

**GENDER INDENTITY**

*“So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.” Genesis 1:27-28 (NIV)*

One of the biggest headlines besides COVID-19 in the 2020 was the Gallup poll is the emergence of Generation Z adults, those 18 to 23: 1 in 6, or 15.9%, identify as LGBTQ. Among LGBTQ adults, a majority or 54.6% identify as bisexual, the poll shows. About a quarter, or 24.5%, identify as gay; 11.7% as lesbian; 11.3% as transgender. Generation Z again leads the way: 72% who identify as LGBTQ say they are bisexual.

The BIG Question: **“Does a Person’s Feelings Supersedes God’s Truth?” (NO!)**

The world around you believe; “Truth is subjective, not objective,” and yet as you and they are talking about it, it’s actually just perspective.

A typical response to the Gospel is **“your God is not my god.”** My feeling, feel right to me so that is **my truth** I will live by. Unfortunately, that will not be the God of the Bible.

*“There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.” Proverbs 16:25*

*“There is a generation that is pure in its own eyes Yet is not washed from its filthiness.” Proverbs 30:12*

*“The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good.” Psalm 14:1*

Paul deals with a corrupt sexual culture also in Rome as well as in Corinth. (Read Romans 1)

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Gender dysphoria is defined as; *the feeling of discomfort or distress that might occur in people whose gender identity differs from their sex assigned at birth or sex-related physical characteristics.*

Feelings are important. God created them, and He expects you to experience them. But feelings have no intellect. They are real and powerful, but they do not think. All you can do with your feelings is react. Feelings will react to a lie just as they react to the truth. Feelings even react to things that are not real. That’s why feelings must always be the caboose of the train, never the engine. (Read Genesis 3 of Eve’s encounter with Satan and the fruit)

## **The Church is the Best Place to Question your Gender Identity.**

Often those struggling with gender Identity feel like outcasts. The church has good news for you: Jesus has always been a friend of outcasts (Luke 15:1-2, John 4:7-18, Mark 5:1-20; Mark 2:17; John 10:10).

## **Did God Make a Mistake on Me? The answer is a resounding, NO!**

*“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.<sup>14</sup> I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;”* Psalm 139:13-14

Remember this; ***Finding your identity in anything other than God’s design distorts your view of who you are meant to be.***

## **You Don’t Have to Struggle Alone!**

Understanding who you are in Christ is the only way to find lasting peace and purpose. If you’re dealing with questions about your gender and your identity, the best way to hear God speak to you is to surround yourself with other Christians and spend time reading the Bible.

Time with other Christians will encourage you as you see how God change their lives, while reading the Bible for yourself will allow you to see God’s design and purpose for your life. Over time, as you follow Jesus and let Him work in you through the Holy Spirit, your identity will come into full alignment with who you were created to be as a man or a woman.

*“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”* John 3:16 (NIV)

*Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”* John 14:6 (NIV)

## **As a Believer What Should You Do?**

Remember, many are struggling dysphoria and suicidal battles within, as a believer in the truth of God’s Word and reflecting the love of God, may you develop a real compassion for those who are lost without Jesus. You should care for them whether they agree with you or not. Jesus did.

Remember, homosexuality and the LGBTQ+ agenda is like any other sin. Sin is sin, and sin separates people from God. Jesus paid the price for sin. Pray for these individuals that their eyes be open to God’s Truth for their lives.

***Remember, only Christians humble enough to recognize their own brokenness will be capable of walking with people through struggles that seem very different from their own.***