

## Responding to the Transgender Challenge

The transgender movement has exploded internationally in the last few years fueled by celebrity endorsement and high level media and political support. It raises profound challenges which are cultural, legal, medical, theological, and pastoral. What are its ideological and cultural roots? How has it impacted medicine and law? What is the science behind it? What is the difference between sex and gender and between transgender and intersex? 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. Transgender in Media and Popular Culture

- A. Caitlyn Jenner
- B. The Danish Girl
- C. An explosion of gender types

### II. Cultural Roots

- A. Radical feminism - 'throwing off the male yoke'
- B. Gnosticism – 'liberate the authentic inner you'
- C. Queer theory – 'gender categories are social constructions'

### III. Legal Changes

- A. Gender Recognition legislation
- B. More radical agendas

### IV. Medical Changes

- A. From Gender Identity Disorder (DSM IV) to Gender Dysphoria (DSM V)
- B. From treating the mind to altering the body
- C. Gender reassignment clinics

### V. Defining our Terms

- A. Sex, Gender and Gender Identity
- B. Transgender, Gender dysphoria and Intersex

### VI. How are males and females different?

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

**VII. 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?

**VIII. 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

**IX. 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)

**X. Pastoral practicalities**

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

***Suggested Readings:***

When Harry Became Sally: Responding to the Transgender Moment  
8 Mar 2018 by Ryan T. Anderson

Talking Points: Transgender Perfect Paperback – 3 Oct 2016 by Vaughan Roberts

Understanding Gender Dysphoria: Navigating Transgender Issues in a Changing Culture  
10 Jan 2017 by Mark Yarhouse

Gender Dysphoria – CMF File 2017 – by Rick Thomas and Peter Saunders -  
<https://bit.ly/1SMfNxj>