



## “God made me gay”?

Biblical Response:

*“I had dwelled on those thoughts so much that they felt so much a part of me.....as real as my own name”*



3

## “God made me gay”?

Biblical response:

Eph 4:17 Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the **futility of their minds**.

Eph 4:22-23 <sup>22</sup> to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through **deceitful desires**, <sup>23</sup> and to be renewed in the spirit of your **minds**

Rom 12:2a - be transformed by the **renewal of your mind**

Rom 1:24 Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the **dishonoring of their bodies** among themselves



4

## “God made me gay”?

### Biblical Response:

**Sam Alberry** - “desires for things God has forbidden are a reflection of how sin has distorted me, not how God has made me”



5

## “God made me gay”?

### Scientific Response:

Identical twin studies (71 pairs identical male twins where one identified homosexual)– only 9.8% of time did the second one identify as homosexual

Francis Collins: “sexual orientation is genetically influenced but not hardwired by DNA, and whatever genes are involved represent *predispositions*, not predeterminations”



6

## “God made me gay”?

### Scientific Response:

*Pearcey: A predisposition to things such as depression, alcoholism, drug addiction, and heart disease may be genetic....but most ppl would agree that we are morally responsible for how we respond to our genetic heritage. Locating a genetic link can help us be more compassionate toward ppl, but genetics doesn't tell us if a behavior is right or wrong, good or bad*

Neurplasticity



7

## PCA Position Paper on Human Sexuality



8

## PCA Position Paper on Human Sexuality

### Statement 1 – **Marriage**

- (marriage and sex) “between one man and one woman”
- Picture of Christ and church
- All other forms of sexual intimacy are sinful

### Nevertheless

- Just because you are married doesn’t mean you cant sin sexually, ie not all sex within marriage is sinless
- Sexual immorality not an unpardonable sin



9

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1 Cor 6:9 - <sup>9</sup> Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters **nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men**<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>a</sup> - *The words “men who have sex with men” translate two Greek words that refer to the passive and active participants in homosexual acts.*



10

## PCA Position Paper on Human Sexuality

### Statement 2 – Image of God

- Created male and female in his image....human body is good....called to glorify God in our bodies.....God is God of order & design, he opposes the confusion of man as woman and woman as man (1 Cor 11:14-15)....**while it can be heartbreaking when there's confusion, men/women should be helped to live in accordance with their biological sex**

Nevertheless

- Compassion to those who are confused by their gender identity (Gal 3:1, 2 Tim 2:24-26)....effects of the fall extend to corruption of our whole nature....incl how we think of our gender etc.
- "Moreover...in rare instances...(some) may possess an objective medical condition (where) their anatomical development may be ambiguous or does not match their genetic chromosomal sex (ie – intersex). Such person are...in the image of God and should live out their biological sex, insofar as it can be known"



11

## PCA Position Paper on Human Sexuality

### Statement 3 – Original Sin

We are all sinners from Adam...."we ought to grieve for our sin, hate our sin, turn from our sin unto God, and endeavor to walk with God in obedience to his commandments"

Nevertheless,

"God does not wish for believers to live in perpetual misery for their sins" (which are forgiven)..."by the Spirit...we are able to make spiritual progress and to do good works, not perfectly, but truly. Even our imperfect works....made acceptable through Christ..."



12

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### Statement 4 - **Desire**

Even our fallen desires are in themselves sinful (Rom 6:11-12). The desire for an illicit end – whether for...same sex (SSA) or...disconnected from...Biblical marriage – is itself an illicit desire. Therefore, the experience of SSA is not morally neutral; the attraction is an expression of original or indwelling sin that must be repented of and put to death (Rom 8:13).

Nevertheless,

We must celebrate that, despite the continuing presence of sinful desires (and...egregious sinful behavior), repentant, justified, and adopted believers are free from condemnation....able to please God



13

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**1 Peter 1:14** - <sup>14</sup>As obedient children, do not conform to the evil **desires** you had when you lived in ignorance.

**1 Peter 2:11** - <sup>11</sup>Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful **desires**, which wage war against your soul.

**Romans 6:11-12** - <sup>11</sup>In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. <sup>12</sup>Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its **evil desires**.

