



# LED BY HIS SPIRIT

SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 2025

**Title:** Truth and Compassion: A Biblical and Medical Look at Transgender Identity

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**INTRODUCTION:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## TRANSGENDER

1. There is a revolution happening in Western culture that is exploding our assumptions and traditions of what it means to be a man or a woman.
2. This revolution is flipping over the tables of centuries-old norms.
3. I think it's important that God's voice is heard in this debate.

## HOW WE GOT TO WHERE WE ARE:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

- A. Relativism says that meaning and truth are relative, so that what is right for one person may be wrong for another person.
  - "You can't tell me what to do!"
  - "There is no such thing as absolute truth."

**2.** \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

- A. Christianity's cultural influence is dying.
- B. This means that the moral truths that Christianity teaches are having less and less impact with each passing year and generation.
  - There is a growing acceptance of gay and lesbian relationships.
  - Declining marriage rates.
  - More people living together before (or instead of) marriage.
  - High divorce rates.
  - There is a growing biblical illiteracy in our world today.

**3. Radical** \_\_\_\_\_

- A. Individualism says everyone gets to write their own script.
- B. What an individual wills or wants is the highest good, and it is wrong to tell someone that his or her choices or beliefs are wrong or immoral.

**4.** \_\_\_\_\_ **Revolution**

- A. "If it feels good, do it."
- B. The upheaval of the sexual revolution taught that our bodies are our own, and for us to enjoy in whatever way we want.
- C. The idea that pre-marital sex is wrong has been basically overturned.

**5.** \_\_\_\_\_

- A. A person's self-awareness is different than and more important than their physical bodies.
  - The idea that our true self is different than the body we live in.
- B. The concept that our gender can be different than our biological sex is a modern form of the old Gnostic idea.
- C. All of this means that there are two unforgivable sins in our world today.
  - #1: To judge someone else
  - #2: Fail to fulfill your desires

## 6. \_\_\_\_\_ **Sex and Gender**

- A. Biological sex can refer to the genetic makeup.
  - Men have XY chromosomes
  - Women have XX chromosomes
- B. Gender refers to the attitudes, feelings, and behaviors that we associate with a person's biological sex.
  - Gender has been attached to biological sex.
  - If your biological sex is female, your gender is female.
- C. What has changed today is that many now see gender as unattached to biological sex.

## 7. \_\_\_\_\_ **Identity**

- A. Gender identity is a person's self-perception of whether they are male or female.
- B. Some people feel their gender identity does not align with their biological sex.

## **8. Gender** \_\_\_\_\_

- A. When someone experiences distress or discomfort from sensing a conflict between their gender and their biological sex, that person is experiencing gender dysphoria.

## **9.** \_\_\_\_\_

- A. Transgender is an umbrella term for the state or condition of identifying or expressing a gender identity that does not match a person's biological sex.
- Dressing like the opposite sex.
  - Hormonal therapy.
  - Surgical intervention.

## **10. Gender** \_\_\_\_\_

- A. Not identifying as one gender all the time.

## **11. Non-Binary or** \_\_\_\_\_

- A. Not identifying as male or female at all.

## **12. On Making a** \_\_\_\_\_

- A. You are looking for a source of:
- #1: Authority – Who has the right to tell me what to do?
  - #2: Knowledge – Who knows what is best for me to do?
  - #3: Trustworthiness – Who loves me and wants what is best for me?

- B. Many answer these questions by appealing to their family, their nation, their political associations, their religion, their friends, their feelings, or to entertainment or science.
- C. The Bible tells us where to look for perfect authority, perfect knowledge, and perfect trustworthiness.  
*“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” (Genesis 1:1)*
- D. This world has a Creator – God Almighty.
- E. What is made belongs to God; so, God has all authority.
- F. What is made is best known by its maker; God the Creator has all knowledge.
- G. The Bible tells us of a crucified Creator – Jehovah God – Jesus Christ. God loves you so much more than you could ever know.
  - A crucified Creator is a God Who has the authority to tell us what to do, Who has the wisdom to know what is best for us, and Who has proved that He can be trusted to tell us what is best for us.
- H. This is why Christians hold views or believe things that go against what may come to us naturally or instinctively.
- I. Christians have found a better source for authority, knowledge, and trust than our own reason or feelings – or our own traditions or assumptions and that is the Word of God.
- J. God’s Word is good to listen to and to obey!

