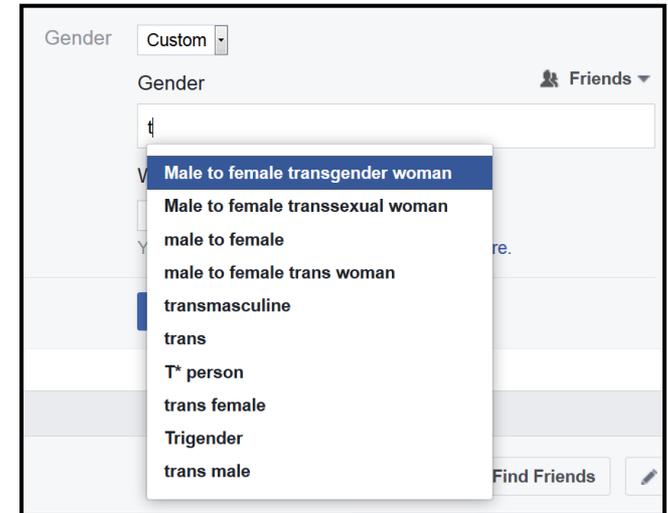


71 and Counting

*Thinking biblically about
gender in the 21st century*

A Real Issues Service

6.30pm, Sunday 29 January 2017





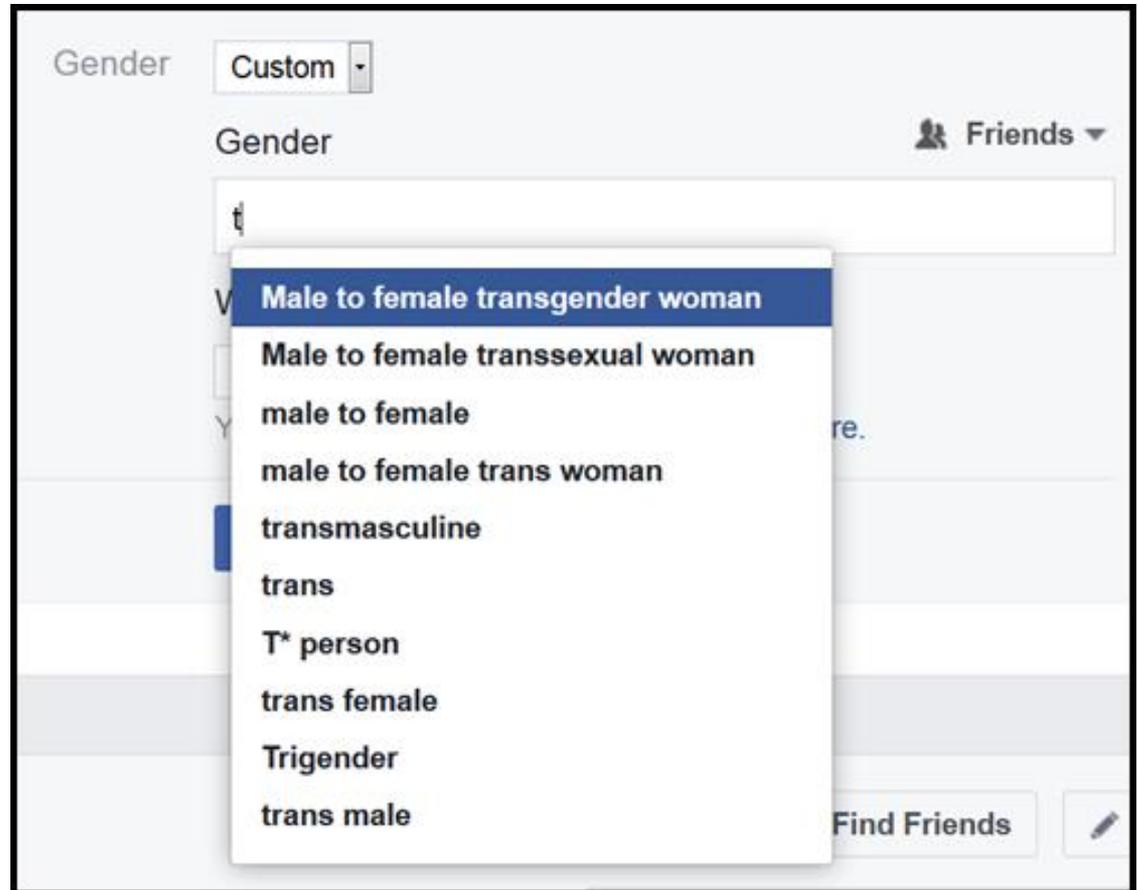
71 and Counting

- Orienting ourselves:
