

IS IT A BOY, OR A GIRL, OR A BOY?

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I shall never forget the day we took our four children to a nursing home for the elderly. We had our dog in the car and the kids thought it would be a good idea to take Billy (a Welsh Springer Spaniel) inside with us. Why not? These days it's common practice for aged facilities to have therapy pets. The elderly and mentally ill respond positively to patting our furry friends. But those few decades ago, the elderly folks did not have this helpful and healing presence, so Billy was a novelty.

Anyway, we happened to sit down in the lounge room alongside an elderly lady, who instantly took a shine to Billy. She started patting him on the head, talking to him as though he was her long lost friend. Then she turned to the kids and asked, "Is it a boy, or a girl, or a boy?" To this day, that question still amuses us whenever we have family get-togethers ... "Is it a boy, or a girl, or a boy?"

Now, that old lady had a legitimate excuse for her confusion. She had dementia. But in those few decades since, we have witnessed some kind of confused madness over gender identity invade our modern world. And the cause of our collective confusion is not dementia, as we'll shortly discuss.

In days not long gone by, and before the advent of foetal scans, the very first thing announced upon delivery was, "It's a little girl!" Or, "It's a bonny boy!" But today, well, not so fast. Gender identity is no longer a straight forward matter it seems. ...



We apparently have to wait for the child to grow some years to see how it “self-identifies”. Perhaps, after all, this is a boy trapped in a girl’s body? Perhaps, in spite of all the obvious male (shall we say) ‘equipment’, this is a girl in a male body? “Is it a boy, or a girl, or a boy?” Society is increasingly insecure and unsure about sexual identity.

“TRANSITIONING” IS THE NEW BUZZ WORD

Many parents face the issue as to whether they should let their boys dress up as girls and play with dolls, or whether they should let their little girls play with trains and trucks. For most growing lads and lassies these ‘fads’ pass, but what about the apparent growing numbers who seem to be genuinely confused about whether they are a boy, or a girl, or a boy into puberty and beyond? Should kids be granted the freedom to transition if they are so inclined?

Nor is this simply a matter of personal or parental choice anymore. Big brother is getting restless. For instance, **Canada** has recently passed new ‘rainbow’ law decreeing that parents who disagree with their child changing sexual identity are now officially guilty of “abuse” and risk the State removing their child by force.

I kid you not. According to Ontario’s Minister of Children and Youth Services, Michael Cotto, parents who are concerned that “transitioning” is not in their children’s best interests will automatically be labelled as “abusive”. Parents who hold to the biologic, scientific and common sense view of gender are now considered outlaws of the State programme.

So, if little Johnny tells a teacher at school he feels like he’s Jane and that his parents don’t agree and don’t understand, this could be reported to the government. There’ll be a knock at the door and the State will have the power to take little Johnny to an environment where he can live as Jane. Yes, **Bill 89** was passed in Ontario by 63 to 23.

Fuelling this societal engineering in the West are powerful political forces from the LGBTQ lobby groups. Since coming out of their closets, the chant has gone forth like a call to arms, “We’re here, we’re queer, get used to it!”

Supported by a massively biased media ‘blitz’, the whole atmosphere is aided and abetted by various government policies and programmes with euphemistic names like “Safe Schools”. What once was unthinkable, is now legislated, celebrated. Think I’m exaggerating?



Time magazine in last September’s issue ran an article with the headlines, “My brother’s Pregnancy and the Making of a New American family.” The woman who wrote the article reported on her brother’s pregnancy ... which is to say, her sister’s pregnancy. The catch was of course, that her sister now identifies as her brother.

That same month [Pink News](#) showed a photo of a transgender dad breastfeeding his son with the story line that this is true love and acceptance. In May of this year [Lifesite News](#) stated that “Breastfeeding organisation welcomes transgender ‘nursing men’”. I won’t paste that photo on this site!

