

# Navigating

# Gender

# Identity

RYAN PAULY



# Some Definitions

- ▶ TRANSGENDER: AN UMBRELLA TERM FOR PERSONS WHOSE GENDER IDENTITY, GENDER EXPRESSION, OR BEHAVIOR DOES NOT CONFORM TO WHAT IS TYPICALLY ASSOCIATED WITH BIOLOGICAL SEX
- ▶ GENDER IDENTITY: A PERSON'S INTERNAL SENSE OF BEING MALE, FEMALE, OR SOMETHING ELSE
- ▶ GENDER EXPRESSION: THE WAY A PERSON COMMUNICATES GENDER IDENTITY TO OTHERS THROUGH BEHAVIOR, CLOTHING, HAIRSTYLES, VOICE, OR BODY CHARACTERISTICS



# Some Definitions

- ▶ CISGENDER: REFERS TO THOSE WHO IDENTIFY WITH THEIR BIOLOGICAL SEX
- ▶ NONBINARY: A WIDE RANGE OF GENDER IDENTITIES THAT ARE NOT EXCLUSIVELY MALE OR FEMALE
- ▶ TRANSGENDER MAN: A BIOLOGICAL FEMALE WHO IDENTIFIES AS A MALE
- ▶ TRANSGENDER WOMAN: A BIOLOGICAL MALE WHO IDENTIFIES AS FEMALE
- ▶ GENDER DYSPHORIA: PSYCHOLOGICAL TERM FOR THE DISTRESS SOME PEOPLE FEEL WHEN THEIR INTERNAL SENSE OF SELF DOESN'T MATCH THEIR BIOLOGICAL SEX



# What shapes gender identities?

RIGID  
GENDER  
STEREOTYPES

NOT FITTING  
IN WITH YOUR  
GROUP

BEING  
UNCOMFORTABLE  
WITH YOUR  
BODY







"IF YOU RESPOND ONLY TO WHAT IS ABOVE THE SURFACE, YOUR APPROACH WILL BE SEVERELY LIMITED. IN OUR EXPERIENCE, YOU WILL TEND TO OVERREACT TO BEHAVIORS YOU FIND PROVOCATIVE, MISSING AN OPPORTUNITY TO MINISTER TO THE DEEPER NEEDS AND DESIRES MOTIVATING THESE BEHAVIORS."

— MARK YARHOUSE AND JULIA SADUSKY



"WHEN SOMEONE IS TRANSFORMED BY GOD'S  
MERCY, THEY WILL EXTEND THAT MERCY TO OTHERS.  
THEREFORE, A FAILURE TO GRANT MERCY TO OTHERS  
REVEALS WE DON'T TRULY GRASP THE DEPTH OF  
GOD'S MERCY TO US."

— SEAN MCDOWELL



# See the Person

- ▶ WHO AM I?
- ▶ WHERE DO I BELONG?
- ▶ WHAT IS THE REASON FOR MY LIFE AND EXPERIENCE?
- ▶ WHAT DO I OFFER THE WORLD?
- ▶ WHERE IS GOD IN ALL OF THIS?
- ▶ AM I WANTED HERE?



# See the Person

- ▶ WHO HAVE YOU BEEN ABLE TO SHARE YOUR STORY WITH?
- ▶ HOW HAVE CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR PARENTS GONE? WHAT MADE THEM GOOD? WHAT MADE THEM CHALLENGING?
- ▶ HOW HAS IT BEEN FOR YOU AT SCHOOL AS YOU'VE BEEN SORTING OUT THESE QUESTIONS ABOUT GENDER IDENTITY?
- ▶ HOW HAVE CONVERSATIONS GONE WITH YOUR FRIENDS?



# 3 Consequences to Consider

CONFUSION

LONG-TERM  
EFFECTS

EQUALITY



# CONFUSION

WHAT IS A MAN/WOMAN?







DEBRA SOH

"FROM A SCIENTIFIC  
PERSPECTIVE, GENDER  
IDENTITY IS BASICALLY  
SYNONYMOUS WITH  
BIOLOGICAL SEX."



# CONFUSION

WHAT IS A MAN/WOMAN?





CONFUSION

WHAT IS A MAN/WOMAN?

BOY

GIRL



CONFUSION

WHAT IS A MAN/WOMAN?

