



Community Bible Church
Sermon Discussion Questions: Oct 5/6 & 9
Pastor Ed Newton

Title: Transgenderism and Girls/Women's Sports

Text: 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Target: Compassion is caring for someone, not at the detriment of someone else.

- I. **Biblical Clarity:** "So **God created** man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female **he created them.**" (Genesis 1:27)
 - A. **Created Order:** "Male and female he **created** them, and he **blessed** them and **named** them Man when they were created." (Genesis 5:2)
 1. **Complementarian in Nature:**
 - a) **Fit for Him:** "there was not found a helper fit for him" (Genesis 2:20)
 - b) **Fruitful from Him:** "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion..." (Genesis 1:28)
 2. **Affirmed by Science:**
 - a) **Genotype:** XX (Female); XY (Male)
 - b) **Phenotype:** DNA determines organs, body parts & features
 3. **Statement of Faith:** God defines gender, not separate from sex, but one and the same.
 - B. **Cultural Definition:** Biological sex does not determine gender for they are mutually exclusive, not the same. Your body indicates your sex, but your brain determines your gender.
 - C. **Gender Dysphoria:** When a person's emotional and psychological identity does not match the biological sex at birth.

Question #1: How does the biblical understanding of being created in God's image (Genesis 1:27) influence your view on gender and identity?

Question #2: In what practical ways can we demonstrate compassion toward those who identify as transgender, while also holding to biblical truths?

- II. **Gender Comparison:** A.C.S.M. Releases Expert Consensus Statement: The Biological Basis of Sex Differences in Athletic Performance (9/29/2023-Findings Below)
 - A. **Biologically:** Biological sex is a determinant of athletic performance: adult males are faster, stronger, more powerful than females because of fundamental sex differences in anatomy and physiology dictated by sex chromosomes.
 - B. **Physically:** Adult males are stronger, more powerful, and faster than females of similar age and training status. The sex difference in athletic performance where endurance or muscular power is required is roughly 10-30% depending on the event.

Question #3: *How can we navigate the tension between cultural definitions of gender and the biblical definitions while maintaining our faith?*

Question #4: *How should the findings regarding biological differences in athletic performance shape our conversations about inclusion and fairness in sports?*

- III. **Progression of Feminism:** Defined as "the historical advocacy of women's rights on the basis of equality with men".
- A. **Fought for Inclusion:** Right to Vote, Equal Employment, Education Equality, Maternity Leave, Body Positivity, Domestic Violence Support, #MeToo, Sexism
 - 1. **Title VII:** Civil Rights Act of 1964 protects employees against discrimination of race, color, religion, sex *orientation and identity.
 - 2. **Title IX (1972)** Prohibits disparities and discrimination in education, resources and sports based on sex, *gender identity or gender expression.
 - B. **Silent in Exclusion:** Creating INCLUSION is at the risk of EXCLUSION.
 - 1. **Placements & Podiums Lost**
 - 2. **Privacy & Protection Ignored**
 - C. **Regression of Progression:** JK Rowling: "looping the fight for trans rights into the fight for women's rights is harmful to the feminist movement...If sex isn't real, the lived reality of women globally is erased"

Question #5: *How do you see the historical fight for women's rights intersecting with current discussions on gender identity? Can they coexist, or are they fundamentally at odds?*

Question #6: *How can we effectively balance grace and truth in our interactions with those who hold different views on gender and sexuality?*

- IV. **Convictional Kindness:** "to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to **show perfect courtesy** toward **all people**." (Titus 3:2)
- A. **Truth & Grace:** The tension between grace and truth is to understand that they are not opposite of each other, but one within each other. (John 1:14)
 - B. **Accepting Vs. Affirming:** ACCEPTING because "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23), but NOT AFFIRMING of anything that the Bible calls sin.
 - C. **Called TO Compassion:** "whatever you wish others would **do to you, do also to them**...Love your neighbor as **yourself**..." (Matthew 22:39)
 - 1. Those who identify themselves as transgender are still image bearers of God too.
 - 2. Jesus loves and died for the LGBTQIA community also.
 - 3. Sin is sin to God, the only thing that is different is the consequences.

Question #7: *What does it mean to accept someone in Christ without affirming choices that go against biblical teaching? How can we communicate this truth with love?*

Question #8: *How does recognizing that Jesus loves and died for everyone, including those in the LGBTQIA community, shape our ministry and outreach efforts?*

Question #9: *Can you share an instance where you felt led by the Holy Spirit to speak truth in a difficult situation? How did you experience God's presence in that moment?*

Takeaway: When it's uncomfortable, when it's unpopular, even when it's dangerous to speak the truth, these are the precise times that the truth should be spoken. (Unknown)