In the last throes of the Obama Presidential administration there was a great kerfuffle when the [Obama Justice Department](#) threatened removal of Federal monies from public schools that would not allow boys who identified as girls access to the female locker rooms, bathrooms and showers. There are reports of girls screaming out in horror as girls supposedly trapped in boys bodies walked into their bathrooms. How dare they squeal and hurt these boys’ --- who are really girls!?! --- feelings like that? They’ll be ruined for life by such discrimination and rejection!

And to prove how the Obama Justice administration had lost all touch with reality, it even allowed for an adolescent to change his or her sexual preference *each day* of the week. Monday, I self-identify as a boy. Tuesday, I believe I am a girl. Wednesday, I feel like a boy again. Thursday ... well, you get the idea. “Is it a boy, or a girl, or a boy?”

And did you hear about [Ben & Jerry’s Specialty Ice Cream outlets in America](#)? A recent headline in the [Daily Mail](#) announced, “Ben & Jerry’s BAN customers from ordering two scoops of the same ice cream until Australia legalises Gay marriage.” That’s right. If you try to order two scoops of your favourite New York Super Fudge Chocolate for your ice cream cone, you will be refused! Apparently this is Ben & Jerry’s way of saying “love comes in all flavours.” So Ben & Jerry’s want to convey the message that nobody should be rejected for wanting to marry the person they love. That’s why you can’t order two scoops of the same flavour. Ben & Jerry’s hope that you too will be furious at Australia’s current marriage laws! ¹



FOUNDERS OF BILL + JERRY’S SPECIALTY ICE CREAM OUTLETS ...

One has to wonder what kind of slippery slope Ben & Jerry’s logic leads to. After all, if “love comes in all flavours”, then what’s stopping us legalizing three people in a “Throuple”? Or how about the fact that the schoolgirl who is 16 says she is in love with her 50 year old school teacher and should be allowed to marry him? What about the Mormon or the Muslim who says he wants to marry multiple women?

Of course Ben & Jerry’s believe they are protesting injustice and inequality. But the logic is self-refuting because “love” does not come by blending all flavours. There must be boundaries for love to work, as I’ll shortly show.

In this article I want to be sensitive and sympathetic to those who have experienced gender identity issues. But my main priority is to try to faithfully represent our Creator’s word on the matter. Nor do I believe the two are necessarily poles apart. For I am firmly convinced that God’s truth presented in a balanced approach has the power to heal and to set individuals and society free from its current transition to confusion.

GOD SEPARATES

In the earliest stages of our world’s creation, we are told the earth was “without form and void” and that “darkness was upon the face of the deep” (Genesis 1: 2). Something was there, potential was present, all the elements and raw materials were conglomerated, but it was “without form”. The various parts needed separating out of the mass for purpose and for functionality to happen. Differentiation was needed. The “flavours” needing separating.

The rest of the account in Genesis 1 shows how on at least 8 different occasions God introduced differentiation for this world to function orderly;

1. God “separated the light from darkness” (v. 4).
2. God “separated the waters from the waters” by stretching the ‘expanse’ (KJV “firmament”) (v.6-7).
3. God differentiated the waters below from the dry land (v.9-10).
4. God put a difference between non-life and life when he brought forth vegetation (v. 11)

¹ I acknowledge my indebtedness to Dr Michael L. Brown’s blog for the images and Ben & Jerry’s item.

5. Differentiation is further refined when God makes it possible on earth to divide the night from the day and the seasons from each other (v. 14-16).
6. One of the most crucial differentiations comes in verses 20-21 ... between conscious and unconscious life.
7. In verse 24 the seventh differentiation arrives. Conscious life on the land is distinguished from that in the water and in the air.
8. Then, standing in marked contrast to everything else, mankind is differentiated from the animal kingdom; though still physically related to his material world, he is spiritually related to his Creator.
9. And finally, all this distilling comes down to one last separation. God's last act of creating was to differentiate female from male. Sexual identity is God's idea. He thought of boys and girls first!