BOY

GIRL



"DISCUSS GENDER WITH KINDERGARTENERS  
BY EXPLORING GENDER STEREOTYPES AND  
ASKING OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS, SUCH AS  
WHAT ARE PREFERRED COLORS, TOYS, AND  
ACTIVITIES FOR BOYS/GIRLS."

THE CALIFORNIA BOARD OF EDUCATION



"AS A LITTLE GIRL, I ENJOYED BOTH BALLET LESSONS AND PLAYING IN THE MUD. . . . I LIKED MINISKIRTS AND WANTED TO BE AN ASTRONAUT WHEN I GREW UP. IT LOOKS TO ME LIKE THE TRANS MOVEMENT IS FIGHTING VERY HARD TO FORCE EVERYONE TO CHOOSE WHETHER TO LIVE IN THE BLUE BOX OR THE PINK BOX, AND NO PLAYING MIX-AND-MATCH. TO ME THIS IS THE OPPOSITE OF FREEDOM."

TRISH



CONFUSION

WHAT IS A MAN/WOMAN?

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# 3 Consequences to Consider

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# LONG-TERM EFFECTS

## Puberty Blockers

- ▶ SUPPRESSION OF NORMAL BONE DENSITY
- ▶ GREATER RISK OF OSTEOPOROSIS
- ▶ LOSS OF SEXUAL FUNCTION
- ▶ INTERFERENCE WITH BRAIN DEVELOPMENT



# LONG-TERM EFFECTS

## Biological Women

- ▶ 5X RISK OF HEART ATTACK THAN WOMEN. 2.5X MORE THAN MEN.
- ▶ BODY/FACIAL HAIR WILL LIKELY REMAIN
- ▶ DEEPENED VOICE

- ▶ HIGHTENED RATES OF DIABETES
- ▶ STROKE
- ▶ BLOOD CLOTS
- ▶ CANCER
- ▶ INFERTILITY



# LONG-TERM EFFECTS

## Biological Men

- ▶ INCREASED RISK OF BLOOD CLOTS
- ▶ STROKE
- ▶ CANCER
- ▶ INFERTILITY



"TO COMPLETELY OVERTHROW A NATURAL CAPACITY WOULD BE LIKE A PERSON DESIRING TO BE BLUE-EYED, AND YOU DECIDING THE BEST WAY TO DO THAT IS TO GOUGE THEIR EYES OUT AND GIVE THEM GLASS EYES THAT ARE BLUE. NOW, THEY'VE GOT BLUE EYES, BUT THEY'RE NOT WORKING. YOU'VE ROBBED THEM OF THE CAPACITY."



DR. PATRICK  
LAPPERT



"THAT'S AN EXTREME EXAMPLE, BUT  
IT'S AN INSTRUCTIVE EXAMPLE  
BECAUSE WE ARE TALKING ABOUT A  
COSMETIC CHANGE. THERE IS NO  
OTHER COSMETIC OPERATION WHERE  
IT IS CONSIDERED MORALLY  
ACCEPTABLE TO DESTROY A HUMAN  
FUNCTION. NONE."



DR. PATRICK  
LAPPERT



"THERE IS NO COSMETIC OPERATION THAT I COULD PROPOSE IN FRONT OF A ROOM FULL OF MY COLLEAGUES WHERE I COULD SAY, 'HEY, LISTEN, I'M GOING TO IMPROVE THIS GUY'S NOSE BUT TAKE AWAY HIS ABILITY TO SMELL.' OR, 'I'M GOING TO IMPROVE THE APPEARANCE OF THIS BOY'S EARS BUT HE'S GOING TO BE DEAF.' THEY'D SAY, 'SIR, WE'D LIKE TO SEE YOUR CREDENTIALS.' BUT IN THE CASE OF AN ADOLESCENT GIRL, SURRENDERING HER CAPACITY TO BREASTFEED SO THAT SHE CAN APPEAR TO BE A BOY, THAT'S CONSIDERED MORALLY CORRECT. FORGIVE ME FOR MY SKEPTICISM."



