

Equipped! 2018

# Gender Matters





## TIMETABLE FOR THE DAY

<b>9.30-10.00</b>	Registration
<b>10.00-11.00</b>	The Gender Revolution
<b>11.00-11.30</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>11.30 - 12.30</b>	What does the bible teach about gender?
<b>12.30-13.30</b>	<b>Lunch Break</b>
<b>13.30-14.30</b>	The Identity that matters The Gender

## Talk 1: Revolution

**Is there a difference between men and women?**

**How do you know the difference?**

### The Voices Out There

*I see how you stare on the playground each day  
Eyeing the dress, judging the way  
That I raise my family  
It couldn't happen to you  
With your conforming children  
You'd know what to do  
If your child cried about gender in bed every night  
If your child was depressed, saw no hope in sight  
If you held them as they sobbed in your arms  
Asking you to love them just as they are*

*The hate almost breaks me, it makes me despair  
So many lies, so much distortion, it is all so unfair  
I'm so close to crumbling, my head is a spin  
I can't let myself sink under, can't let them win  
I feel so hopeless, so alone, fragile and weak  
If no one will stand up, I need to speak  
I need to find courage  
It must be somewhere deep  
If I don't come up fighting  
I'll lie here and weep*

## **The New Orthodoxy**

- Gender is fluid
- Biology is not the determiner for gender.
- It is essential we acknowledge peoples self declared gender.
- Not acknowledging this is bullying and transphobic.
- Trans people are dying because of the transphobia in our society.
- Society must be compassionate and accommodating.

***What is meant by the concept of gender?***

**Gender identity :**

**Gender expression:**

**Gender role :**

Mark Yarhouse:

*'Unfortunately, one way people respond to transgender issues is to devalue the person who is gender variant and simultaneously turn to rigid stereotypes of gender. That reaction is not only overly restrictive, but it can create a forced choice for those who do not fit into those categories. It won't be helpful to stress stereotypes that people are unable to adopt.'*

## **Talk 2: What does the Bible teach about gender?**

**What does it mean that I am a woman/man?**

**What is the difference? Is Gender an innate quality?**

**Does the bible define us by gender characteristics?**

1 Corinthians 16:13

Galatians 5:23, Ephesians 4:2, 6:10,

Colossians 3:12,

**What does the bible teach us about our Gender roles?**

Ephesians 5:22-23

1 Timothy 2:11-3:7

**What does the bible teach us about gender expression?**

**How should we express ourselves as men and women?**

Deuteronomy 22:5, 1 Timothy 2:8-11, 1 Peter 3:3-5, 1 Corinthians 11:2-12

**What does this mean for us helping one another to be godly men and women?**

**What does this mean for teaching children?**



## Talk 3: The Identity that matters.

What does the bible say about our gender identity?

### 1. Creation

*“I realized that the only reason I was trans was because I wanted to feel big and safe and also, I didn’t conform to what I thought being female looked and felt like. But then I learned that being female isn’t a feeling. It’s a biological reality and I could feel however I feel without it meaning I was male.” 14yr old Noor*

*“Our culture says your psychology is your sexual identity let your body be conformed to it the bible says your body is your sexual identity let your mind be conformed to it” Sam Alberry*

### 2. Fall

“ I need to show you my best bits on-line; I need to look attractive or I’m worthless, I am not enough”. Charlotte Joseph playwright

### **3. Redemption**

**What about those with gender dysphoria?**

*I know many people who are navigating gender identity concerns who love Jesus and are desperately seeking to honour him. I think it would be a mistake to see these individuals as rebellious (as a group) or as projects. Some do identify as transgender or use others labels or ways of naming their reality, and I would like the church to provide a supportive environment for them as they navigate this difficult terrain. Rather than reject the person facing such conflicts, the Christian community would do well to recognise the conflict and try to work with the person to find the least invasive ways to manage the gender identity concerns' .[6]*

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” John 10:10



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