**Romans 7:8** - <sup>8</sup>But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of **coveting**

**Colossians 3:5** - <sup>5</sup>Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, **evil desires** and greed, which is idolatry



14

## PCA Position Paper on Human Sexuality

### Statement 5 - **Concupiscence**

We affirm that impure thoughts and desires arising in us prior to and apart from a conscious act of the will are still sin. We reject the Roman Catholic understanding of concupiscence whereby disordered desires that conflict us due to the fall do not become sin without a consenting act of the will. These desires within us are not mere weaknesses or inclinations to sin but **are themselves idolatrous and sinful**

Nevertheless,



15

## PCA Position Paper on Human Sexuality

### Statement 5 - **Concupiscence**

.... Nevertheless, we recognize that many persons who experience SSA describe their desires as arising in them unbidden and unwanted. We also recognize that the presence of SSA is often owing to many factors, which always include our own sin nature and may include being sinned against in the past. As with any sinful pattern or propensity—which may include disordered desires, extramarital lust, pornographic addictions, and all abusive sexual behavior—the actions of others, though never finally determinative, can be significant and influential. This should move us to compassion and understanding. Moreover, it is true for all of us that sin can be both unchosen bondage and idolatrous rebellion at the same time. We all experience sin, at times, as a kind of voluntary servitude (Rom 7:13-20).



16



## PCA Position Paper on Human Sexuality

Christopher Yuan

- Genetics only play a small role in determining sexual orientation
- Genetics cant predict whether a person is gay or straight
- Sexuality is not who you are, its how you are

Rosaria Butterfield

*It matters **not** whether the desire for evil is involuntary or voluntary. The standard of rightness for a desire is God's law, **not the chosenness of the desire.***



17

## PCA Position Paper on Human Sexuality

### Statement 6 - **Temptation**

2 main kinds of temptation in the Bible. From God or not from God. From God = morally neutral trials (ie-sickness). Not from God – morally illicit desires (James 1:13-14). When temptation comes from without = not sin unless act on it. When from within, “it is our own act and is rightly called sin”.

Nevertheless,

...”there’s an important degree of **moral difference** between temptation to sin and giving into sin” ....Christians should feel greatest responsibility not for (the occurrence of temptations), but (for resisting them)....ultimate goal (of course) for the internal temptation to go away....



18

## PCA Position Paper on Human Sexuality

### Statement 6 – **Temptation**

.....Christians should feel their greatest responsibility **not** for the fact that such temptations occur but for thoroughly and immediately fleeing and resisting the temptations when they arise.

We can avoid “entering into” temptation by refusing to internally ponder and entertain the proposal and desire to actual sin.

Without some distinction between (1) the illicit temptations that arise in us due to original sin and (2) the willful giving over to actual sin, Christians will be too discouraged to “make every effort” at growth in godliness and will feel like failures in their necessary efforts to be holy as God is holy (2 Peter 1:5-7; 1 Peter 1:14-16). God is pleased with our sincere obedience, even though it may be accompanied with many weaknesses and imperfections (WCF 16.6).



19

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### Statement 7 - **Sanctification**

Christians need to pursue **holiness**. “The goal is not just consistent fleeing from, and regular resistance to, temptation, but the diminishment and even the **end** of the occurrences of sinful desires through the reordering of the loves of one’s heart towards Christ.” In Christ we can make progress in holiness.

Nevertheless,

“...The believer who struggles with SSA should expect to...(grow in holiness)...but this progress will **often be slow and uneven**. Moreover, (growth in holiness) involves the whole person, not simply unwanted sexual desires. The aim of sanctification in one’s sexual life cannot be reduced to attraction to persons of the opposite sex (though some persons may experience movement in this direction), but rather involves growing in grace and perfecting holiness in the fear of God “



20

## PCA Position Paper on Human Sexuality

### Statement 8 – **Impeccability (ie – Christs perfection)**

Jesus never sinned...He experienced morally neutral temptation from outside of him (trials, devils entreaties), not temptation from within (ie – disordered desires). He “only had the suffering part of temptation, where we also have the sinning part. Christ had no inward disposition or inclination unto the least evil, being perfect in all grace and all their operations at all times”