 - From 2 to 71+ : how did we get here?
 - Gender and sex: what's the difference?
 - LGBTTIQQ2SA: who are we dealing with?
 - Getting to the root: what underlies the current push for transgender affirmation?
- The beginning of a Christian response



How did we get here?

- Facebook's 71 genders:





- The transgender tipping point (2014):
 - Laverne Cox, US TV star (MTF transgender)

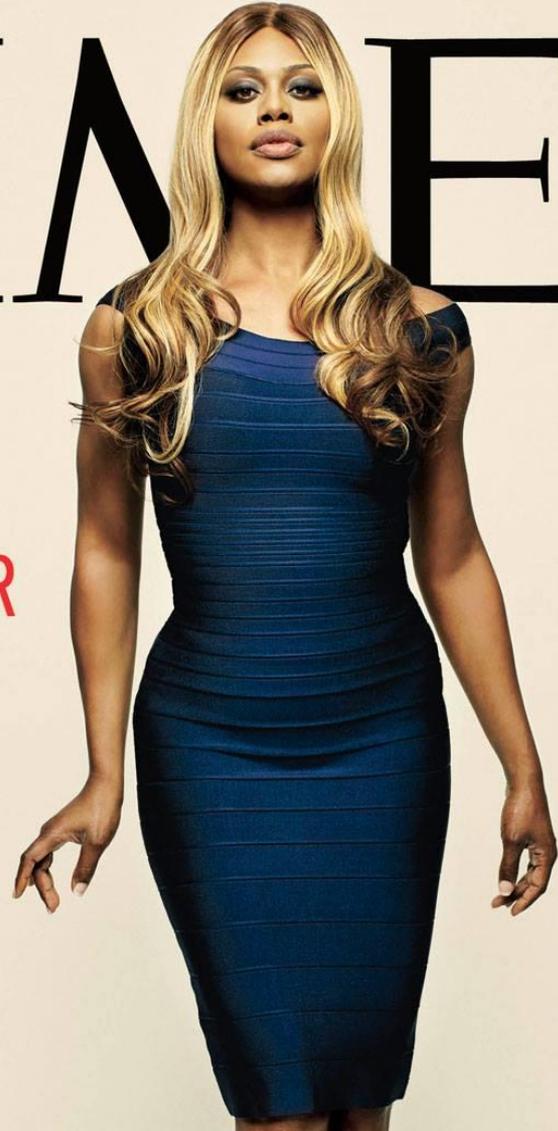
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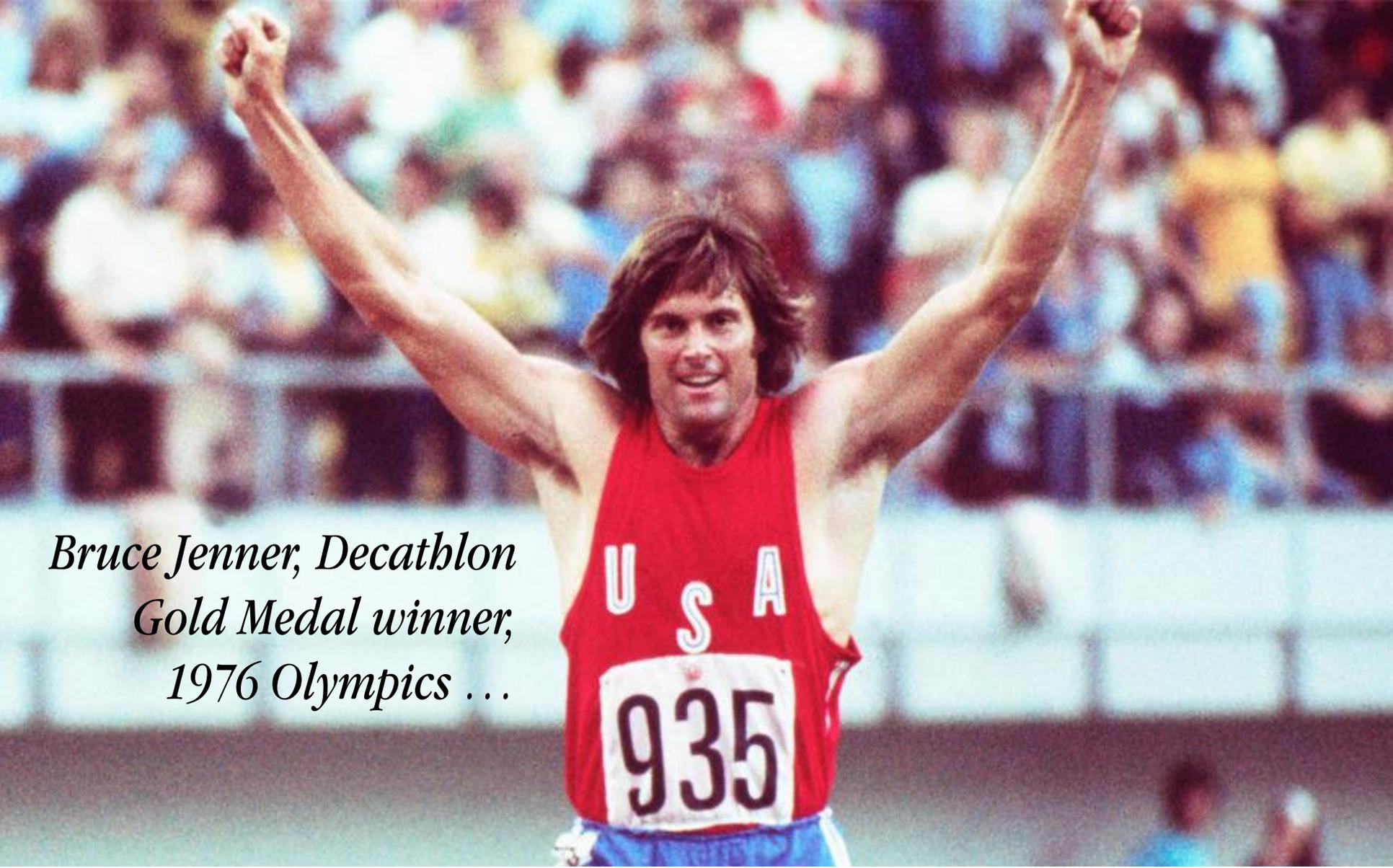
TIME

