



**SESSION 2 — John, Joan, and Jesus:
What the Gospel Has to Say about Gender
Identity and Human Sexuality
- Dr. Sam Horn -**

The Heart of the Matter

Clearly, at the heart of the debate is the thorny question of who gets to determine a person's gender and sexual identity—is it something we choose or is it something God assigns?

Where We Go For Answers

We have to decide whether or not the Scriptures are more than sacred text we reverence or good advice we consider. Are they actually Authoritative Truth for the shaping of our lives and do we accept them as such?

Why to Engage in Conversation

1. It is a relevant conversation.
2. It is an important conversation.
3. It is an immediate conversation.

How to Engage in Conversation

1. We must speak lovingly & compassionately (Mathew 9:36).
2. We must speak truthfully & courageously (2 Timothy 2:24-26).
3. We must speak redemptively & hopefully (1 Corinthians 6:11).

What to Say in Conversation

1. Remind them God is the Creator and Designer of our gender and sexual identity (Genesis 1:26-28).
 - a. He designed it at creation (Genesis 1:27; 5:2).
 - b. He assigned it at conception (Psalm 139:13-16).
 - c. He delights in its consecration (Genesis 1:28-31; 2:18-34).
2. Help them see God's theological purpose for our gender and sexual identity (Psalm 8).
3. Point them to God's redemptive purpose for our gender and sexual identity (1 Corinthians 6:11; Romans 12:1-2).
4. Give them hope in God's future plan for our gender and sexual identity (Romans 8:23).

Help for Personal Struggle

1. Don't stop talking to God—He hears and welcomes you.
2. Don't stop reading and trusting His Word—He comforts and leads you.
3. Don't turn away from His grace—He forgives and strengthens you.
4. Don't turn away from His people—Talk to a fellow believer you trust and who you believe can help you or at least walk with you in this struggle.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

A path for thinking and talking through the issues:

1. Scriptural Authority

This is important because of a **personal autonomy** and **cultural acceptability** that have been ingrained in American thinking. Those concepts evidence themselves in the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) agenda, which on the issue of gender identity asserts the following: *gender identity is different from biological identity and represents one's true self; we are now at a place scientifically where we can conform the biological identity to the gender identity, and it would be cruelty to deny this realignment to a person.* Additionally, its perspective on sexual orientation and human sexuality is just as radically independent and uninhibited.

In contrast, God's Word authoritatively asserts the following points in regards to gender identity and human sexuality.

A. Divine Declaration — revealed truth

When talking about the marriage standard, Jesus (Matthew 19:3-6) and Paul (1 Corinthians 11:2-16) refer, not to the polygamous patriarchs, but to the divine declaration of God in Genesis 2:24.

B. Divine Design — creation truth

Humanity was made gendered (Genesis 1) as a fundamental part of their humanity/biology.

C. Divine Definition — moral truth

God gets to define what life is like: marriage (Genesis 2:24) and gender identity (at conception, Psalm 139).

2. Biblical Story

For each of us, our life story has complications that we should not overlook—these complications differ from person to person, but they are there. These complications will find resolution, only if they our story is brought into harmony with God's biblical story.

A. God's Ultimate Intention (Psalm 8) — creation

B. Satan's Universal Opposition (Genesis 3) — fall

God's purpose was broken at foundational levels: individual (unredeemable sin nature), relational (man with man), global (man with creation), and divine (man with God).

C. Divine Gracious Intervention (OT prophecies of Messiah) — rescue

D. Ultimate Total Restoration (Revelation 21-22) — restoration

3. Theological Significance

A. God's Reflection in Our Gender (Genesis 1:27)

God's image-bearing somehow requires the two genders.

B. God's Message in Our Marriages (Genesis 2:24; Ephesians 5:22-33)

Marriage is a massively important relationship to God (e.g., exclusivity, permanence, purity, penalty, etc.). Why? Because this relationship is a picture of God's relationship though Christ with His bride, the church. No wonder it's under such attack!

C. God's Intention for our Bodies (1 Corinthians 6:12-20)

It is a very temple for the Spirit of God!

4. Missional Relevance

A. We must be faithful to truth — upholding it.

B. We must be faithful to the gospel — adorning it.

C. We must be faithful to one another — discipling.

CONCLUSION

Our understanding of our gender identity (divinely determined) impacts our sexual activity (biblically obeyed) which contributes to God's glory (life's mission).

RESOURCES

- *Designed for Joy* (Purnell & Stachen)
- *What Does the Bible Really Teach About Homosexuality* (DeYoung)
- *Desire in Deceit* (Mohler)
- *What is the Meaning of Sex* (Burk)