

# Culture

Do things  
Make things  
Create things



Refine &  
Sustain  
those things



Survive  
Flourish

# Culture

Do things  
Make things  
Create things



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Survive  
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Values



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# Culture

Visions of  
the good life

Do things  
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Hope



Therefore remember that at one time you [were] Gentiles in the flesh, [...] remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

Ephesians 2:11-12

Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity.

Ephesians 4:17-19

For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

Romans 1:21-25



# Transgenderism:

- Regards “gender” as a social construct.
- Gender is merely an artifact of historical societies founded on oppressive ideologies.
- The decision about whether to be gender conforming is an individual decision

???

What draws people to transgenderism?

# A common refrain ...

- Joe “has always felt” uncomfortable in his “male” body.
- Joe has felt for years as though he “has lived a lie” ... conforming to the expectations of others.
- One day, Joe decides he is not going to let the norms of others define him. He is going to be his “authentic self” .
- Joe begins the process of transitioning to “Jane” .

# A common refrain ...

- Tina is a quiet junior-high girl who has struggled to form friendships.
- Tina wonders why nobody likes to be around her. She realizes that she doesn't really fit the mold of the popular girls in her school.
- Tina begins to wonder why she's even worried about fitting the mold. Why be tied down to an identity that doesn't fit me?
- Tina begins identifying as "they" and immediately finds an affirming community.

...

- To the sensibilities of a truth-suppressing society, the stories of the transgender community have almost unassailable rhetorical force.
- To the hopeless world, the stories of the transgender community are construed as stories of hope.

# Transgenderism is wrong on two levels:

- It violates God's design for gender (and gender roles) established at the time of Creation
- It is the fruit of society's idolatrous embrace of self-determinism

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

From the beginning of the creation God made them male and female.

Mark 10:6



If a woman conceives and bear a male child, then she shall be unclean seven days . . . . But if she bears a female child, then she shall be unclean two weeks.

Leviticus 12:2-5

# Gender and Sex in the Scriptures

- The Scriptures assume an absolute correlation of sex and gender.
- Sex (and gender) are not assigned. They are recognized.
- The Scriptures repeated and consistently speak of the distinction between men and women, including their differential roles

A woman shall not wear a man's garment,  
nor shall a man put on a woman's cloak,  
for whoever does these things is an  
abomination to the LORD your God.

Deuteronomy 22:5

“ ... the law assumes a more fundamental rule—that there are only two biological sexes—male and female—and that what is gender normative in God’s world is that one’s biological sex should govern both one’s gender identity and expression. Before divine wrath is poured out, this text provides a kind corrective to gender confusion and transgender identity.”

Jason DeRouchie – *Confronting the Transgender Storm: New Covenant Reflections from Deuteronomy 22:5*

“From God’s perspective, maleness and femaleness bears implications beyond the home or gathered worshiping community. It also impacts daily life in society . . . . Within Israelite culture, then, there were certain styles of dress, ornaments, or items that distinguished men and women. As such, two things appear to be at stake in this law: (1) everyone needed to let their gender expression align with their biological sex, and (2) everyone needed to guard against gender confusion, wherein others could wrongly perceive a man to be a woman and a woman to be a man based on dress.”

Jason DeRouchie – *Confronting the Transgender Storm: New Covenant Reflections from Deuteronomy 22:5*

“Gender identity and gender expression is about God’s glory and about maintaining the God-created distinctions on earth that in turn point to the ultimate distinction between God and his bride. Just as husbands and wives in the human household and men and women in the collective household of God bear distinct roles, and by this, uniquely display God’s image, so too the creator and Lord of all things is rightly magnified in the lives of males and females when our gender identity and gender expression align perfectly with our God-ordained biological sex. Those born boys are to live and thrive as boys, and those born girls are to live and thrive as girls.”

Jason DeRouchie – *ibid*

## What about Galatians 3:26-28?

For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: Marvellous are thy works; And that my soul knoweth right well.

Psalm 139:14



# Christian responses to transgenderism in society

- Recognize that expressions of transgenderism in individuals are the “tip of the iceberg”.
- When the will of our Creator God is exempted from society’s value system, there is no meaningful reason not to embrace every manner of self-expression.
- Transgenderism signals a desperate, hopeless quest for hope.

# Christian engagement with transgenderism in society

- What about preferred pronouns (for example, in the workplace)?
- Does honoring others' referential preferences amount to a symbolic complicity in a God-less worldview?
- Are there opportunities to shape society's trends? (For example, by raising alarm about the potential harms associated with gender transition?)

# How can we hold forth hope to the transgender community?

- Recognize that transgenderism is a manifestation of deep seated patterns of truth suppression.
- Live out, faithfully and quietly, the beauty of God's norms for His gendered creation.
- Resist objectifying individuals who identify with transgenderism. See them as individuals who are running out of hope.
- Always be ready to share the hope of Jesus.

# For further discussion

- How should we talk to our children about things (such as transgenderism) that they will see in the world?
- How can we, as a church community, live as a “community of hope” in the midst of a society seeking to normalize a thoroughly God-less worldview?