Nevertheless,

“Christ endured, from without, real soul-wrenching temptations which qualified him to be our sympathetic high priest (Heb. 2:18; 4:15). Christ assumed a human nature that was susceptible to suffering and death. He was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief”



21

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### Statement 9 - **Identity**

Our identity as “in Christ” is most important. “To juxtapose identities rooted in sinful desires alongside the term “Christian” (ie- Gay Christian) is inconsistent with Biblical language and undermines the spiritual reality that we are new creations in Christ. (2 Cor 5:17)

Nevertheless,

-We still need to talk about our sins and struggles, don’t ignore them

-Moreover, we recognize there are some secondary identities that can be legitimately affirmed (ie – male/female, nationality) – these serve to magnify the glory of God in his plan of salvation



22

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Rosaria Butterfield

*“How can any of us fight a sin that we don’t hate? Hating our own sin is a key component to doing battle with it. At the same time, we need to separate ourselves from the sin we hate. ”*

Sam Alberry

“Desires for things God has forbidden are a reflection of how sin has distorted me, not how God has made me”



23

## PCA Position Paper on Human Sexuality

Statement 10 - **Language**

We affirm that those in our churches would be wise to avoid the term “gay Christian.” Although the term “gay” may refer to more than being attracted to persons of the same sex, the term does not communicate less than that. For many people in our culture, to self-identify as “gay” suggests that one is engaged in homosexual practice. At the very least, the term normally communicates the presence and approval of same-sex sexual attraction as morally neutral or morally praiseworthy. Even if “gay,” for some Christians, simply means “same-sex attraction,” it is still inappropriate to juxtapose this sinful desire, or any other sinful desire, as an identity marker alongside our identity as new creations in Christ.

Nevertheless,



24

## PCA Position Paper on Human Sexuality

### Statement 10 - **Language**

Nevertheless,

we recognize that some Christians may use the term “gay” in an effort to be more readily understood by non-Christians. The word “gay” is common in our culture, and we **do not think it wise for churches to police every use of the term**. Our burden is that we do not justify our sin struggles by affixing them to our identity as Christians. Churches should be gentle, patient, and intentional with believers who call themselves “gay Christians,” encouraging them, as part of the process of sanctification, to leave behind identification language rooted in sinful desires, to live chaste lives, to refrain from entering into temptation, and to mortify their sinful desires.



25

## PCA Position Paper on Human Sexuality

### Statement 11 - **Friendship**

We affirm that our contemporary ecclesiastical culture has an underdeveloped understanding of friendship and often does not honor singleness as it should. The church must work to see that all members, including believers who struggle with same-sex attraction, are valued members of the body of Christ and engaged in meaningful relationships through the blessings of the family of God. Likewise we affirm the value of Christians who share common struggles gathering together for mutual accountability, exhortation, and encouragement.

Nevertheless,



26

## PCA Position Paper on Human Sexuality

### Statement 11 - **Friendship**

Nevertheless, we do not support the formation of exclusive, contractual marriage-like friendships, nor do we support same-sex romantic behavior or the assumption that certain sensibilities and interests are necessarily aspects of a gay identity. We do not consider same- sex attraction a gift in itself, nor do we think this sin struggle, or any sin struggle, should be celebrated in the church.



27

## PCA Position Paper on Human Sexuality

### Statement 12 – **Repentance and Hope**

We affirm that the entire life of the believer is one of repentance. Where we have mistreated those who struggle with same-sex attraction, or with any other sinful desires, we call ourselves to repentance. Where we have nurtured or made peace with sinful thoughts, desires, words, or deeds, we call ourselves to repentance. Where we have heaped upon others misplaced shame or have not dealt well with necessary God-given shame, we call ourselves to repentance.

