

4. Read through the 8 Thesis Statements in the outline and the Scriptures related to each one. What insights did you receive from your reading?

5. How do cultural gender stereotypes sometimes do damage to people and relationships?

6. How can we overcome the special challenges of walking together in the journey of discipleship with someone who has partially or completely transitioned but is seeking to grow in Christ?

**Christian Sexuality—Jesus, Sex & Gender**

“Transgender Identities”

Matthew 22:36-40

**How should we love people [who identify as trans or are experiencing gender dysphoria]?**

1. By always keeping real \_\_\_\_\_ in mind.

When we approach this subject as if people who struggle with gender dysphoria or who transition are cultural warriors and \_\_\_\_\_, we run a high risk of really missing the point, we fail to love and understand the regular, non-activist person who is struggling with this (often in silence) or is simply trying to alleviate their pain, and we risk injuring our friends and family members who struggle in this way or who have loved ones who do. And, as a bonus, in some cases, we turn off the next generation to anything we have to say or believe because of our insensitivity.

“This book is about people. A diverse group of beautiful people created in God’s image. People who are often marginalized and misunderstood, shamed and shunned by those who don’t share their experiences. People who are infinitely valuable in God’s eyes.” (Preston Sprinkle on his book, Embodied)

Matthew 22:36-40

2. By truly \_\_\_\_\_ biblical convictions..

Sex and Gender: In recent years in society in general “sex” has come to refer to one’s biology while “gender” has to do with one’s internal sense of self, which is called “gender identity.”

Gender Expression: “Gender expression” describes how people express themselves in society through their hairstyle, dress, manners, and hobbies and interests.

Transgender: An identity some people use when they experience some kind of incongruence between their biological sex and their gender identity or their gender expression.

Gender Dysphoria: Refers to the distress that some people experience from this incongruence between a person’s body and their mind.

Experiencing gender dysphoria is not a \_\_\_\_\_.

8 Thesis Statements (Preston Sprinkle in Embodied):

- The body is essential to our image-bearing status. (Genesis 1:26-27)
- Male and female in Genesis 1 are categories of sex, not gender. (Genesis 1:28).
- Adam and Eve's bodies are viewed as sacred. (Genesis 2:21-22)
- Jesus views Genesis 1-2 as normative. (Matthew 19:45)
- Paul sees the body as significant for moral behavior and correlates the body with personhood. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Romans 12:1)
- Scripture prohibits cross-sex behavior. (Deuteronomy 21:5; 1 Corinthians 6:9)
- The incarnation of Christ affirms the goodness of our sexed embodiment. (Colossians 1:15 and 2:9; Hebrews 1:3; 2 Corinthians 3:18)
- Sex difference probably remains after the resurrection. (1 Corinthians 15:35-58; 1 Corinthians 15:50,52-54)

"Our [biological,] sexed bodies determine whether we are male, female, or both [intersex]; and our embodiment is an essential part of how we image God in the world." (Preston Sprinkle)

3. By rigorously examining cultural gender \_\_\_\_\_.

4. By "walking" \_\_\_\_\_ in the journey of discipleship.

"We live in a Genesis 3 world, with a Genesis 1 blueprint, on the trajectory to a Revelation 21 future." (Andrew Walker)

"Discipleship is a long process, a journey along a road.... God doesn't demand overnight sanctification, and we're all thankful that he doesn't. Just think about your own sin—your anger, your pride, your porn, your greed, your insatiable quest for comfort? How long has it been a struggle? When's the last time you messed up? ... Let's give [people who struggle with their gender or have transitioned] some space and grace to work through their obedience to Jesus in the context of a loving, non-judgmental community." (Preston Sprinkle)

Resources:

- Regular attenders at Five Oaks have access to the Christian Sexuality curriculum. For access, write "Curriculum Access" AND your email address on your Connect Card or email the office ([office@fiveoakschurch.org](mailto:office@fiveoakschurch.org)).
- Embodied by Preston Sprinkle; What God Has to Say about our Bodies by Sam Allberry; Love Thy Body by Nancy Pearsey; God and the Transgender Debate by Andrew Walker.
- Preston Sprinkle's Theology in the Raw podcast.

## Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. What aspects of the transgender identity experience leave you afraid, confused, hopeful, or angry?
3. Read Matthew 22:36-40. How does what Jesus says here relate to how we act and speak and think about people who identify as trans or struggle with their gender?