people.*

Close by thanking God together.



## Gendered Ideology and Creation Care Sermon Notes, Sermon Outline and Small Group Study Guide



### USEFUL RESOURCES

Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

**YOUTUBE:** <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

**WEBSITE:** <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

**CHURCH:** <https://apcwo.org>

**FREE SERMONS:** <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

**FREE BOOKS:** <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

**DAILY DEVOTIONALS:** <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

**JESUS CHRIST:** <https://examiningjesus.com>

**BIBLE COLLEGE:** <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

**E-LEARNING:** <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

**WEEKEND SCHOOLS:** <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

**COUNSELING:** <https://chrysalislife.org>

**MUSIC:** <https://apcmusic.org>

**MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP:** <https://pamfi.org>

**CHURCH APP:** <https://apcwo.org/app>

**CHURCHES:** <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

**WORLD MISSIONS:** <https://apcworldmissions.org>

### SERMON OUTLINE

We are living in times where sexual orientation, gender identity and gendered language is increasingly becoming common in public life, and we must learn how to engage. In addressing gendered ideology, we present a framework to guide our thinking. This will help guide our thinking and response in situations we may encounter in relating to transgender people or related matters:

1. God does not override human will.
2. God expresses what is right and wrong and invites us to choose right.
3. God deals with everyone with love and fairness.
4. God is willing to reason together.
5. God does not compromise himself. He is truth, holy, just, loving.

Caring for our environment and considering matters such as climate change, etc. are other topics that are important. While we recognize that creation is currently subject to corruption and God is eventually going to create new heavens and a new earth, we consider if we should still care about the planet we live on.

### KEYWORDS



## Gendered Ideology and Creation Care Sermon Notes, Sermon Outline and Small Group Study Guide

Gendered ideology, transgender, personal pronouns, creation care, climate change, environment, sermons, sermon notes, sermon outline, free sermon notes, free sermon outlines, Bible study resources

### REFERENCES/CITATIONS

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Biblical definitions, Hebrew and Greek words and their meanings are drawn from the following resources:

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