Nevertheless,



28

## PCA Position Paper on Human Sexuality

### Statement 12 – **Repentance and Hope**

Nevertheless, as we call ourselves to the evangelical grace of repentance (*WCF* 15.1), we see many reasons for rejoicing (Phil. 4:1). We give thanks for penitent believers who, though they continue to struggle with same-sex attraction, are living lives of chastity and obedience. These brothers and sisters can serve as courageous examples of faith and faithfulness, as they pursue Christ with a long obedience in gospel dependence. We also give thanks for ministries and churches within our denomination that minister to sexual strugglers (of all kinds) with Biblical truth and grace. Most importantly, we give thanks for the gospel that can save and transform the worst of sinners—older brothers and younger brothers, tax collectors and Pharisees, insiders and outsiders. We rejoice in ten thousand spiritual blessings that are ours when we turn from sin by the power of the Spirit, trust in the promises of God, and rest upon Christ alone for justification, sanctification, and eternal life (*WCF* 14.2).



29

## PCA Position Paper on Human Sexuality



30

Transgenderism

| ORANGE |  
is  
the  
new BLACK |



31

Transgenderism



32



## Transgenderism

“Who am I?” → “Who do I identify as?”



33

## Transgenderism

### Definitions:

**Biological sex** – definition of person as male/female based upon sex organs, reproductive capacity and chromosomes

**Gender identity** (or ‘gender’)— a persons perception of having a particular gender, which may or may not correspond with their birth sex

**Cisgender** “Cis”— someone whos biological sex and gender identity match



34

# Transgenderism

## Definitions:

**Gender dysphoria** – the discomfort or distress a person experiences due to a sense of ‘mismatch’ or incongruence between their gender identity and biological sex

**Gender reassignment** – medical intervention beginning with puberty blockers if appropriate and cross-sex hormones. Surgery can include complete hysterectomy, bilateral mastectomy, chest reconstruction or augmentation, genital reconstruction and certain facial plastic reconstruction (aka – “**transitioned**”)

**Intersex** – intersex conditions are diagnosed and treated distinct from transgender and the two should not be conflated. Intersex is a term that describes conditions in which a person is born with ambiguous sex characteristics or anatomy – gonadal, genital or more rarely chromosomal – that do not allow clear identification as male or female sex



35

# Transgenderism

## Definitions:

**Non-binary** – an umbrella term used by those who don’t identify as male or female

**Transgender** – this is an umbrella term to describe people whose gender is not the same as, or does not sit comfortably with, the sex they were at birth. It is often shortened to ‘trans’

**Ze/Zem/Zir** – a gender-neutral pronoun used to replace he/she (sometimes spelled Xe/Xem/Xir)



36

# Transgenderism

## Bible

1. Biblical Position
2. Biblical Posture



37

# Transgenderism

## Biblical Position:

### Genesis 1

**Gen 1:26-27** - *Then God said, "Let us make man (Heb. 'adam) in our image"*

*So God created man (Heb. 'adam) in his own image,  
in the image of God he created him;  
male (Heb. zakhar) and female (Heb. neqevah) he created them.*



38

# Transgenderism

## Biblical Position:

Genesis 1, Genesis 5, Matthew 19/Mark 10

**Gen 5:1b-2** *When God created man (Heb. 'adam), he made him in the likeness of God. Male (Heb. zakhar) and female (Heb. neqevah) he created them, and he blessed them and named them Man (Heb. 'adam) when they were created.*

**Matt 19:4/Mark 10:6** *"Have you not read that he who created them from (Gk. apo) the beginning made them male and female."*



39

# Transgenderism

## Biblical Position:

Biological Sex vs Gender

Genesis 1 uses adjectives "*male*" and "*female*"

This develops to Genesis 2 using nouns "*man*" and "*woman*"

**Principle:** *"a person's biological sex reveals and determines **both** their objective gender (what gender they, in fact, are) and certain key gender roles (should they be taken up)."*



40

## Biological Sex vs Gender

son (*ben*) and daughter (*bat*)  
 boy (*yeled*) and girl (*yalda*)  
 brother (*'ach*) and sister (*'achot*)  
 young man (*na'ar*) and young woman (*na'arah*)  
 bridegroom (*chatan*) and bride (*kalla*)  
 father (*'av*) and mother (*'em*)  
 father-in-law (*cham*) and mother-in-law (*chamot*)  
 uncle (*dod*) and aunt (*dodah*)  
 manservant (*'eved*) and maidservant (*'amah*)  
 prophet (*navi'*) and prophetess (*nevi'ah*)  
 prince (*sar*) and princess (*sarah*)  
 king (*melek*) and queen (*malka*)



