

Navigating

Gender

Identity

RYAN PAULY



"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



"IF I SEE THE PERSON ACROSS
FROM ME NOT AS AN ENEMY
BUT AS ONE WHO NEEDS TO BE
RECOVERED, AS LOST AND
NEEDING TO BE FOUND, I WILL
ENGAGE DIFFERENTLY."

DARRELL BOCK

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

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?

BOY

GIRL

3 Consequences to Consider

CONFUSION

LONG-TERM
EFFECTS

EQUALITY

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

MENTAL HEALTH POST-SURGERY

THE JOURNAL OF SEXUAL MEDICINE



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JOURNAL ARTICLE

Examining gender-specific mental health risks after gender-affirming surgery: a national database study [Get access >](#)

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MENTAL HEALTH POST-SURGERY

Background

Transgender individuals face heightened psychological distress, including depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation, partly due to stigma and lack of gender affirmation.

Aim

To evaluate mental health outcomes in transgender individuals with gender dysphoria who have undergone gender-affirming surgery, stratified by gender and time since surgery.



RESULTS FROM 107,583 PATIENTS

MENTAL HEALTH POST-SURGERY

Biological Men

- ▶ DEPRESSION 25.4% VS 11.5%
- ▶ ANXIETY 12.8% VS 2.6%

MENTAL HEALTH POST-SURGERY

Biological Women

- ▶ DEPRESSION 22.9% VS 14.6%
- ▶ ANXIETY 10.5% VS 7.1%

MENTAL HEALTH POST-SURGERY

"COHORTS DEMONSTRATED THAT THOSE UNDERGOING SURGERY WERE AT A SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER RISK FOR DEPRESSION, ANXIETY, SUICIDAL IDEATION, AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE DISORDERS THAN THOSE WITHOUT SURGERY."

MENTAL HEALTH POST-SURGERY

Clinical implications

Findings suggest the necessity for gender-sensitive mental health support following gender-affirming surgery to address post-surgical psychological risks.

Conclusion

Gender-affirming surgery, while beneficial in affirming gender identity, is associated with increased risk of mental health issues, underscoring the need for ongoing, gender-sensitive mental health support for transgender individuals' post-surgery.

3 Consequences to Consider

CONFUSION

LONG-TERM
EFFECTS

EQUALITY

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."