DR. PATRICK  
LAPPERT



# 3 Consequences to Consider

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# EQUALITY

- ▶ SOULE V. CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS
- ▶ HECOX V. LITTLE
- ▶ B.P.J. V. WEST VIRGINIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
- ▶ D.N. V. DESANTIS
- ▶ THE STATE OF TENNESSEE V. THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION





ABIGAIL  
SHRIER

WHILE ALL THIS SEXUAL IDENTITY POLITICS MARCHES THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR, A LARGE-SCALE ROBBERY IS TAKING PLACE: THE THEFT OF WOMEN'S ACHIEVEMENT. THE MORE INCREDIBLE A WOMAN IS, THE MORE BARRIERS SHE BUSTS THROUGH, THE MORE "GENDER NONCONFORMING" SHE IS DEEMED TO BE. IN THIS PERVERSE SCHEMA, BY DEFINITION, THE MORE AMAZING A WOMAN IS, THE LESS SHE COUNTS AS A WOMAN.





DEBRA SOH

IT WAS ONLY WHEN I BEGAN  
STUDYING SEXOLOGY THAT I  
REALIZED THAT GENDER IS  
BIOLOGICALLY BASED, AND  
THAT THE DENIAL OF SEX  
DIFFERENCES ISN'T  
NECESSARY FOR GENDER  
EQUALITY.



GENESIS 1:27

SO GOD CREATED MAN IN  
HIS OWN IMAGE,  
IN THE IMAGE OF  
GOD HE CREATED HIM;  
MALE AND FEMALE  
HE CREATED THEM. (ESV)



# Biblical Identity

THE BODY

THE GOSPEL



# Secular View

THE BODY IS  
NOT YOUR  
AUTHENTIC SELF.

# Biblical View

OUR BODIES  
TELL US WHO  
WE ARE



## JONAH MIX

"IT WAS IN THOSE QUEER CIRCLES THAT I FIRST HEARD THE COMMON ADMONITION TO NEVER DEFINE A PERSON BY THEIR BODY. IF WE ARE NOT MEN BY OUR BODIES, WE ARE MEN BY OUR ACTIONS. WHEN WE ARE DEFINED BY OUR BODIES, THE WHOLE WIDTH OF HUMAN EXPERIENCE REMAINS OPEN. . . . THERE IS FREEDOM IN THE BODY."



# JONAH MIX

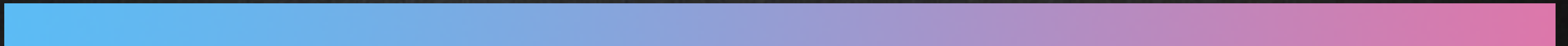
"DO YOU ACT STEREOTYPICALLY MASCULINE? THEN YOU ARE A MAN. DO YOU BEHAVE IN WAYS THAT ARE STEREOTYPICALLY FEMININE? YOU MUST BE A WOMAN. IRONICALLY, QUEER THEORY ACTUALLY REINFORCES RIGID GENDER STEREOTYPES. BY CONTRAST, IF YOU TAKE YOUR IDENTITY FROM YOUR BODY," MIX SAYS, "YOU CAN ENGAGE IN A RANGE OF DIVERSE BEHAVIORS WITHOUT THREATENING THE SECURITY OF YOUR IDENTITY AS A MAN OR WOMAN."



WHAT IS A MAN/WOMAN?