## 13. God's \_\_\_\_\_

- A. God had a plan for how He was going to make the world

*"And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day."  
(Genesis 1:31)*

- B. God's creation was "very good."

- C. God's creative brilliance climaxes with humanity

*"And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. 28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. 29 And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat."  
(Genesis 1:26-29)*

- D. There is something unique about mankind: only humans are made in God's image.

*"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them." (Genesis 1:27)*

## 14. God's Right To \_\_\_\_\_

*"The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. 2 For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods." (Psalm 24:1-2)*

- A. God made this world; this world belongs to God.  
B. This is His creation, and we are His creation.

- C. This is why, ultimately, God has the authority in the transgender debate.
- D. There is a debate on competing authorities: us or God, creatures or Creator.

## 15. God's Creation Has \_\_\_\_\_

- A. When God declared His creation "very good," He was declaring that what He has made has purpose behind it.
- B. The God Who creates is the God Who assigns to humans what humans are, what humans are supposed to do, and how humans are to do it.
- C. Our highest calling and greatest pleasure are found in living in line with how God designed us.
- D. Being creatures means that we cannot recreate ourselves in any fashion or form that we desire by a simple act of will or the complex work of a surgeon.
- E. When we as creatures reject God's blueprint, we are both rebelling against the natural order and we are rejecting the life that is going to be the highest good for us.
- F. God's blueprint included making humanity into male and female.

*"And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; 22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. 23 And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. 24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." (Genesis 2:21-24)*

G. Our anatomy tells us what gender we are.

- Our bodies do not lie to us.

H. To strive to become different than or even the opposite of how God made us can never result in happiness, flourishing, and joy, whatever it promises.

## 16. Jesus and \_\_\_\_\_ Identity

- A. God created humanity in His image – we are intentionally made.
- B. God created humanity in male and female forms – we are not interchangeable.
- C. God created humanity in such a way that man and woman are created for one another – each made to complement the other.
- D. All of this was a part of God’s “very good” blueprint.
- E. None of this, of course, is what the increasingly dominant culture narrative in Western society says.
- F. When someone rejects this blueprint, they are rejecting the Bible and Jesus Himself.

*“And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, 5 And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? 6 Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.”  
(Matthew 19:4–6)*

G. Jesus quoted **Genesis 2** as being true and right.

- Jesus taught that **Genesis 1–2** is God’s blueprint. We can ignore **Genesis 1–2** only if we ignore Jesus.



## 17. \_\_\_\_\_ and Brokenness

- A. A result of the first rejection of God is that people feel ashamed of, and awkward about, their bodies.

*“And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.” (Genesis 3:7)*

- B. Another result is that of a deceptive heart.

*“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” (Jeremiah 17:9)*

- A person’s heart will tell them one thing about themselves while their body is saying something else.
- But experiencing that feeling does not mean that feeding it and acting upon it is best, or right.

- C. The impulse to live out an identity at odds with our biological sex is to indulge fallen desires that our heart believes will bring peace.

- The Bible tells us that embracing a dream at odds with God’s design will never bring ultimate happiness.
- The passion to live as a member of the opposite sex isn’t simply satisfied by surgically altering your body.

- D. These are deeper issues at stake than exterior physical and cosmetic alterations.

- E. Deciding to let your feelings rule – to feed that feeling so that it becomes the way you see yourself and the way you identify yourself and the way you act – is sinful, because it is deciding that your feelings will have authority over you, and your feelings will decide what is right and what is wrong for you instead of God’s Word.

- F. We can grasp at being men instead of women – or genderless humans instead of gendered humans – but God does not allow it.
- We can change our form, but we cannot change our formatting.
- G. In truth, there is no such thing as “transgender,” because you cannot change your gender.
- The word exists, but not the reality that it seeks to describe.

## **18. \_\_\_\_\_ in Brokenness**

- A. There is hope buried in brokenness.
- B. In the same chapter where humanity descends into an abyss of sin and brokenness, God announces the promise to rescue mankind.
- “And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.” (Genesis 3:15)*
- C. God does not leave us where we are.
- D. God promises to send His Son, Jesus Christ, into where we are to lead us out.

