



Community Bible Church
Sermon Discussion Questions: Sep 10, 2023
Pastor Ed Newton

Title: What is a Woman?

Text: *“Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.”*
(Proverbs 31:30-31)

Target: Gender is a biological reality determined by God in the creation of each and every human.

Discussion Opener: Encourage everyone in your group to take 1 minute each and share one thing they are celebrating and one thing they are praying for. Rejoice with those who rejoice! (Rom. 12:15) And bear one another’s burdens together (Gal. 6:2).

Question #1: *What positive or negative stereotypes are associated with manhood and womanhood? How have these stereotypes impacted individuals and society as a whole?*

I. **Clarity of Womanhood:** Adult Female Human.

A. **Defined by Science:**

1. **Genotype:** Genetic Material, XX (Female) & XY (Male)
Chromosomes = 43 Total. *23rd Chromosome. *Immutable characteristic
2. **Phenotype:** Smaller stature, different body composition, hormonal differences - higher levels of estrogen and progesterone, reproductive organs, bone density, and strength.

B. **Defined by Scripture:** *“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.”*
(2 Timothy 3:16)

1. **God Designs Gender/Sex:** Divinely Ordained by God (Genesis 1:27)

2. **Complementarian Reality:** Completion of opposite Gender through Role and Responsibility.

- a) Gender Specific: God's purpose for you is in alignment by the gender God made you.
- b) Gift Specific: The expression of your talents was given by God within the context of gender.

C. **REdefined by Society:** Considered ever changing and to be shaped by individual experiences, personal choices, and cultural evolution. (Birthing person, menstruating person, chest feeding, pregnant people)

Question #2: Discuss the benefits or risks of social conformity (changing your behavior to fit in with society around you). *When and why do individuals conform to society's norms, and when do they resist conformity? Share examples from your own experiences.*

II. **Challenges of Transgenderism:** Gender is no longer determined by biology. Gender is determined by feelings, desires, inclinations, and what feels natural.

- A. **Gender Identity:** biological sex does not determine gender for they are mutually exclusive, not the same.
- B. **Gender Fluidity:** a form of expression within a multitude of gender identities.
- C. **Gender Dysphoria:** sense of internal self not matching external self.
- D. **Gender Therapy:** explore gender identity and expression to achieve comfort within themselves, manage mental health, and work towards self-fulfillment

Question #3: *How should the church respond to the growing prevalence and embrace of transgenderism in the world? Should our efforts end within the lines of our friends and family, or is there an obligation to engage the world around us? How can this engagement look in our individual lives?*

Question #4: *What obstacles lie in the way of sharing Biblical truth on these sensitive topics with those outside the faith? How can we overcome these obstacles to effectively communicate Biblical truth and share Jesus with those who need it most?*

III. **Criticism towards Feminism:** The Silence is Deafening.

- A. **Women's Rights:** To Vote, Equal Employment, Education equality, Maternity Leave, Body Positivity, Domestic Violence Support, #Metoo, Sexism.
- B. **Girls/Women's Sports:** Title IV: Civil Rights Act of 1964. Increased opportunities for female athletes by addressing disparities in resources and opportunities between men's and women's sports.

IV. **Convictional Kindness in Progressivism:** *“but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,”* (1 Peter 3:15)

A. **Exalt Christ:** *“honor Christ the Lord as Holy”*

1. Equality of Women: *“there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus”.* (Galatians 3:28)
2. Elevation of Women: 1st eyewitnesses of the resurrection.

B. **Embrace Truth:** *“always being prepared to make a defense”*

1. Absolute Truth-Determined by God and accountable unto humanity.
2. Relativism-Subjective interpretation of Reality.

C. **Exemplify Hope:** *“hope that is in you”*

1. Transgender people are image bearers of God too!
2. Jesus loves and died for the LGBTQIA community also!

D. **Extend Grace:** *“gentleness and respect”*

1. People are hurting
2. Families are grieving

Takeaway: *“Nevertheless, in the Lord woman is not independent of man nor man of woman, for as woman was made from man, so man is now born of woman. **And ALL things are from GOD.**”* (1 Cor. 11:11-12)

Question #5: After reviewing point #4, *which of these four areas can you look to develop this week in your Christian life? How will you take steps toward this, and how can our group help empower you through those?*

Additional Right Now Media Resources:

Identity & Sexuality - Summit Ministries

In this series from Summit Ministries, you'll learn to graciously share the truth about sexuality, freeing those trapped in the bondage of the sexual revolution.