Carefully observe how the original chaos (what was "without form") progressively moves from mixture and disorder to differentiation, usefulness, and function, by God's creative processes of separation. In other words --- and in today's society this is not a popular or politically correct thing to say --- God Himself is the One responsible for borders demarking differences! The right kind of boundaries are essential for our very existence.

THE GATE

How instructive to note that ever since God drew up these necessary and salutary differentiations, that both man and Satan have tirelessly tried to blur these distinctions. Border crossings have been going on since day dot!

Adam's rebellion was an attempt to become independent of his Creator. Adam was permitted to freely enjoy the entire Garden, with the exception of just one tree. That tree was to be a constant reminder to Adam & Eve that this was ultimately not their created garden. This was God's garden, God's world, and they must recognize the authority of that boundary in order to continue to enjoy it.

But no. Adam made a mad grab to "become like God". He evidently was not content with the distinction between himself and the Eternal One. Adam was not content with his God-given station in life. He climbed the border wall.

So, God justly responded by erecting a powerful electric fence, as it were. Excommunicated from Paradise, Adam and his wife were driven out and barred at the border by the Cherubim and the flaming sword that whirled and twirled in "every direction" (Genesis 3:24). (I wonder if there wasn't a threatening buzz emanating from that flaming sword, much like we hear from modern transformers?) The gate to Eden was locked and the border closed!

But as we know, man left the Garden with hope. God had spoken a gracious promise of salvation. A descendant from the woman, "the seed of the woman" would eventually crush the Serpent and restore mankind to Paradise.

THE NEPHILIM

Now the plot thickens, for the Devil had heard this Gospel-promise too. He understood a Redeemer was on the way to wrest control of the world back from his nefarious grasp. He will now do everything he can to thwart God's plan. Enter the Nephilim ... ²

The salient point for our present discussion is that Satan tried to muddy the pure Adamic race by the intermarriage of "the sons of God" (fallen demonic beings) with "the daughters of men". The resultant bastard race was called *Nephilim ... The Fallen Ones ...*

The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward ... these were the mighty men (LXX = "giants") of old, men of renown" (Genesis 6:4).

It is evident Satan's master plan was to infect the human race with these hybrids, and so to cause God's promise of "the seed of the woman" to fail. How nearly this was achieved can be seen by the fact that not only did God have to blot them out by the Flood, but also by the fact that it seems Noah and his family were possibly the only pure-bred humans left. At least there was no alien mixture in his family record. We read;

² I have written a deal about this fascinating study in *They Never Told Me This in Church!* (Second Edition pp 333-336)

These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless (complete, perfect ³) in his generations ⁴ and Noah walked with God (Genesis 6:9).

Most folks concentrate on Noah's personal holiness and closeness to God, and that indeed is a remarkable feature of a man of faith whose entire generation was violent and anti-God. But also of critical importance is the fact that Noah was complete or "perfect in his generations", which is to say, he was a pure man and not a half-bred mongrel like the Nephilim. Noah's family tree could be traced as entire all the way back to Adam with impeccable pedigree.

How nearly Satan came to destroying the blood-line of Eve's "seed" and to annulling the validity of God's promise is evidenced by the drastic measures God took to destroy that world by burying it in a cataclysm of water. God must have biological purity, differentiation, clear boundaries, for his plan of redemption to work. Our redeemer must be a man, for by man sin entered the world, and by man God's grace will super-abound (Romans 5: 12f).

Noah's Flood is God's testimony to His wish for clear distinctions. On the day that Noah entered the Ark, the LORD Himself closed the door behind him (Genesis 7:16).

THE LAW

So great was God's concern that His promised redeemer come through kosher human channels, that He qualified His promise and streamlined it even further after the Flood. The "seed" will come through Abraham, and with even narrower focus, through the royal descendant of Abraham, David.

