

TRANSGENDERISM: TRUTH AND COMPASSION

VIDEO 1 OF 5: “WHO SAYS WHO YOU ARE?” (8:48)

PRE-VIDEO DISCUSSION:

1. What do you hope to gain from this course on transgenderism? What questions do you have about the topic?
2. The title of this course is “Transgenderism: Truth and Compassion.” Have you seen this issue addressed without one of these components? How did that affect the conversation?
3. Are you, a friend, or a family member personally affected by transgender issues? If you’re comfortable sharing, how can the group pray for you or for them?
4. Why do you think transgender issues have become such a major cultural discussion?

POST-VIDEO DISCUSSION:

1. Alan used a GoPro camera as an illustration. Can someone summarize his point?
2. Alan said, “Failure to heed the directions in the owner’s manual will lead to damage or catastrophic failure.” Have you ever ignored an owner’s manual and faced consequences? Share your experience.
3. What are some of the biggest questions people have about their own design?
4. Who in our culture has the most influence in shaping how people answer these questions? Why do they have such influence?
5. Alan described the Bible as something like an “owner’s manual” for life, relationships, sexuality, and conflict resolution. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this view?
6. What is the difference between special revelation and general revelation? How should they complement each other? When interpreting reality or human design, should one take precedence? Are there exceptions?
7. Alan introduced several key terms. As a group, define and discuss the following:
 - Biological sex
 - The sex spectrum
 - Gender identity
 - Transgender
 - Cisgender
 - Gender dysphoria
 - Gender-affirming care
 - Gender (historically vs. today)

ACTION POINTS:

- Watch a few personal testimonies of transgender individuals. Here’s an option from the Ellen show: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gixx2Ka7fyc>
- Spend 15 minutes journaling about your identity in Christ and how it shapes the way you see yourself and others.
- Read Genesis 1–2, Deuteronomy 22:5, Matthew 19:4–6, and 1 Corinthians 6:9–10 in preparation for the next session.

TRANSGENDERISM: TRUTH AND COMPASSION**VIDEO 2 OF 5: “SCRIPTURE FALSIFIES BOTH PILLARS OF TRANSGENDERISM” (12:30)****PRE-VIDEO DISCUSSION:**

1. Reflect on last session’s Action Point videos. What was your initial reaction to the transgender stories? Did you feel compassion, frustration, sadness, or something else? How should our hearts be postured toward those struggling with gender identity? Spend time in prayer for individuals from the videos or people you know personally.
2. What are the two main pillars of transgender theory? How might they be undermined?
3. Read Genesis 1:26–27. What does it mean that humans are made in God’s image as male and female?
 - Does this passage affirm a binary understanding of sex and gender, or allow for flexibility? Why?
 - Could God’s image transcend physical characteristics? How might skeptics challenge the binary view?

POST-VIDEO DISCUSSION:

1. Alan states, “The entire creation account of humanity and their sexuality is predicated on the duality and complementarity of the sexes.” What does this mean?
2. In Matthew 19:4–6, Jesus references the creation account.
 - What is the context of this passage?
 - What does it contribute to this discussion?
 - Can anyone recall Alan’s summary phrase about sex and marriage? (Hint: four “ones”)
3. How do biblical examples of eunuchs relate to the concept of a sex spectrum?
 - How might proponents of a sex spectrum use eunuchs to support their argument?
 - Why is a eunuch still fully male?
4. Alan referenced Old and New Testament passages addressing gender identity. What were these passages?
 - What behaviors were condemned?
 - How do these passages distinguish between cultural stereotypes and deeper theological concerns?
5. Is it wrong for a man to wear a dress? Distinguish between morality and cultural norms and how they interact or don’t interact with one another.
6. To what extent do cultural masculinity and femininity norms contribute to gender confusion? Has the church played a role in this? Share personal experiences.
7. How would you respond to a young person questioning their gender because of their likes and dislikes?