THE TRANSGENDER TIPPING POINT

America's next
civil rights frontier

BY KATY STEINMETZ





*Bruce Jenner, Decathlon
Gold Medal winner,
1976 Olympics ...*

VANITY FAIR



“Call me Caitlyn”

by BUZZ BISSINGER Photos by ANNIE LEIBOVITZ

*... becomes
Caitlin Jenner
in 2015*



Just this month ...

- The BBC
 - news website prominently included an article entitled, “I’m a transgender woman – ask me your invasive questions”
 - screened the documentary, “Transgender kids: who knows best”
 - Today features trans teen Ciera Taylor: “I’m happy and proud to be trans”

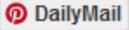


- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-38637837>

- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b088kxbw>



- The Girl Guides announced ...

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Now BOYS can be Girl Guides if they think they're the wrong gender - and anyone who says they're a woman can be at girls' sleepovers, without telling parents

- And adults born male but identify as female will be permitted to become leaders
- Parents of girls as young as five should not be told if transgender person joins
- It would be 'unlawful' for leaders to inform parents they are sharing toilet facilities with people born as boys



How did we get here?

- 1952: Christine Jorgensen becomes a transsexual
 - previously a GI named George
- 1964: the Erikson Educational Foundation
 - is founded by trans man Reed Erikson to promote homosexual *and* transgender equality
- June 1969: the Stonewall Riots
 - Involved numerous trans and gender-nonconforming people alongside homosexuals



How did we get here?

- 1972: Sweden legalises gender reassignment surgery
 - The first European nation to do so, and allowing citizens to legally change their sex
- 1977: Trans woman Renee Richards can play tennis
 - After winning her case against the US Tennis Association
- 1994: Transgenderism is a mental disorder
 - US Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-4) refers to cross-gender identification as “gender identity disorder”



How did we get here?

- 2004: the Gender Recognition Act
 - Allows trans people to be legally recognised in their new gender and have their birth certificate amended.
- 2010 Equality Act and 2013 Marriage Act
 - Make discrimination against transgendered people unlawful, and protected marriage after reassignment
- 2013: Transgenderism is *not* a mental disorder
 - The same phenomenon is now “gender dysphoria”



How did we get here?

- “It is important to note that gender nonconformity is not in itself a mental disorder. The critical element of gender dysphoria is the presence of clinically significant distress associated with the condition” (DSM-5)
- 2015: “Stonewall became trans-inclusive” www.stonewall.org.uk
- 2016: Parliament proposes new liberalisation:



How did we get here?

- The Women and Equalities Committee proposed
 - allowing ‘self-declaration’, so that people can change their legal sex without any need for a medical diagnosis or to have lived as a member of the opposite sex
 - lowering the age for changing legal sex from 18 to 16
 - giving legal recognition to those who identify as neither male nor female
 - extending hate crime legislation to cover crimes committed against transsexuals
 - putting greater emphasis on “trans issues” in schools, particularly in sex education.



Gender and Sex: what's the difference?

- Gender:
 - Pre-20th century, gender was a grammatical term
 - The SOED adds a new definition from the mid 20th C:
 - “Sex as expressed by social or cultural distinctions.”
 - Including gender roles, expectations, expression and identity.
 - The current issue centres around an individual’s right to choose their own gender identity.



Gender and Sex: what's the difference?

- Sex:
 - A relatively straightforward matter of biology
 - Men and women have different genetic endowments (XY and XX chromosomes), primary sexual characteristics and sex hormones.
 - *except* in the rare cases of Intersex conditions (the “I”)
 - involving a non-standard chromosome combination and/or sex characteristics which are incomplete, inconsistent or ambiguous
 - Such cases are a tragedy – but do not raise moral questions.



Gender and Sex:

what's the difference?

- The vast majority of people are born male or female.
 - For most, their gender identify conforms to their birth sex.
- Some suffer from gender dysphoria:
 - “Gender dysphoria is a condition where a person experiences discomfort or distress because there’s a mismatch between their biological sex and gender identity”
(www.nhs.uk)
 - This is not a choice, and the causes are uncertain.



Gender and Sex: what's the difference?

- The redefinition of the condition is significant
 - In a heteronormative worldview
 - This is an illness: biological sex is “right” and if it varies from this, then perceived gender is an indicator of mental illness.
 - The (ideal) goal would be to bring the person's sense of gender identity in conformity to their birth sex: ie **to bring the mind into conformity with the body.**



Gender and Sex: what's the difference?

- But if gender is merely a social construct, a learned behaviour or a psychological identity ...
 - Then the problem is not my sense of being in the wrong gender but the distress it causes me.
 - Treatment then seeks to alleviate my distress – which is most likely to involve bringing **the body in line with the mind**.
- “Gender is between your ears and not between your legs”
(Chaz Bono, trans man)



LGBTTIQQ2SA:

who are we dealing with?

