

THE EQUIP INSTITUTE

Theme: Christian Engagement

Topic: Theological Anthropology: Gender and Sexuality

Spring 2025

Introduction

The Equip Institute exists to equip members of Taylors First Baptist Church to think rightly about God and His Word for the sake of living rightly before God in His world. This week our topic is the gender and sexuality.

What Does the Bible Say?

Both genders are included in the *imago Dei*, and everything that is true about the nature and destiny of the first man is also true of the first woman.

²⁶ 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." ²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." ²⁹ And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. ³¹ And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. (Gen. 1:26-31)

God's design includes gender complementarity. Men and women especially complement each other in a unique one-flesh union called marriage. Sexuality is expressed within the covenant of marriage.

likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. (Rom. 1:26-27)

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality. (1 Cor. 6:9)

4 Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonors his head, 5 but every wife who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head, since it is the same as if her head were shaven. 6 For if a wife will not cover her head, then she should cut her hair short. But since it is disgraceful for a wife to cut off her hair or shave her head, let her cover her head.... 14 Does not nature itself teach you that if a man wears long hair it is a disgrace for him, 15 but if a woman has long hair, it is her glory? For her hair is given to her for a covering. (1 Cor. 11:4-6, 14-15)

Just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire. (Jude 1:7)

Within the context of marriage, the husband is the head of the household. Husbands serve their wives through sacrificial spiritual leadership, and wives serve their husbands through gracious submission to that leadership. These gender roles and responsibilities in marriage reflect the gospel.

22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. ²⁸ In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but

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General revelation provides clear witness to the biological aspects of gender complementarity. Men and women are different down to their chromosomes. Every cell in the human body reflects the individual's biological sex. Children can only be conceived through sexual intercourse between a man and a woman. Homosexual sex between men often causes bodily damage and increases the likelihood of the spreading of sexually transmitted diseases.

What Should Christian Believe?

Man is the special creation of God, made in His own image. He created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation. The gift of gender is thus part of the goodness of God's creation. (Article III: Man)

Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race.
(Article XVIII: The Family)

The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit

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We should remain steadfastly committed to Scripture's teaching about gender and sexuality. Increasingly, these views are countercultural. Many of our neighbors might even see Christian views as unjust or even immoral. This is arguably the most important—and most controversial—aspect of our cultural apologetic.

- We should not allow popular arts and entertainment to disciple us into accepting disordered understandings of gender and sexuality
- We should advocate for laws that are grounded in God's general revelation, especially when it comes to transgenderism
- We should work through appropriate channels to challenge the legality of homosexual marriage
- We should advocate for laws that undermine the pornography industry and minimize the exposure of minors to internet pornography
- We should model healthy marriages rooted in biblical teaching, including rejecting a culture of no-fault divorce that makes it easy to end a marriage for any reason
- We should recognize that sincere Christians struggle with sexual temptations of every type, including same-sex attraction, while also rejecting the idea that any disordered form of sexuality is part of God's design simply because the temptation is common or seems "natural" to some people
- We should model gender complementarity in our families and in our church