ACTION POINTS:

- Memorize key Bible passages from this session for future conversations.
- Watch a secular video on gender stereotypes. Consider how it compares to what you’ve been learning. Here’s one option: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xerZgFwZgxo>
- Read Melinda Penner’s article “The Pragmatic Benefits of God-Given Sexual Boundaries”: <https://www.str.org/w/the-pragmatic-benefits-of-god-given-sexual-boundaries>

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VIDEO 3 OF 5: “SCIENCE FALSIFIES BOTH PILLARS OF TRANSGENDERISM” (12:47)

PRE-VIDEO DISCUSSION:

1. What is the difference between gender identity and biological sex?
2. How would you respond to someone who says, “The Bible says nothing about gender identity. Ancient writers knew nothing of modern psychology, so we need to reinterpret Scripture.”
3. Read Romans 8:20–23. How has the Fall affected human experience, including gender identity struggles? What does it mean “to long for redemption” in light of the struggles and complexities people face?
4. Read Galatians 3:26–28.
 - Does “neither male nor female” relate to gender identity?
 - How does this passage shape our understanding of identity and unity in Christ?
 - Is it possible that the brokenness of the world has produced a sex spectrum and/or a gender identity that is different than one’s biological sex? How so?

POST-VIDEO DISCUSSION:

1. What is a gamete? How many kinds exist? Why is this important in discussing the sex spectrum?
2. Alan said, “An exception doesn’t negate the entire classification system.” What exceptions have you heard used to challenge the binary concept of sex?
3. Some argue that chromosomal abnormalities or intersex conditions prove sex is a spectrum. How would you respond? (Think of questions to ask.)
4. Should gender dysphoria be treated psychologically or biologically? What arguments support each approach?
5. Compare and contrast WPATH’s position on gender in “Standards of Care for the Health of Transgender and Gender Diverse People” with traditional healthcare approaches. You’ll find it on the page after the “Introduction” (page 56): <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/26895269.2022.2100644>
6. What makes gender-affirming surgery different from other medical procedures? How does it depart from scientific principles? How can one be mistaken about how they feel? (Discuss examples.)
7. Alan claims, “Changing your sex is impossible.” How would you discuss this with someone who believes transitioning aligns their body with their true gender identity? What points would you try to make? What questions might you ask? What posture would you take? What goals would you have for the conversation? (Consider what would be different depending on with whom you are speaking.)

ACTION POINTS:

- Read selections from WPATH’s “Standards of Care for the Health of Transgender and Gender Diverse People” and take notes on what you find interesting or questionable things you find: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/26895269.2022.2100644>
- Read Alan’s article on biology and teleology: <https://www.str.org/w/biologys-divorce-from-teleology>
- Watch Jon Noyes’s videos:
 - “Is Transgenderism a Matter of Broken Bodies or Broken Beliefs?” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=37MYZuGFY7Q>
 - “What the Bible and Science Say about Transgenderism” <https://www.str.org/w/what-the-bible-and-science-say-about-transgenderism>
- Watch Abigail Shrier’s interview with Jordan Peterson: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fSKQfATa-1I>

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VIDEO 4 OF 5: "NAMES, PRONOUNS, AND TACTICS" (9:32)

PRE-VIDEO DISCUSSION:

1. How does science falsify both pillars of transgenderism? How does gender transition surgery differ from healthcare?
2. What stood out to you from WPATH's "Standards of Care for the Health of Transgender and Gender Diverse People"? What did you find interesting or concerning? (Discuss.)
3. Share your thoughts from Abigail Shrier's interview with Jordan Peterson. What did you learn? How should we use this information to help those around us who are struggling?
4. Have you experienced any scenarios in which you've been asked to use new names and/or preferred pronouns? Share the experience, how it went, and how you handled it.

POST-VIDEO DISCUSSION:

1. What are reasons people may give for using preferred pronouns? What are reasons against using preferred pronouns?
2. What are the significant differences between using names and pronouns?
3. Do you agree with Alan's recommendation to refer to someone by a name of their choosing even if it doesn't match their given name at birth? Are there any scenarios that would cause you to modify your practice?
4. How might refusing to use a person's preferred pronouns cause trouble? Do you agree with Alan's assessment that you can usually just avoid using them? Share stories or encounters where you've avoided pronouns altogether.
5. How does the use of preferred pronouns adopt and/or promote a foreign worldview? Explain.
6. Consider the following video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9iKHjL5xAaA>. If you were in a conversation with one of these individuals, how would you respond? What would be your goals in the conversation?
7. Some people claim that preferred pronouns are an issue of "freedom of speech." Others argue that it is appropriate for rules/policies to demand their use, just as rules exist to limit offensive words. How do each of these relate to the enforcement of using preferred pronouns?
8. Someone tells you that your "act of violence" (not using people's preferred pronouns) is pushing people towards anxiety, depression, or self-harm. What does this challenge assume about harm? How might you respond to this challenge? (Split into pairs and role-play this scenario.)
 - Alternative challenge: "Christians who don't use another person's preferred pronouns are forcing their beliefs on others." How might you respond to this challenge?
9. How might a desire to prevent harm be used as an argument against using one's preferred pronouns? Practice articulating this answer within your group.
 - What are the three questions Alan suggested we use when asked to use one's preferred pronouns? Practice these in a role-play scenario.