This fact helps us understand some rather puzzling directions God gave His people Israel. Generally of course, God gave Israel "the Law" to keep them separate and distinct from the rest of the nations. They were to be a holy people, which means they were to be different for a good reason. Our salvation depended on "pure seed". ⁵

Our unbelieving friends often say, "What stupid directions God gave Israel in the OT. Why, they weren't allowed to wear clothing with mixed materials. Men weren't allowed to wear woman's clothes. They weren't allowed to plow their paddocks with an unequal yoke of ox and donkey, nor were they allowed to sow a mixed bag of seeds in the furrows. They weren't allowed to eat all kinds of meats ... only animals with cloven hoofs and that chew the cud. They weren't allowed to marry non-Jews. They had to keep the Sabbath separate from all other days. What a finicky, fastidious God this is to create all those restrictions and distinctions!"

Indeed! The God of the Bible is extremely fastidious about keeping His promise to deliver the pure "seed of the woman". Aren't you glad He was very particular about bringing His grace and salvation to the sons of men? Nothing, repeat, nothing, is going to stop His Messiah coming.

If Israelites were free to marry any unconverted Gentile, then the messianic waters would be muddied. God's programme would be in serious jeopardy. So yes, the clear distinctions, differentiations, separations in Israel must be strictly adhered to ... God's people must be holy. There must be differentiation ... God's programme of salvation for the world depended on it. And that's why the Law specified tight control of who married who.

The only problem is that now Messiah Jesus has come, our dear Jewish friends are still tenaciously clinging to the Mosaic types and have failed to grasp hold of the substance to which the shadows pointed (Col. 2:17; 20). The Law was the tutor designed to introduce us to Christ (Gal.3:24).

The restrictions, the borders and the gates have fulfilled their Messianic role ... the "man Christ Jesus" is truly qualified to be our mediator with God (I Tim. 3:5).

³ LXX = *teleios* = complete, perfect.

⁴ Note the word is plural --- generations --- "these are the generations", thus highlighting not only Noah's righteous life but equally as important, his family records of ancestry.

⁵ The etymology of the word "holy" carries the essential idea of being "separate", hence in practical terms "different".

FULL CIRCLE

This brings us full circle to our original question. Observe that peace and harmony are always a matter of balance between differences. We must exercise wisdom as to which walls God has erected and that must stay up. We must at the same time discern which walls God Himself has torn down and that we must not re-erect.⁶

What God has joined together, we must not separate. And what God has separated, we must not join. We ignore this balance to our peril. A certain kind of madness will surely follow. Let's see.

BREAKING GOD'S BOUNDARIES BRINGS INSANITY

Perhaps the greatest sin in the Bible is idolatry ... not because God our Creator is a petty deity and insecure ... but because of His great love for us. Love always wants the very best for the beloved. And God knows the god we worship will fashion us into its own image. For example, people who worship the fire-god Molech will throw their children into his sacrificial fires. Exchanging any false deity for the holy Creator has dire consequences for individuals and societies. We become like the god we worship. Unfortunately though,

Professing to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator, Who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions ... And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper ... (Romans 1: 22-28).

So, blurring the God-mandated boundaries inevitably leads to "degraded passions" and a "depraved mind". The "depraved mind" is delineated as first, a failure to acknowledge the Creator's supreme and unique holiness, His otherness ... "they exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures" (v. 23). They disregarded the first Instruction not to make any images of the holy Creator which would confuse the necessary boundaries (Exodus 20: 2-5).

This "exchange" is quickly followed by blurring the God-ordained natural functions between men and women --- homosexual acts --- which are described as "degrading passions" leading to insanity (vs. 26-27). Next comes a list of "indecent acts" (vs. 27-32)) including greed, hatred, envy, murder, strife, deceit, hatred, gossip, arrogance, boastfulness, disrespect for parents and proper authority, vengefulness and so forth.

Oh, if only we would live within the natural boundaries God has established for our welfare. We would save our society from its present insanity. On the authority of God's word we must say that blurring the created distinction between male and female inevitably leads to "the due penalty of their error" (v. 27).