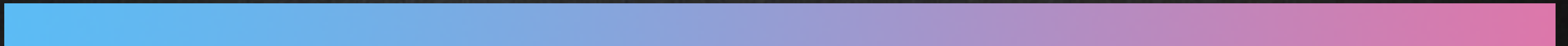
JONAH MIX

"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

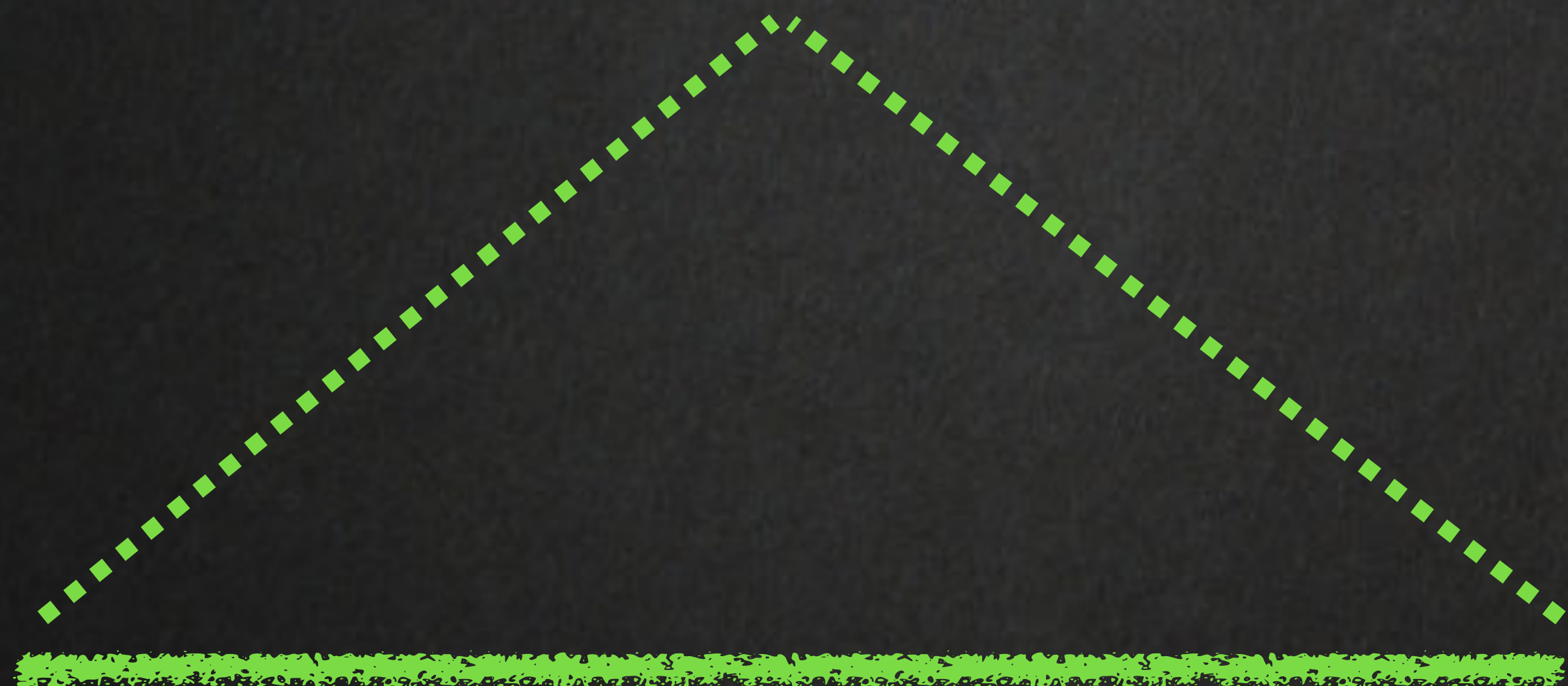
GIRL



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

"YOU ARE NOT YOUR OWN, FOR YOU WERE BOUGHT WITH A PRICE. SO GLORIFY GOD IN YOUR BODY."

1 CORINTHIANS 6:12-20

Biblical Identity

THE BODY

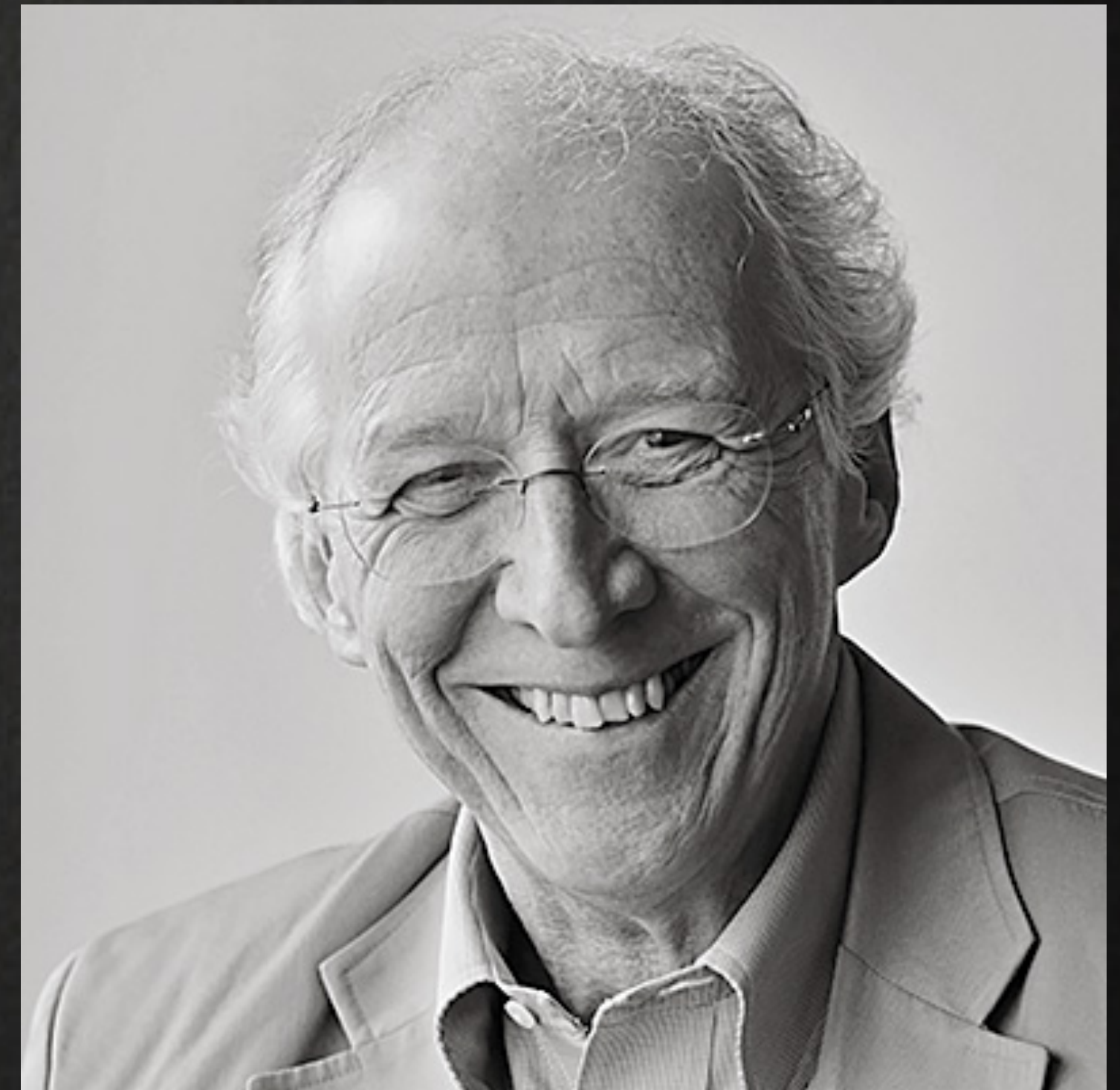
THE GOSPEL

Biblical Identity

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

Genesis 3

"ONE OF MY GREATEST WARNINGS AGAINST CLEVER, SARCASTIC, ENTERTAINING, EFFECTIVE PUT-DOWNS OF MY ADVERSARY IS THAT I ENJOY IT WAY TOO MUCH. THAT'S A WARNING. THE FACT THAT CORRECTIVE REPARTEE COMES EASILY AND TEARS COME WITH DIFFICULTY IS A SIGN OF A DEEP PROBLEM INSIDE JOHN PIPER."



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
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