



CHRISTIAN ANTHROPOLOGY: “WHO AM I?”

“Who Am I?” This is the fundamental question in every person’s life. Discovering the answer to this question makes it possible to answer other key questions about life: “What is my purpose in life?” “What is the meaning of suffering?” “What is good (or evil)?” And “How shall I live?” The Christian considers these questions in light of our most fundamental relationship — with God, our Creator.

PERSONS IN RELATIONSHIP

We are persons loved by God, created in love, for love, in his image and likeness. From our first moments of existence, we are in relationship with God and called to relationship with others. Created male or female, we are equal in dignity and complementary in our differences, made one for another.

IDENTITY AND THE MORAL LAW

Our most fundamental identity is as a son or daughter of the Lord. We bear the consequences of original sin, but have been redeemed by Christ, and are called to eternal life with Him. As creatures with intellect and will, we are tasked with knowing, loving, and serving God. Humbled by our human frailties, we seek to live in the truth about ourselves and God. We accept the truth of the moral law as taught by the Church, finding happiness by embracing God’s will for our lives.

CHRISTIAN ANTHROPOLOGY

As embodied persons, a unity of body and soul, our sex reveals the truth about “who we are.” A person *is* male or female and we are called to accept our sexual identity as given, a gift from God.¹ Both males and females have a wide variety of feelings, interests, personality traits, and experiences, but these cannot change or override a person’s fundamental identity as male or female.

EMBODIED PERSONS: MALE OR FEMALE

“Sex” is the person’s whole-body organization for a reproductive role. Sex is binary (M/F) because reproduction is binary: a person’s body is organized to produce either sperm or ova. A person’s sex is determined at conception and is in “every cell” of the body.² Sex cannot change, ever.

¹Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2333

²Institute of Medicine. 2001. Exploring the Biological Contributions to Human Health: Does Sex Matter?. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/10028>.

WHAT ABOUT GENDER IDEOLOGY?

Gender ideology is a false anthropology, a set of erroneous beliefs about the human person. Gender ideology denies human nature, the reality of sexual difference, and the natural harmony of body, identity, and sexual attraction. It *contradicts Christian anthropology*, rejecting God as Creator and the unity of body and soul. Instead, gender ideology presents the person as a jumble of disconnected, unstable dimensions, each existing on a spectrum and subject to change. The individual is a “self-creator.”

GENDER IDEOLOGY CAUSES HARM

Gender ideology’s core belief is that each person has the “right” to self-define an identity, regardless of biological sex, to access “gender-affirming” hormones and surgeries in order to alter the body as desired, and to compel others to accept and validate that identity in speech and actions.¹

Gender ideology claims that a person’s feelings or self-perception (“*gender identity*”) determine a person’s true identity as “a man, woman, both, neither, or something else,” regardless of sex.² But “*gender identity*” is completely subjective; it is fluid and may change over time. “*Gender identity*” cannot be tested, proven, or observed by others, but activists claim it is more significant than sex and can override the reality of the sexed body.

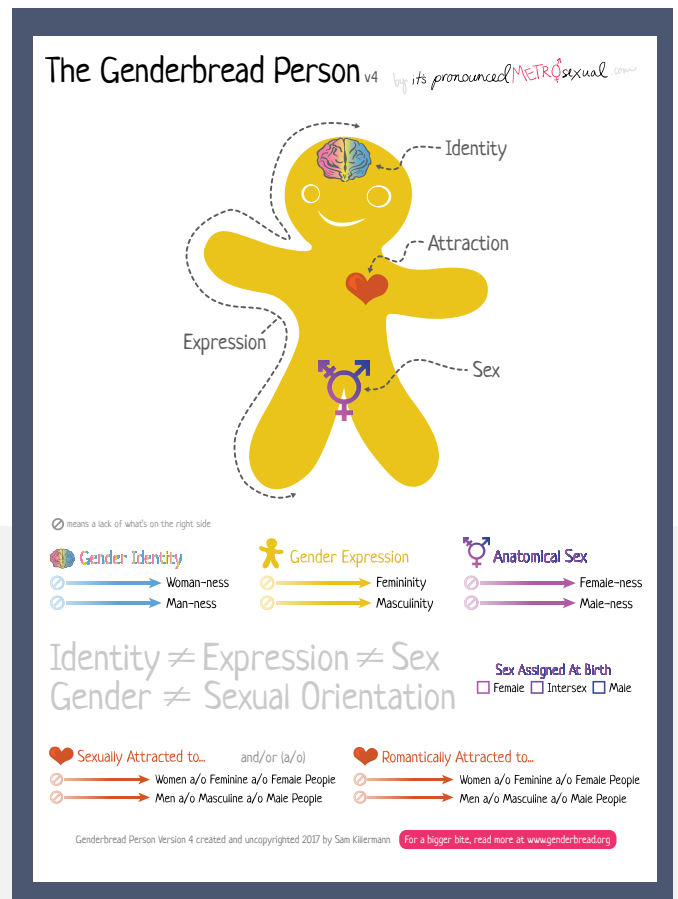
Gender ideology pretends there are no rules of nature to limit human desire. *For example*, A boy who thinks he’s a girl or “feels like” a girl “*is*” a girl. The *gender narrative* tells children confusing and dangerous lies – that a person can be “trapped” or “born in the wrong body,” but “gender-affirming” hormones or surgery will set them free and solve their unhappiness.

Gender ideology:

Denies science. Sex is whole body, whole person--either male or female. Gender ideology reduces the person to “anatomical sex” (body parts suggesting “female-ness” or “male-ness”) and “sex assigned at birth” (a label “assigned” at birth, but changeable at will). Fact: Sex is determined at conception, recognized at birth or in utero, and unchangeable.

Relies on outdated, rigid stereotypes about appearance, interests, and behaviors (“gender expression”). Teens become pre-occupied, anxious, and self-critical about their appearance and how others perceive them. Their self-worth depends on others’ validation.

Promises happiness but never delivers. Depressed, anxious, and autistic teens believe “transition” will solve their problems. Fact: Puberty blockers do not stop gender dysphoria. Wrong-sex hormones and surgery do not reduce suicide or mental illness. “Gender-affirming care” inflicts serious, lifelong harm (amputations, infertility, drug dependence).



The *Genderbread Person* is a teaching tool used by governments, schools, and activists to promote gender ideology. View full size document at: <https://personandidentity.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Genderbread-Person-v4.pdf>

¹The Yogyakarta Principles (2006) and The Yogyakarta Principles plus 10 (2017). <http://yogyakartaprinciples.org/>.

² “What Does Transgender Mean?” American Psychological Association (2015). <https://www.apa.org/topics/lgbtq/transgender>