ACTION POINTS:

- Read "A Response to an Employer's Request for Pronouns" by Amy Hall:
<https://www.str.org/w/a-response-to-an-employer-s-request-for-pronouns>
- Listen to "Should We Refuse to Put Pronouns in Our Email Signatures?":
<https://www.str.org/w/should-we-refuse-to-put-pronouns-in-our-email-signatures->
- Watch this 15-minute TEDx video on pronouns and take notes:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hsHXyGiCk6g>

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VIDEO 5 OF 5: “PRINCIPLES TO HELP YOU NAVIGATE YOUR RELATIONSHIPS” (16:15)

PRE-VIDEO DISCUSSION:

1. What did you think about the TEDx video? Did you learn anything? What stood out to you in relation to our discussion from the previous session?

POST-VIDEO DISCUSSION:

1. As a group, try to recall all the principles in each category that Alan laid out in the video.
2. Have we as a church done a good job welcoming transgender people into our church gatherings? Do you have hesitations about this? Have you seen this done well or poorly in other contexts? What can we, as an Outpost, learn from your experience?
3. How far beyond attending a gathering should the church allow someone to participate while they are in unrepentant, ongoing sin? Alan mentioned church leadership—what would that mean in our context? Could this be different in other church contexts? What roles should transgender individuals not be allowed to take?
4. Do you think it is more difficult to deal with Christians who struggle with sexual sins than those who struggle with other types of sin? Is this appropriate? Why or why not? Would your answer be different if the word “temptation” were used instead of “sin”? Explain.
5. Alan made the claim that we all have desires that would become sinful if acted upon. There is an ongoing debate on whether or not desires are sinful in and of themselves. What do you think? In what ways might this depend on how one defines desires?
6. How are we in the “same boat” as those who struggle with gender dysphoria? Why is this important to realize? Are there people you know who cannot admit this? How do we help them see this truth?
7. How might we create an environment where members of our community feel free and even encouraged to admit their struggles? In what ways do we inadvertently prevent people from bringing their sin or temptations into the light? (Consider inviting members of your group to model Christian community with confession and repentance.)
 - Does anyone have struggles they would like to share so that we may pray for them? (Invite members to share privately if they prefer.)
8. Which is more important: being in a relationship with a transgender person or telling them the truth about your convictions? How does this question assume a false dichotomy? Where have you seen this false dichotomy promoted? Have you navigated truth-telling in a relationship that resulted in a negative outcome? What about a positive outcome? Consider sharing.
9. How can we distinguish between our stance on public policy issues and personal interactions? What do you do when individuals take your public policy convictions personally? Are there ways to prevent this? Share suggestions about how to promote public policy while being intentional in personal interactions. How does this affect what you say and post online?
10. Role-play a conversation: One person acts as a non-Christian who identifies as transgender, while another acts as a Christian responding to the following accusation: “So, Christian, why do you hate trans people?”
 - Practice steering the conversation toward the Gospel.
 - Switch partners and roles.
 - Debrief as a group.

FINAL REFLECTION & TAKEAWAYS:

- What are your biggest takeaways from this course?
- What do you think are the most important things we’ve learned or practiced?
- What remaining questions do you have?

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VIDEO 5 OF 5: “PRINCIPLES TO HELP YOU NAVIGATE YOUR RELATIONSHIPS” (16:15) CONT.

ACTION POINTS:

- Read “What Christianity Alone Offers Transgender Persons” by Sam Allberry:
<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/what-christianity-alone-offers-transgender-persons>
- Consider purchasing *A New Kind of Apologist* and reading Alan’s chapter on transgenderism:
<https://store.str.org/purchase/a-new-kind-of-apologist>
- Examine your personal relationships with transgender individuals. How can you better show Christ’s love?