

Flint Hills Bible Church  
Biblical Soul Care Sunday School  
*Identity Crisis Part 4 - Gender Identity questions*

**I. Introduction**

As we have been talking about identity, I have received several questions after class about how to respond to people who identify themselves as transgender. For some of you, this is most certainly impacting you in your job. Others have interacted with people who live a “transgendered” lifestyle, and you want to help them see their true identity.

This morning we will discuss these topics and consider how we should interact with people who live this lifestyle.

Thought question: Have you had interactions with people who identify with the opposite gender?

If you have not, when/where will you most likely interact with them?

How have you responded or how will you respond when you interact with someone living this lifestyle?

**II. Pronouns - To affirm or not to affirm?**

1. Scenario 1: At work, a new hire has come onto your team and demands that everyone refer to him as his preferred pronouns - she/her. What should you do? Why?
2. He also introduces himself as Samantha. Do you use this name in conversation with him?
3. Scenario 2: As part of a new “rebrand” of your company website, your boss wants all employees to list their preferred pronouns for the staff directory and on the signature line of all company emails and written communication. What should you do?
4. How do you know when it is time to fight for truth publicly, and when it is wise to avoid such confrontation? What dangers do we face when considering our response?

### III. Responding with *Grace and Truth*

5. What are some wrong responses to people taking a false identity?
6. Why do some professing Christians say we should affirm a person who identifies as the opposite gender?
7. Is it really that bad to follow their advice?
8. What scriptures could you go to that refute this claim?
9. What would be the right response?

Consider the following texts. How do they inform our thinking and our interactions with people who identify themselves wrongly?

**Ephesians 5:1–17 (ESV)** — **1** Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. **2** And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. **3** But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. **4** Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. **5** For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. **6** Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. **7** Therefore do not become partners with them; **8** for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light **9** (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true),

10. According to verse 5, what is the danger of covetousness (idolatry)? How is wrong gender identity covetous?
11. According to verse 6, what should we be careful not to do?
12. How can we obey verse 7 as we talk with people in identity crisis?

**Ephesians 5:10-17 (ESV)** — **10** and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. **11** Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. **12** For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. **13** But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, **14** for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.” **15** Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, **16** making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. **17** Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

13. How do these verses help us think about the gender identity problems of our culture?

See also:

**Colossians 4:2–6 (ESV)** — **2** Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. **3** At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— **4** that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. **5** Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. **6** Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

**2 Timothy 4:1–5 (ESV)** — **1** I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: **2** preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. **3** For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, **4** and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. **5** As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

14. How can we plant seeds of truth in conversations with people who have embraced a false identity?

15. According to the following texts, how should we expect people to react to us as we call people to repentance of desires and identities that are sinful?

**2 Timothy 3:12 (ESV)** — **12** Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,

**Matthew 5:11–16 (ESV)** — **11** “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. **12** Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. **13** “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be

thrown out and trampled under people's feet. **14** "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. **15** Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. **16** In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

How should Jesus' words comfort us?

#### **IV. Scenarios**

Eddie: Gender Identity

Eddie is a young man who feels uncomfortable in his own body. He has never liked the things that "typical" boys liked and at times has been teased and or excluded from many of his peers as a result. He was exposed to the transgender ideology through social media and through his own research. He now identifies as a "transgender girl" with preferred pronouns she/her, and a new name - Jane. But after two years of exploring and obeying his desires and identifying as a girl, he has not experienced the joy and self satisfaction that he was promised would result in living his authentic self.

1. What lies has Eddie believed about himself and his identity?
2. What will be the result of Eddie's pursuit of self expression and identity?
3. What could you say to help Eddie understand God's purpose for him?
4. What do you think you should avoid saying to Eddie?
5. How does the gospel offer hope to Eddie?
6. Imagine Eddie is your son. How would you seek to engage him with the gospel?

#### **Other Identity Scenarios:**

Motherhood

Gwen is a Christian mother of 3. She spends almost all of her waking hours teaching, serving, loving, and caring for them to the neglect of other parts of her life - marriage, church involvement, fellowship with believers.

What is she believing about her role as a mother?

7. What are the dangers of Gwen finding her core identity in being a mom - *while her children are young?*

8. What are the dangers Gwen could face as her children enter into their teenage years?
9. What are the dangers Gwen could face as her children move out of the house?
10. How would you counsel Gwen with the gospel at each stage of life in the questions above?
  - Young children:
  
  - Teenagers:
  
  - Young adults moving out:

Sports performance:

Fred is a talented baseball player. He plays multiple positions and begins to get recruitment letters from several major Division 1 schools to play baseball. This has been his dream ever since he began playing tee ball. However, as the season progresses, he starts to struggle hitting the ball and you begin to observe him growing more and more irritable - especially on game days.

It all comes to a head the day before a game against the rival school, when Fred comes to you and says he is thinking about quitting. He says the sport he used to love is a constant source of fear and anxiety. He can't take it anymore.

11. How would our culture respond to Fred?
12. How is Fred embracing a false identity?
13. How should we counsel Fred?