SELF-IDENTIFYING AS A HIPPO!

The insanity that inevitably follows when people flout the boundaries between God and men, and between men and women, inevitably leads on to a blurring of the lines between men and animals. Did you hear about the visiting Professor at the University of Arizona who is self-identifying as a hippopotamus? I lie not.

Writing in *The Journal of Theoretical Humanities* Florentin Felix Morin argues, "that his hippo alter-ego has allowed me to navigate the world free from the constraints that 'govern human bodies.'" This French academic apparently has the blessing of that university faculty to teach undergraduates that he really believes his inner self to be a hippo! On the University of Arizona's website Morin is touted as an exciting addition to their institution's LGBT Studies program. Indeed, anybody who disagrees is labelled a bigot ... inevitably!

What kind of a make-believe, warped fantasy world are we creating? We are supposed to be living in the most advanced scientific age where empirical observations rule, and yet at the same time we are encouraging a fairy tale world of magical make-believe where glorying in sand castles in the air is hip (woops, almost wrote hippo!).

⁶ For example, having fulfilled the purpose of the Law's ordinances (in distinction from the Law's moral obligations) through the life and death of Christ (Rom. 10:4), God has now "broken down the barrier of the dividing wall" between Jew & Gentile, creating one new international body of faith (Eph. 2:14).

Makes me wonder about my own identity (I now speak as a fool); Can I really be so sure that I am not really a black man residing in my white skinned body? How do I know I am not really Chinese, Lebanese, or perhaps a block of cheese? How dare you challenge my chosen self-identity!? Yes, I am now speaking as a deranged man!

MY GENES MADE ME DO IT!

And if I am not sure whether I am a boy, or a girl, or a boy, is it not the fault of my genes? If dwarfism for example, is a defective gene, why isn't gender uncertainty also to blame for my mixed up genes? Yes, the Bible certainly teaches that since "the Fall" when sin entered the world, that "creation groans". This means disease, mutations, and death mar God's once perfect world, including His original design "from the beginning of male and female".

Relevant to our present discussion, we therefore ask about genetic causes for hermaphroditism and pseudohermaphroditism. The genetic gender of a baby is determined at the moment of fertilization. Normal human females are genetically XX and have ovaries. Normal human males are genetically XY and have testes. But mutations do sometimes occur, and we may legitimately ask, "Is it a boy, or a girl, or a boy?"

True hermaphrodites have both ovarian and testicular tissue present in their bodies. As a result of the hormonal effects of these conflicting tissues, a wide variety of external appearances may result. Pseudohermaphrodites have either ovaries or testes, but their external appearance does not match their actual genetic gender. A variety of defects can cause these conditions, but the common denominator of them involves an effect on the developing embryo long before birth.

These days genetic ambiguity over a baby's gender can thankfully be answered by looking at the DNA. Nevertheless, even with such a modern advantage, the sex assignment of a child with hermaphroditism will oftentimes depend upon which gender assignment will make the child most functional. Even with surgery, options are often limited.

It goes without saying that a Christian approach to this vexed question must deal with the scientific facts with compassion and without judgment on the individual and their parents in whatever choices they make with expert advice. Thus, as to the ultimate question of changing gender identity, to make a blanket statement about all cases would be insensitive. God knows the heart of every person. Regardless of the choice, a Christian with this problem can rejoice that his/her ultimate identity is in Christ which transcends maleness and femaleness forever.

But what about the pubescent boy who is convinced he is a girl when there is no evidence of such confused genetic gender? S/He says s/he has always felt different from the time memory began. Maybe so. But let's not forget that before we form our own sense of identity, that many outside forces have already been at work on us. Subliminal messages bombard young children early on. We are now in the realm of the mind and choice.