- A bewildering “alphabet soup”:



In recognition of outstanding achievement and contribution
to Toronto's LGBTTIQO2SA communities,
from "Toronto Gay Action" in 1971 through Toby's Act in 2012

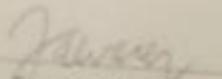
Pride Toronto names

Cheri DiNovo

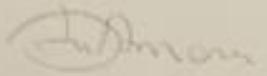
to the position of

Pride Week 2012 Grand Marshall

Congratulations and Happy Pride Week 2012!


Franciso Alvarez
Pride Toronto Co-Chair




Luka Amona
Pride Toronto Co-Chair

LGBTTIQO2SA



LGBTTIQQ2SA:

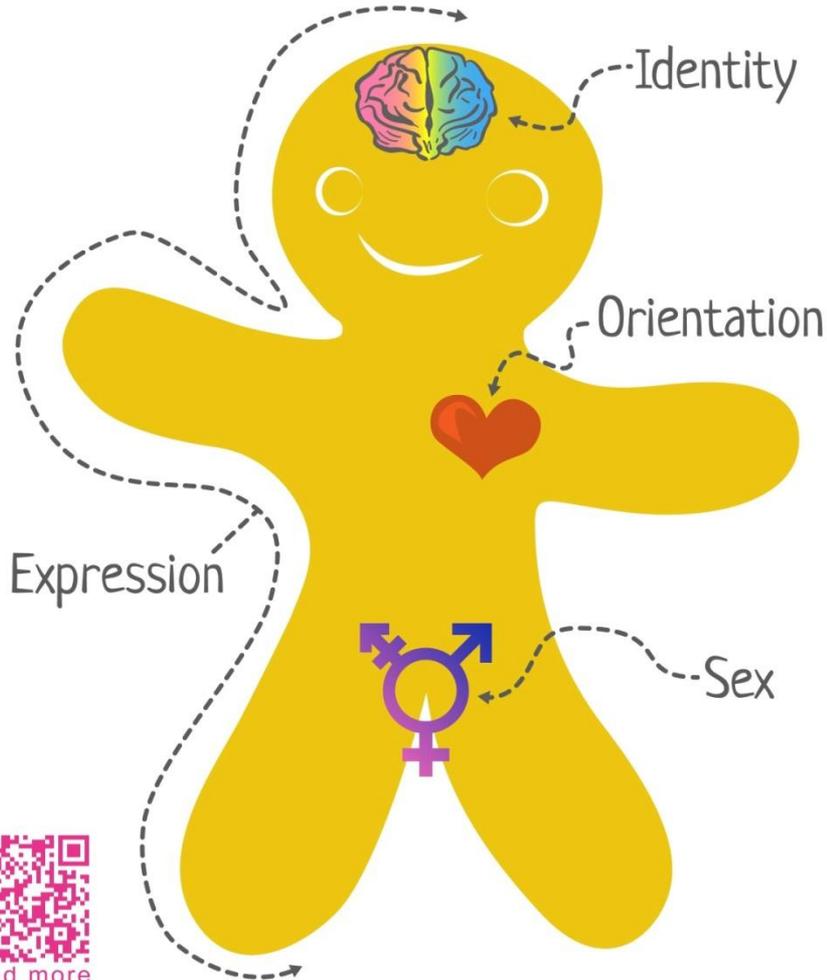
LGBTTIQQ2SA

who are we dealing with?

- A bewildering “alphabet soup”:
 - A not-always happy blend:
 - Sexual preferences: LGB (Lesbian, “Gay”, Bi-sexual)
 - Gender identity: T (transgender), T (transsexual), 2 (2 Spirit) [also * to include all non-cisgender (genderqueer) identities]
 - Both identity *and* preference: Q (queer), Q (questioning)
 - Physical abnormality: I (intersex)
 - Political affiliation: SA (straight allies)
 - Here are your 71 facebook choices!

The Genderbread Person

by www.ItsPronouncedMetrosexual.com



Gender identity is how you, in your head, think about yourself. It's the chemistry that composes you (e.g., hormone levels) and how you interpret what that means.



Gender expression is how you demonstrate your gender (based on traditional gender roles) through the ways you act, dress, behave, and interact.



