

# Understanding the Landscape of Sexual and Gender Identity

*ABC Conference* | Track Session 3

*“Our feelings matter. Our stories matter. Our friends matter. But ultimately, we must search the Scriptures to see what matters most.”*

**-Kevin DeYoung**

## 1. The Core Wrestle: Knowing & Being

- **Ontology**
- **Epistemology**
  - **Genesis 1:1**

## 2. God’s Design: Genesis 1:26-28 and 2:25-27

- We are made in the image of a triune God
- God made male and female
- God gave man and women purpose in creation
- God designed marriage
- Jesus reaffirms the importance of the creation account in Genesis
- The redemptive-historical significance of marriage as a divine symbol in the Bible only works if the marital couple is a complementary pair.

## 3. Breaking From Design:

- Genesis 3:1-5 - The serpent offers a new story for understanding God and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. This forces Adam and Eve to wrestle with three questions:
  - Is God good?
  - Is His design the best option?
  - Wouldn’t you be better off being god?
- Genesis 3:6 - Our behavior follows the story we believe.

## 4. Breaking From Design: The Pattern

- Romans 1:18-20 - All are accountable to God and people suppress the truth of God through their unrighteousness
- Romans 1:21-23 - People become futile in their thinking, darkened in heart and exchange the Creator for creation.
- Romans 1:24-25 - People exchange the truth of God for a lie and God gives them over to the lust of their hearts.
- Romans 1:26-27 - God gives people over to dishonorable passions and they exchange natural relationships for unnatural.
- Romans 1:28-32 - People are given over to a debased mind and approve and celebrate what God calls evil.

## 5. Current Reality

- Around 20% of the current generation identifies somewhere within the LGBTQ+ spectrum

## 6. Defining the Terminology to Understand the Culture

- Sex is defined by four things:
  1. Presence or absence of Y chromosome
  2. Internal reproductive organs
  3. External sexual anatomy
  4. Endocrine systems that produce secondary sex characteristics
- Gender: one's internal sense of self as male, female, both or neither
  - Historically a person's sex and gender have been determined at birth and considered unalterable. One could choose to operate within cultural norms for their gender and sex or not, but such activity did not change their identified gender and sex.
  - The tran\* movement asserts that your gender determines your sex.
- Gender Dysphoria: formerly known as "gender identity disorder"—is characterized by a severe and persistent discomfort in one's biological sex. It typically begins in early childhood—ages two to four—though it may grow more severe in adolescence. But in most cases—nearly 70 percent—childhood gender dysphoria resolves.
- Rapid Onset Gender Dysphoria: Gender dysphoria appearing rapidly among adolescents who lack a previous history of gender dysphoria.
  - The new story:
    - You shouldn't have to experience discomfort in your body

- If you feel discomfort in your body, it is because you were born in the wrong body
- If you transition to help your body match your true self, the discomfort will go away

## 7. LGBTQ+ Terminology:

- Types of sexuality: Alloromantic, Allosexual, Androsexual, Aromantic, Asexual (spectrum: Sex-averse, Sex-favorable, Sex-indifferent, Sex-repulsed, Cupiosexual, Libidoist asexual, Graysexual, Grayromantic), Autoromantic, Autosexual, Bicurious, Biromantic, Bisexual, Demiromantic, Demisexual, Gay, Gynesexual, Heteromantic, Heterosexuality, Homoromantic, Homosexuality, Lesbian, Monosexual, Pansexual, Panromantic, Polysexual, Queer, Skoliosexual, Spectrasexual.
- Transgender related terms: Transgender, Transexual, Trans\*, Transition, Gender Fluid, Non-Binary, Transgender Man, Transgender Woman, Gender Creative, Gender Dysphoria, Rapid Onset Gender Dysphoria, Cisgender, Top Surgery, Bottom Surgery.
  - We should expect the terminology to continue to multiply as self-definition requires uniquely self-oriented terms
  - Keeping loosely up to date on the terminology can help us be hospitable as well as avoid accidentally offending people
  - Given the fluidity of terminology it is best not to assume what the person means when using one of these terms

## 8. What Defines Who We Are?

- Are we defined by what we feel? (Jeremiah 17:9)
- Are we defined by our sexuality? (James 4:1)
- Do we have the right to self-define?
  - Consider: Psalm 139:13-16, 2 Cor. 5:16-17, and Ephesians 2:10