



TEACHING IDENTITY: A Biblical Look at an Ancient and Current Question

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Overview: Who am I really? And who are my students? Identity is more than politics and public bathrooms; these questions have far-ranging repercussions on the world we live in. This session will examine a Biblical understanding of how God has designed each person, and practical ways to train our students (at all ages) to not only live out their identity, but also how to articulate a Biblically-bold and Christ-like compassionate response to this hot-button cultural issue.

> PART 1 <

Intro

First of All . . . 3 Essential Concepts

- Knowing Truth
- Communicating Truth
- Teaching Truth

KNOWING:

Romans 12:3-8

COMMUNICATING:

Ephesians 4:15-16

1 Peter 3:15-16



TEACHING

Colossians 1:15-17

What is Biblical integration?

Identity

God is Who He Says He Is

"What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." . . .

For this reason the gravest question before the Church is always God Himself, and the most portentous fact about any man is not what he at a given time may say or do, but what he in his deep heart conceives God to be like. We tend by a secret law of the soul to move toward our mental image of God. This is true not only of the individual Christian, but of the company of Christians that composes the Church. Always the most revealing thing about the Church is her idea of God, just as her most significant message is what she says about Him or leaves unsaid, for her silence is often more eloquent than her speech. She can never escape the self-disclosure of her witness concerning God.

Were we able to extract from any man a complete answer to the question, "What comes into your mind when you think about God?" we might predict with certainty the spiritual future of that man. Were we able to know exactly what our most influential religious leaders think of God today, we might be able with some precision to foretell where the Church will stand tomorrow." (A.W. Tozer, The Knowledge of the Holy)

Attributes of God and Identity



SO, WHO AM I?

1. I am _____.

2. I am _____.

3. I am _____.

4. I am _____.

5. I am _____.

6. I am _____.



> PART 2 <

1. I am NOT _____.

2. I am NOT _____.

3. I am NOT _____.

Think Biblically

Reason Logically

Act Compassionately

Live Consistently

John MacArthur: Transgenderism is a Form of Suicide and an Assault on God

<http://churchleaders.com/pastors/videos-for-pastors/296543-john-macarthur-transgenderism-form-suicide-assault-god.html>

Q: Hello I'm Claire, and my question anymore in regards to transgender. I have an older sibling actually who's transgender and my question is just how to approach that biblically, specifically in regards to what pronouns to use and just in general yeah

A: Claire. Bless your heart for asking that. Simply stated, there is no such thing as transgender. You're either XX or XY; that's it. God made man male and female. That is determined genetically; that is physiology; that is science; that is reality. This notion that you are something other than your biology is a cultural construct intended as an assault on God. Now, your sibling may not see it that way, but that's what it's all about, more than anything. In fact, I was reading an article by RC Sproul just yesterday in which he said that the greatest revolution in American history was neither the American Revolution nor the Industrial Revolution. It is the Sexual Revolution. This has become the most far-reaching, damaging of all revolutions that's ever occurred in this country or any other.

The problem with buying into this is that it is a kind of personal suicide; it is literally the end of your existence in the way that God designed you. I've said this a few weeks ago: a person who is in the transgender world is 19 times more likely to kill himself or herself, because you have completely cut yourself off from reality and from normal relationships. This is the end of your identity. This is the end of your ability to have a marriage that is a real marriage. It's the end of your ability to have a family. It's the end of your ability to connect and to be a part of a society and a culture and to have a future and belong. It is a kind of extreme isolation that can be

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no more extreme. You can't get more extreme than saying, "I am NOT who I actually am." Because that becomes an utterly imperceptible identity. You literally have disconnected yourself from existence. You aren't who you are; you are some fantasy person in your own mind.

Look, this is going to continue to escalate because we live in a world where people are told to construct whatever they want themselves to be. This is what the internet does to people. It allows you to create yourself the way you want to create yourself. You can access whatever is out there, and you can create your own world, your own reality, and you can live in that world. The isolation of this particular aspect of it is so sad and so tragic. I read the other day that a surgery was done in Australia on a five-year-old, to do a sex change. These kinds of parents ought to be imprisoned. Who would lead a five-year-old, and what kind of doctor would ever do that in a hospital in Australia? This is a kind of scarring for life.

So, I don't mean by being so firm that that you want to be lacking in love when you communicate this. But I think the only way you can address it honestly is to say, "God made you. And God made you exactly the way he wanted you to be. You're not only fighting God in his physical creation; you are even, more importantly, fighting God in His sovereignty. You are fighting God in his spiritual relationship to you--this is a war on God."

If you say, "I'm not going to let God tell me who I am. I'm not going to let God define me. I'm going to be my own God. I'm going to define myself." Then now, you're in Romans 1, and that that's a reprobate mind. That's a mind that doesn't even function. So, while I'm saying that with firmness so you understand it, I think this has to be dealt with with love and compassion, because there's some holes in the heart of someone going in that direction. There's a lack of being loved and accepted and feeling wanted and needed and significant. So on the one hand, the reality of that lie and deception is so damaging, so destructive, so isolating, so corrupting, that it needs to be confronted. But on the other hand, that confrontation can't exaggerate what already exists, which is a sense of feeling isolated in relationships. So you've got to find the fine line between confronting the error of it to protect the person, and at the same time providing the love and affirmation that the person needs to be all that God would have that person be.

Videos Referenced

John MacArthur: *Transgenderism is a Form of Suicide and an Assault on God.* Summary and video link can be found at <http://churchleaders.com/pastors/videos-for-pastors/296543-john-macarthur-transgenderism-form-suicide-assault-god.html>

Family Policy Institute of Washington: *College Kids Say the Darndest Things on Identity.* Video can be found on the FPIW YouTube page: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCB0XYqBHnsSg-CR-qHF7pGg>

Helpful Resources



THE COUNCIL ON BIBLICAL
MANHOOD AND WOMANHOOD

www.cbmw.org



www.fpiw.org



Helping Families Thrive

www.focusonthefamily.com/socialissues



4. I am NOT _____.

5. I am NOT _____.



1. I am _____.

2. I am _____.

3. I am _____.



QUESTION #1

QUESTION #2

QUESTION #3

QUESTION #4

QUESTION #5

QUESTION #6