Biological sex refers to the objectively measurable organs, hormones, and chromosomes. Female = vagina, ovaries, XX chromosomes; male = penis, testes, XY chromosomes; intersex = a combination of the two.



Sexual orientation is who you are physically, spiritually, and emotionally attracted to, based on their sex/gender in relation to your own.



Getting to the root: what underlies the current push for transgender affirmation?

- Nothing new ...
 - Intersex people and those who struggle with their gender identity have always been with us.
- So why the current movement?
 - In a word: I have a right to self-identify, because I am creator and sovereign.



Getting to the root

- The Enlightenment: 300 years of increasing darkness
 - The assertion of human reason over divine revelation: our cultural movement from God-centredness to man-centredness.
 - “Over himself, over his body and mind, the individual is sovereign” (JS Mill, 1859)
 - This becomes, in the words of Boyzone, “No matter what they tell you / no matter what they say / no matter what they teach you / what you believe is true.”



Getting to the root

- “Modern authenticity encourages us to create our own beliefs and morality, the only rule being that they must resonate with who we feel we really are. The worst thing we can do is to conform to some moral code that is imposed on us from outside ... the authentic self believes that personal meaning must be found within ourselves” (Jonathan Grant, *Divine Sex*)



Getting to the root

- In terms of the gender identity trajectory:
 - “When we no longer ask “boy or girl” in order to start gendering an infant, when the information is as irrelevant as the colour of a child’s eyes . . . only then will men and women be socially interchangeable and really equal. And when that happens there will no longer be any need for gender at all.”
(Judith Lorber)
- Consider a view from the campus . . .



- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xfO1veFs6Ho>



Beginning a Christian response

- Christians: on the cultural back foot?
 - “... the transgender revolution represents one of the most difficult pastoral challenges this generation of Christians will face.” (Dr R. Albert Mohler)
 - The new “gospel” promises liberty and life; we are heard to offer slavery and repression.
 - The Gospel arrives in a culture that is hostile to it, and judges it immoral – before triumphing it, and reshaping it.
 - Even so, come Lord Jesus!



Beginning a Christian response

- Will we respond with the gospel?
 - “I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes ...”
(Romans 1.16)
 - We are not the sovereign creator – the Sovereign Creator is! And he calls us to repent and believe – and to find our true identity in Christ, in whom is eternal life and true freedom.



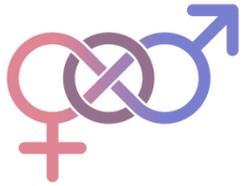
Beginning a Christian response

- **Creation:**
 - My identity is grounded in God’s design, not my desires.
 - “God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”
(Genesis 1.27; quoted by Jesus in Mark 10 and Matthew 19)



Beginning a Christian response

- **Fall:**
 - “Cis” or “trans”, I am a sinful, broken person
 - We “suppress the truth by [our] wickedness” (Rom 1.18)
 - “cosmology is designed by God to reveal truth about God’s identity (as powerful and divine) . . . biology (anatomy) is designed by God to reveal truth about our identity (as male and female). This truth is so plain, Paul says, that we are “without excuse” if we don’t see it and agree with it.” (John Piper)
 - Our desires are not to be indulged – but repented.



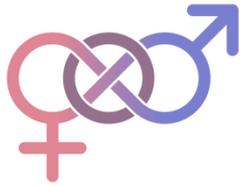
Beginning a Christian response

- **Redemption:**

- Jesus died for sinners – cis and trans.

- Remember Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch!

- “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.” (Rom 3.23-24)



Beginning a Christian response

- **Consummation**

- “those who are considered worthy of taking part in that age and in the resurrection from the dead will neither marry nor be given in marriage, and they can no longer die; for they are like the angels. They are God’s children, since they are children of the resurrection.” (Luke 20.34-36)



Beginning a Christian response

- What about our church?
 - Walking in truth
 - Salt and light
 - Contending
 - Humility and contrition
 - Living in love
 - Different expressions of a united brokenness
 - Bearing one another's burdens
 - “Sir, we would see Jesus”