## **19. A Better \_\_\_\_\_**

- A. There is good news through Jesus Christ.
- B. Through salvation we are equipped with the power of God’s Holy Spirit to live in relationship with God.
- C. Even in broken minds living in broken bodies living in a broken world, there is a definite and clear “very good” blueprint of creation.
- D. The Gospel of Jesus Christ offers us freedom and hope.

## 20. Romans 8:22

*“For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.” (Romans 8:22)*

- A. Gender dysphoria has an explanation: a world under sin’s curse.
  - Gender dysphoria is a deep, painful struggle, causing pain, anguish, and tears.
- B. The good news of the Gospel is that those groans have been heard, and those groans need not last.
- C. The Bible acknowledges how things are, even in the deepest and darkest moments – but it also promises that we need not be left there.
- D. It teaches us to groan, but to groan with hope – to acknowledge the brokenness and to cling to the escape from the brokenness that God has provided.
- E. The Holy Spirit starts to make a difference to the way we live and think.

*“For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.” (Romans 8:5-6)*

- F. Faith in Christ offers a different way: to experience the Holy Spirit enabling us to live with our minds set on His “things” – His truth, His discernment, and His wisdom.
- G. The Holy Spirit helps us to see what is true, and that what is true is good, even as our feelings (or “flesh”) tell us something else.

- H. With this renewed mind, it becomes possible to rightly evaluate our own feelings, and the opinions of our culture.

*“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” (Romans 12:2)*

## **21. Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_**

- A. Freedom is found only in Jesus Christ.
- B. Our identity is found in Jesus Christ.
- C. There is no freedom in following our feelings.
- D. Jesus is powerful enough to bring sustaining hope in our darkest, most difficult hours.
- E. Only Jesus can offer this kind of freedom because only Jesus could do what we cannot.
- F. The Holy Spirit works in our hearts to make us free from sin’s power over us.
- G. Jesus is where we find what we are looking for.

## **HOW THE \_\_\_\_\_ SHOULD RESPOND:**

### **1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of God**

*“And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: 30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. 31 And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.” (Mark 12:29-31)*

## 2. Love \_\_\_\_\_ Truth

*“Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;”  
(1 Corinthians 13:6)*

- A. Love means looking someone in the eyes and communicating the truth of Scripture.
  - We are to do so gently, but we are to do so, nonetheless.
- B. We must love people so much that we care about their souls more than we care about their approval.
- C. Church should be a place where people know they are loved but will also hear the truth.

## 3. A \_\_\_\_\_ Church

*“Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.” (James 1:19)*

- A. To impact someone’s heart, we need to listen to their hearts.
- B. The church has in the Gospel the answers for every person’s greatest problem (sin).
- C. Speaking well into very real lives with very real problems requires a willingness to listen well before we speak the truth lovingly.

## 4. A Church with \_\_\_\_\_

- A. Jesus says that to trust Him is to understand truth and experience freedom.

*“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”  
(John 8:32)*

- B. If the church is to be the lifeline of hope to those who struggle with gender dysphoria, it must be one committed to Biblical truth.
- C. The truth allows us to offer a word of hope and reconciliation.
- D. If the church has anything to offer in this contentious age, it is truth, and we should not shy away from that truth.
- E. We are to speak the truth with love.  
*“But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ.” (Ephesians 4:15)*
- F. We need to remember that loving someone is not the same as agreeing with them and sometimes loving someone requires you to disagree.

## 5. A \_\_\_\_\_ Church

*“But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children: 8 So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us.” (1 Thessalonians 2:7-8)*

- A. Paul’s ministry was one of gentleness.
  - Gentleness is the opposite of harshness.
  - Gentleness is a tender voice.
- B. We can know what gentleness is by how we wish others would act toward us when we are burdened by a weakness or crushed by a sin.

**6. A \_\_\_\_\_ Church**

- A. Local churches should point to God's grace all the time – holding to His standards because we know they are for the good of His creatures.
- B. We must also celebrate God's overwhelming forgiveness and extend our own forgiveness to those seeking our help.
- C. If our churches are marked by one thing, let it be God's grace.

**CONCLUSION:** \_\_\_\_\_

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