41

## Transgenderism

### Biblical Position:

"Embodied Souls"

Psalm 139: 13-15

*For you formed my inward parts; **you knitted me together in my mother's womb.** I praise you, for **I** am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.*

*My frame was not hidden from you, **when I was being made in secret,** intricately woven together in the depths of the earth.*



42

# Transgenderism

## Biblical Position:

Gender congruity and Christ and the Church

Eph 5:31-32 – “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” <sup>32</sup>This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church



43

# Transgenderism

## Biblical Position:

Gender congruity and Christ and the Church

(Paul is saying) that the distinction between male and female **reflects** the distinction between God and humans. And the coming together of male and female in the deep union of marriage is a reflection of Gods desire for us to be united with him...

...Which has now been made possible through Christ. Christs church is his bride. ....**This picture only works because of difference between the sexes. Two men or two women cant reflect the marriage of Christ and his church. The image requires the union of two distinct and different, but complementary, “others”.**



44

# Transgenderism

## Biblical Position:

### Contentment

**1 Cor 6: 19-20** <sup>19</sup>Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, <sup>20</sup>for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

**1 Timothy 4:3-4** ...<sup>3</sup>who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be **received with thanksgiving** by those who believe and know the truth. <sup>4</sup>For everything **created by God is good**, and **nothing is to be rejected** if it is **received with thanksgiving**



45

# Transgenderism

## Biblical Position:

### Contentment

Sam Alberry:

*Our culture says: your psychology is your sexual identity – let your body be conformed to it. The Bible says: your body is your sexual identity – let your mind be conformed to it*



46

# Transgenderism

## Biblical Position:

Contentment

*Why is it considered acceptable to carve up a persons body to match their inner sense of self but bigoted to help them change their sense of self to match their body? Feelings can change. But the body is an observable fact that does not change. It makes sense to treat it as a reliable marker of sexual identity - Nancy Pearcey*



47

# Transgenderism

## Biblical Position:

Eunuchs

**Matt 19:12** - For there are eunuchs who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Let the one who is able to receive this receive it."



48



# Transgenderism

## Biblical Position:

**Deuteronomy 22:5** - <sup>5</sup>A woman must not wear men's clothing, nor a man wear women's clothing, for the Lord your God detests anyone who does this.



49

# Transgenderism

## Biblical Position:

**1 Cor 6:9** - <sup>9</sup>Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men



50

## Transgenderism

### Biblical Posture:

- Triage (diff approach with believer or non-believer)
  
- (to all) Grace & Truth



51

## Homosexuality/Transgenderism

### Biblical Posture:

#### Towards **believers**...

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Grace</li> <li>- Humility</li> <li>- Respect</li> <li>- Patience</li> <li>- Relationship</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Truth</li> <li>- Forgiven, no condemnation</li> <li>- Repentance</li> <li>- New identity</li> <li>- Discipleship</li> </ul> |
|--|--|



52

## Homosexuality/Transgenderism

*"How should we think about gender incongruence and the distress it produces? In light of the Bible's teaching, and in the absence of any compelling evidence for regarding it as a type of intersex condition, genuine gender dysphoria is **best regarded as a psychological***

***disorder.***

*In other words, despite what is sometimes claimed, there is no reason (either biblical or scientific) to believe that a person can have either the brain or soul of one sex and the body of the other. It may be a person's strong feeling or deeply held conviction, but it is not an objective fact. As one of the tragic effects of the Fall, the gender dysphoric person is suffering from (brokenness) **of the mind.**"*



53

## Homosexuality/Transgenderism

### Biblical Posture:

#### Towards **unbelievers**...

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Grace</li> <li>- Humility (listen)</li> <li>- Respect</li> <li>- Patience (pray pray pray)</li> <li>- Relationship</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Truth</li> <li>- Embody the truth</li> <li>- Careful when discussing sin</li> <li>- Focus more on Jesus than sin</li> <li>- Understand Bible's teaching</li> <li>- Be curious, ask questions</li> </ul> |
|--|--|



54

# Transgenderism

## Biblical Posture:

Adolescence

(Transgender) Use their new name? Use their preferred pronoun?