From a Biblical perspective, let's not forget there is a powerful, intelligent, hidden, subtle enemy committed to our destruction. One of his descriptions is "the Prince of the power of the air" (Eph. 2:2). We live in a society described as being dominated by an unseen spirit that is "now working in the sons of disobedience" and now "walking according to the course of this world" (Eph. 2:2).⁷

So, "the whole world lies in the Evil one" (I John 5: 19). Very early on children hear outside voices pounding their heads. The airwaves and very atmosphere of society are full of Satanic deceptions. Little wonder a growing number of our precious children are unable to discern between conflicting voices as to their gender identity. I have no doubt Satan is behind most of society's gender confusion and that his aim is to rob our boys and girls of glorying in their true God-assigned male and female identities.

BEASTIALITY

Then there's the question of bestiality. Intimate sex acts with animals used to be considered a disgusting crime. No more. It is not proper for me to elaborate further on this, except to say that that even this wickedness is rising up before the eyes of the Living God Who will not be mocked. I don't need to be a prophet to announce that we will

⁷ The Greek is very strong here. The spirit working in men is described as "energising" (*energountos*) them. And "the Prince of the power of the air" is more literally, "the ruler of the authority of the air". Who can deny the power of radio, TV, the internet, social media to form attitudes and behaviours of society when controlled by the spirit of Satan?

reap what we are sowing. Sowing to the wind, will bring on a whirlwind. Playing with matches, will bring on a forest fire. Break the differentiations God has placed in his creation, and insanity results.

DEFACING THE PINNACLE OF GOD'S CREATION

The Bible says mankind, the human being, is the pinnacle of God's creation. When God created us, he made us "in his own image ... male and female" (Gen. 1:27). In ways we currently do not fully appreciate, our maleness and our femaleness are designed to reflect God Himself. To blur these distinctions is to somehow deface ourselves and to mar the beauty of God's handiwork in us.

The tragedy is that society's current rush to redefine marriage and blur the gender distinctions of God's master design is sad beyond description. Oh, sure, I am aware that anybody who questions this trend is thought to be whistling in the wind. But the Biblical truth is that we are masterfully designed, uniquely designed as male and female for each other's emotional, physical, spiritual and societal well-being.

We blur these differences and deface God's masterpiece to our own peril. Men becoming women and women becoming men is nothing less than the equivalent of taking a priceless Rembrandt and slashing it with a knife. It is to play fast and loose with our own identity and unique glory.

What will future generations of our beautiful boys and girls inherit by our current social engineering? Mark my words: gender confusion will lead to societal insanity. Yes, as I have mentioned, not everybody fits into God's perfect design and mould by virtue of very occasional genetic mix-ups. We are after all, a fallen race with genetic defects and but this is not a licence to print counterfeit money and throw away the true currency.

Where will it all end? The Bible talks about those who call good evil, and evil good, and those who call bitter sweet and sweet bitter. Such confusion will not last forever, for

When the Son of man comes in his glory, and the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. And all the nations will be gathered before him; and **he will separate them from one another,** as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and he will put the sheep on his right, and the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, "Come, you who are blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world ... Then he will also say to those on his left, "Depart from me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire ...(Matthew 25:31-41) ⁸

Society might ignore and wilfully blur the boundary lines, but God has a right hand and a left hand! He is well able to know the difference between sheep and goats. And He knows the difference between inside and outside too, for He says,

Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying (Revelation 22:15).

Yes, God knows the difference between the good and the bad, even if we don't. On that last day when God winds up the present order, He is going to make His boundaries very clear for all to see. I pray we will accept His Gospel offer through Christ and be with those raised to "the resurrection of life".

So, "Is it a boy, or a girl, or a boy?" An old lady with dementia patting the head of our family dog is one thing. But self-inflicted insanity from ignoring differences God Himself has made is quite another thing. Perhaps it's time to celebrate the health-giving border walls God Himself has put in His world!

⁸ Eternal fire is not eternal conscious torment, but rather a destroying fire whose judgment cannot be reversed and whose effects are forever.