BOY

GIRL

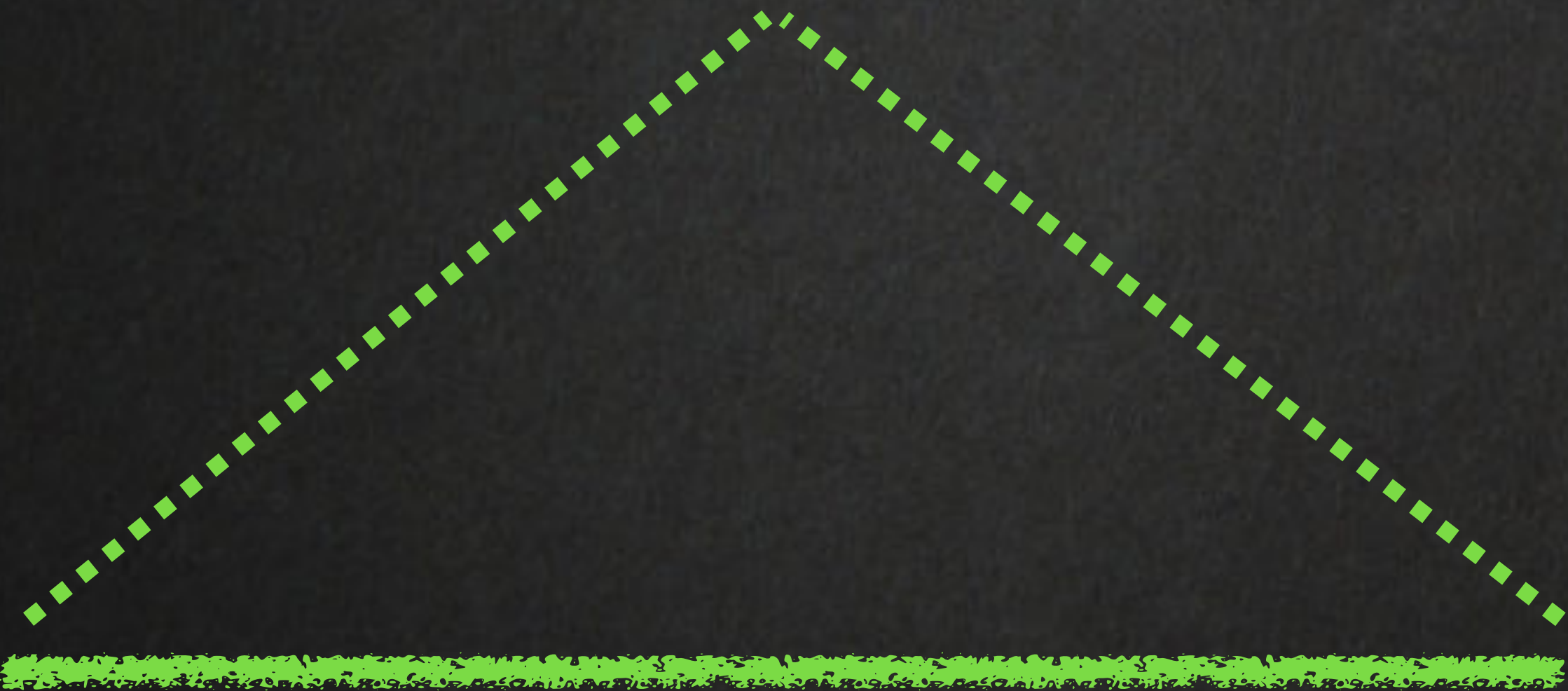




WHAT IS A MAN/WOMAN?

BOY

GIRL





I APPEAL TO YOU THEREFORE, BROTHERS, BY THE MERCIES OF GOD, TO PRESENT **YOUR BODIES** AS A LIVING SACRIFICE, HOLY AND ACCEPTABLE TO GOD, WHICH IS YOUR SPIRITUAL WORSHIP. DO NOT BE CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD, BUT BE TRANSFORMED BY THE **RENEWAL OF YOUR MIND**, THAT BY TESTING YOU MAY DISCERN WHAT IS THE WILL OF GOD, WHAT IS GOOD AND ACCEPTABLE AND PERFECT. (ESV)

ROMANS 12:1-2



- OUR BODIES ARE TEMPLES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
- OUR BODIES ARE MEANT FOR THE LORD
- OUR BODIES ARE MEMBERS OF CHRIST
- WE ARE NOT OUR OWN
- SINNING SEXUALLY IS A SIN AGAINST OUR BODIES

1 CORINTHIANS 6:12-20



# Biblical Identity

THE BODY

THE GOSPEL



# Biblical Identity

WE HAVE A GLORIOUS PHYSICAL  
FUTURE AWAITING US. THE GOSPEL  
IS GOOD NEWS FOR OUR BODIES.



# See the Person

- ▶ MAKE YOUR RELATIONSHIP A TOP PRIORITY
- ▶ ASK QUESTIONS
- ▶ PEOPLE ARE THE GOAL, NOT THE ENEMY
- ▶ FOCUS ON THE GOSPEL
- ▶ STAY AWAY FROM SIMPLISTIC CLICHES
- ▶ POINT THEM TO A BETTER "YES!"



# Stay Connected!



THINK-WELL.ORG



THINK WELL

@RYANPAULY3

