

## **FOCL Talk 2: How Should Christians Respond to the Transgender Agenda?**

With the prominence of the transgender issue, Christians cannot ignore it. How is the transgender agenda impacting the church and what opportunities and threats does it bring? How do we respond to the ideology and those involved both biblically and pastorally?

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### **I. How are males and females different?**

- A. Genetic sex (XY, XX)
- B. Hormonal Sex (androgens, oestrogens, secondary sex characteristics)
- C. Gonadal Sex (testes, ovaries)
- D. Genital Sex (penis, vagina)
- E. Brain Sex (male or female pattern connectomes)
- F. Gender roles and personalities

### **II. Knowing the scientific facts**

- A. Ideology or Medical Condition?
- B. What causes gender dysphoria?
- C. How common is it?
- D. Is it associated with mental health problems?
- E. What is the natural history?

### **III. How do we respond?**

- A. Understand the medicine and science and know the evidence
- B. Understand the different ways of looking at transgender
- C. Know and apply the biblical principles
- D. Act with Christ-like grace and mercy

### **IV. Biblical Principles**

- A. Made in God's image: male and female (Genesis 1:27)
- B. Two becoming one (Genesis 2:24)
- C. A fallen world and an eternal destiny (Deuteronomy 22:5, 23:1)
- D. The case of eunuchs (Matthew 19:12; Isaiah 56:3-5; Acts 8:26-40)

### **V. Pastoral practicalities**

- A. Seekers vs Disciples (1 Corinthians 5:9-13, 6:9-11)
- B. Truth vs Love