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**Our goal is be equipped to effectively love God and love others in an ever-increasingly counter Christian culture.**

**Our Cultural Context:**

1. We live in a fallen world populated with broken and sinful people who are being guided by ungodly and deceitful philosophies. (Rom 1:18-32)

2. Our culture has rejected the concept of absolute truth and embraced relativism. (2 Tim 4:3-4)

3. The lifestyles, standards, and actions of our culture reflect the godless value system that the culture has embraced.

**Culture War:**

* Fight and debate between polarized groups over value, moral, and truth issues
* Fueled by outrage
* Choose to strike back as opposed to turning the other cheek
* Seek to defeat, destroy, or humiliate the opposition

**Cultural Engagement:**

* Oppose the evils of society in order to be salt and light. Absolutely contend for godly values in the way we live and vote.
* Choose not only a truthful position, but a graceful tone.
* Seek the rescue of our opponents not their ruin.
* Desire to convert our opponents instead of destroying them.

**We are not at war with our ideological opponents—we are at war for them.**

**Is my heart postured to *pray for* *and desire conversion for* my ideological opponents?**

**But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect. 1 Peter 3:15**

**Week 3: Gender**

**Image of God**

Then God said, *“Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.* And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” Genesis 1:26

…and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Colossians 3:10

**Biological Sex and Gender**

*So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.* Genesis 1:27

**Identity in Christ**Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple *must deny themselves* and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. Matthew 16:24-25

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 2nd Corinthians 5:17

**Biological sex and gender are interchangeable terms that exist in a binary relationship. This understanding is clearly expressed in Scripture. God designed male and female in His likeness or image. Both genders have unique characteristics that should be embraced and celebrated.**

**We believe that God created the human race male and female, and all conduct with the intent to adopt a sex/gender other than the one ordained by God at conception is contrary to God’s intent, and therefore sin. (**[**Genesis 1:27**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+1%3A27&version=NIV)**;**[**Matthew 19:4**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+19%3A4&version=NIV)**;**[**Mark 10:6**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+10%3A6&version=NIV)**).**

**Warning Against Sexual Immorality**

Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. 19 Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; 20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies. 1 Cor 6:18-20

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**Transgender**

**Understand the terminology:**

Gender: For years, this word was interchangeable for biological sex. In its more complex meaning, gender may be subdivided into gender identity, gender role, and gender expression. Culture has now re-defined gender as strictly a “social construct” and therefore may reflect whatever an individual feels or desires, despite their biology.

Gender identity: The inner feeling one experiences relative to their gender

Gender role: Cultural expectation of different genders

Gender expression: Personal expression of one’s gender (dress, hair, make-up, etc)

Sex: *Biological* condition; reality male vs female; scientifically given.

Sexual orientation: *who people are physically, romantically, or emotionally attracted to*

Gender dysphoria: *The* feeling that your emotional and psychological identity doesn’t match the biological sex you were born with.

Transgender or Trans\*: An umbrella term for the *multitude of ways* that people experience or express their gender identities differently from people who concur with their biological sex.

Non-binary: Individuals who do not acknowledge a strict male-female binary system

Spectrum: The vast number of non-binary options that exist for gender.

Cisgender: when a person’s biological sex is the same as their gender.

Cishet: A cisgender individual who is also heterosexual.

Gender fluid: The act of arbitrarily changing your gender whenever one desires.

Queer: All identities that go against normative beliefs. (anything but cisgender and heterosexual)

Misgender: The use of a word, especially a pronoun or form of address, that does not reflect the gender identity of an individual.

**The Pressure of Cultural Conformity**

The Trans\* and Queer community is driving a political and social agenda to force widespread and universal validation of their lifestyle as the norm.

We will continue to face ever increasing pressure to condone and embrace the Trans\* and Queer lifestyle or face the moral outrage of the cancel culture.

We are called to counterculture living. We are to hold firmly to the convictions of the scripture without compromise.

We should expect that this counter cultural view of sexuality will be rejected, ridiculed, and possibly considered hateful.

This is why our truth should always be balanced with love and grace.

Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person. (ESV) Colossians 4:6

Let’s *pray for* *and desire conversion for and engage our* ideological opponents!

**Suggested Reading**

***Love Thy Body*, (Nancy Pearcy)**

***Embodied* (Preston Sprinkle)**