

## Queer Theory on the Rise

The last years have seen the rise of a new ideology in the West. It has sometimes been described as transgenderism, and sometimes as queer theory. It differs from previous movements in that it doesn't specifically push for either sexual promiscuity or "gay rights". Rather, it is an attack on the whole concept of a fixed sexual identity. Queer theory involves a critique of all that used to be labelled "normal" when it comes to sexuality and gender, and it has crowned the transsexual community as the heroes of our time. How should this way of thinking be understood? How is it implemented in schools and pre-schools – with Sweden as a prominent example? And how could we formulate a biblical response?

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### I. Queer theory in Swedish Sexual Education

- A. Quotes from current school materials
- B. A brief historical overview
- C. Discussion within the international LGBTQ movement

### II. How could such radical ideologies become mainstream?

- A. Radical individualism
- B. The concept of intersectionality
- C. Issue of power more important than the issue of truth

### III. Transgender

- A. Differences and similarities between queer and trans
- B. *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*
- C. *Guidelines for Best Practices* (Alberta)

#### **IV. Norm critical pedagogy in Sweden**

- A. LGBTQ issues in Sweden in general
- B. Instructions from the Swedish public authority against discrimination

#### **V. My worries**

- A. Queer ideology is a contributor to the increasing psychological ill-health
- B. An encroachment on the young generation not to let them be proud of their biological sex
- C. Opens up to sexual experimentation

#### **VI. From a Christian perspective**

- A. The two-sex norm is foundational
  - 1. Cf. the creation account and Genesis 8:22
- B. Queer ideology makes several good points
  - 1. Our identity is not fixed
  - 2. No-one is completely whole in his/her identity
- C. It is impossible to neglect our basic biology
  - 1. Man and woman are both needed for procreation
  - 2. Complementarity between the sexes is important in both the OT and NT
  - 3. The apostles often speak to men and women as separate groups
  - 4. It is *together* that men and women are created in the image of God
  - 5. Equality is not dependent on similarity
  - 6. Queer theory neglects central aspects of biological and psychological research
- D. We are more than our sexual identity
- E. Romans 1:18–32

F. Gnosticism

## VII. How to communicate?

- A. Distinguish between the person and the phenomenon
- B. Don't question the motives
- C. Don't use exclusively religious or biblical arguments
- D. Point to research, statistics, and the views of medical experts
- E. Point out the extreme nature of the underlying ideologies
- F. Stress the fact that many people are affected in a negative way by these ideologies

### ***Suggested Readings:***

- Edsinger, Olof, *När minoriteten tar majoriteten som gisslan: Om identitet och sexualitet i queerteoriernas tidevarv* (Stockholm: Svenska Evangeliska Alliansen, 2015)
- Malm, Magnus, *Fotspår i glastrappan: Den svindlande klättringen i Babels torn och vägen tillbaka till jorden* (Örebro: Libris, 1999)
- Roberts, Vaughan, *Transgender* (The Good Book Company, 2016)
- Transformed: A Biblical Understanding of Transgender in a Changing Culture* (booklet from the Evangelical Alliance in UK, 2018)
- Walker, Andrew, *God and the Transgender Debate* (The Good Book Company, 2017)
- Yarhouse, Mark, *Understanding Gender Dysphoria* (IVP Academic, 2015)