

## **Whole in Christ: Gender and Sexual Identity in Gospel Perspective**

The pace of change in social attitudes and legal frameworks in the West concerning gender identity and sexuality has been breath-taking. Faced with the changing context and the allegation that the Church has oppressed LGBTI people simply because of who they are, how should Christians respond? This session will seek to understand fairly the ideas behind this massive cultural shift, to develop a positive, Christ-centred, biblical vision of gender and sexuality, and to suggest principles for speaking and acting with grace and truth around these issues.

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### **I. The issues – the revolution and the Genderbread Person**

### **II. Clarifying the issues**

#### **A. What is the evidence? A Medical/Scientific Perspective**

#### **B. How did we get here? A Historical/Sociological Perspective**

#### **C. Where are we going? Future prospects**

#### **D. What does it mean? Underlying values and worldviews**

III. The good news about gender and sexuality: A Gospel Perspective

A. God rules – the goodness of humanity, sex and sexuality in creation

B. We rebelled – sins of belief and behaviour and the effects of sin

C. God rescues – forgiveness, new life and true intimacy in Christ

D. We respond – repentance, faith and obedience

E. God restores – help from the Spirit in the now and not yet

IV. The Outworking in Life and Church

A. In pastoral practice

1. Find the sheep – Start where people are

2. Know the sheep – Seek understanding beyond labels

3. Introduce the Chief Shepherd – Share the whole gospel

4. Green pastures and still waters – Support faithfulness in community

B. In Church organisation

1. Limits to fellowship?

a. In the congregation – consistent church discipline

b. Between congregations – oneness in truth

2. Church and State

a. Marriage

b. Charitable status

***Suggested Readings:***

Allberry, Sam (2013) *Is God Anti-Gay?* Good Book Company.

Anderson, Ryan T. (2018) *When Harry Became Sally: Responding to the Transgender Moment*. Encounter Books.

Coulter, Paul. ‘Gender Identity’ and ‘Christian Sexual Ethics’ available online at: [www.paulcoulter.net/ethics](http://www.paulcoulter.net/ethics)

Harrison, Glynn (2017) *A Better Story: God, Sex and Human Flourishing*. IVP

Roberts, Vaughan (2016) *Transgender*, Talking Points. Good Book Company.

Shaw, Ed (2015) *The Plausibility Problem: The Church and Same-Sex Attraction*. IVP

Sprinkle, Preston (2021) *Embodied: Transgender Identities, the Church and What the Bible Has to Say*. David C Cook