

Memory Verse

Genesis 1:27

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

GRACELIFE



CHURCH

Thematic Overview of Genesis 1-12 - Pt 6

**Gender, Sexuality,
and the Image of God**

We are looking at *themes* to *develop a Biblical worldview*. There is 1 God, who created all things in 6 literal days for *His own glory and purpose*. We answered various questions about creation, looked at dinosaurs and how they fit in to Scripture, history and our worldview. Last time we *talked about work* from a Biblical point of view.

A night sky filled with stars, with the dark silhouettes of trees visible at the bottom. The text is overlaid on the upper portion of the image.

Genesis 1:27 - So **God created man** in His own **image**, in the **image** of God **He created him**; **male** and **female** **He created them**.

A. The Image of God

The image of God is a major area of study and one that is fascinating and can never be exhausted. The image of God, or "*imago dei*" does not mean we *were/are little gods*. It means we were *made to reflect certain aspects of God's character...*

A. The Image of God

Adam and Eve were also holy, pure, and righteous. That changed when sin entered the world and is what makes what we *receive in salvation* so amazing, because we regain **holiness**.

B. Gender

As hard as it is to believe, gender is under attack in the *culture, world* and in the *church*.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Distributes Handbook on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity - June 29, 2020

"The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has distributed a handbook on sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.

According to the *Christian Post*, the handbook, "Lutheran Introduction to Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Gender

Expression,” ... helps “all sexual orientations and gender identities.”

... The handbook also defines gender identity as “a person’s innate, deeply felt psychological identification as a man, woman or another gender, which may or may not correspond to the sex assigned to them at birth. Gender identity is different from the term ‘gender’, which is typically used with

reference to social and cultural differences rather than biological ones.”

Gender expression is defined as “the external characteristics and behaviors that are socially defined as either masculine or feminine, such as dress, grooming, mannerisms, speech patterns and social interactions. These norms vary culturally.”

Finally, the handbook defines sexual orientation as “the term used to describe what gender(s) someone is physically and/or emotionally attracted to. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, pansexual, queer, and straight are all examples of sexual orientations. A person’s sexual orientation is distinct from a person’s gender identity and expression.” Some religious leaders have criticized the

ELCA for being “radical” in its policies. In April, the ELCA faced criticism after posting a prayer on social media addressing God as “Mother.”

“Mother God, you have fed us with the nourishment of your spiritual food. Raise us up into salvation and rid us of our bitterness, so that we may share the sweetness of your holy word with all the world,” the [ELCA](#)

tweeted.

https://www.christianheadlines.com/blog/evangelical-lutheran-church-in-america-publishes-handbook-on-sexual-orientation-gender-identity.html?utm_source=ChristianHeadlines%20Daily&utm_campaign=Christian%20Headlines%20Daily%20-%20Crosswalk.com&utm_medium=email&utm_content=3418687&bcid=c32872fbf490708c39a2a739884b89f1&recip=487561152%20

B. Gender

1. Man

Adam was made first. He was to be the lead servant/ruler over God's creation and his home. God made Adam from the *dust* and *breathed life into him*. God made Adam male. *Physically, genetically, mentally, emotionally and intellectually*, God made a male first, and named him Adam.

B. Gender

2. Woman

God made Eve from Adam's side. She was his "*helper*," which means, "*one who helps*." She was to support Adam and help him fulfill his responsibilities, and fulfill her own responsibilities. Likewise, Adam was to take care of Eve, protect and provide for her, and

B. Gender

2. Woman

help her fulfill her responsibilities as fulfill his. Eve was made female. Her *genetics are female*, her *physical body has correlation and complement to the male*, Adam, but is *different*. Her *way of thinking, processing emotions*, and *more* is different from Adam, because *she was a woman*.

B. Gender

3. Roles of Men and Women

a. In the Family

God has ordained men *as leaders in the family*. Biblically and historically this has been the *case until the 20th century*. In some cases, like for *single moms*, there is no man in the picture...

B. Gender

3. Roles of Men and Women

a. In the Family

Women have their roles, which are *underrated by some, and over-elevated by others*. When women "*wear the pants*" or are the **ultimate authority** in a home, *great damage is done*. Our society is evidence of that.

B. Gender

3. Roles of Men and Women

a. In the Family

When a woman rules the home:

1. The man becomes **lazy, apathetic** and doesn't do what he needs to do.
2. The man becomes **angry** and seeks an escape through drugs, alcohol or work.
3. There can be a **combination** of these 2.

B. Gender

3. Roles of Men and Women

a. In the Family

There are times when a *woman needs or wants to work* outside the home, she should realize her God given calling is to be a *wife and mother* first, if there are kids involved. This is *something she and her husband should discuss* at length.

B. Gender

3. Roles of Men and Women

a. In the Family

Ephesians 5:22 - Wives, **submit** to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

Ephesians 5:33 - However, let each one of you **love** his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she **respects** her husband.

B. Gender

3. Roles of Men and Women

b. In the Church

Paul uses the creation model in **1 Timothy 2:8-15** as the foundation for stating *men are to lead the church*. While men and women have their natural talents and spiritual gifts, God has given the *primary leadership role* to **men**.

B. Gender

3. Roles of Men and Women

b. In Society

...Men and women can share most job positions... While there is freedom in society for different roles, we have seen a large shift away from male leadership to female leadership. This has caused a lot of problems.

C. Sexuality

"People tend to use the terms "sex" and "gender" interchangeably. But, while connected, the two terms are not equivalent. Generally, we assign a newborn's sex as either male or female (some US states and other countries offer a third option) based on the baby's genitals. Once a sex is assigned, we presume the child's gender. For some

C. Sexuality

people, this is cause for little, if any, concern or further thought because their gender aligns with gender-related ideas and assumptions associated with their sex.

Nevertheless, while gender may begin with the assignment of our sex, it doesn't end there. A person's gender is the complex interrelationship between three dimensions:

C. Sexuality

body, identity, and social gender.

Body: our body, our experience of our own body, how society genders bodies, and how others interact with us based on our body.

Identity: the name we use to convey our gender based on our deeply held, internal sense of self. Identities typically fall into

C. Sexuality

binary (e.g. man, woman) nonbinary (e.g., genderqueer, genderfluid, etc) or ungendered (e.g., agender, genderless) categories. The meaning associated with a particular identity can vary among individuals using the same term. A person's gender identity can correspond to or differ from the sex they were assigned at birth.

C. Sexuality

Social gender: how we present our gender in the world and how individuals, society, culture, and community perceive, interact with, and try to shape our gender. Social gender includes gender roles and expectations and how society uses those to try to enforce conformity to current gender norms.

C. Sexuality

Each of these dimensions can vary greatly across a range of possibilities and is distinct from, but interrelated with, the others. A person's comfort in their gender is related to the degree to which these three dimensions feel in harmony..."

From: <https://www.genderspectrum.org/articles/understanding-gender>

C. Sexuality

Another online comment was, "I think there's a lot of misinformation about gender, because most people think different genders exist in their own crystallized orbs separate from each other, but this **isn't the case** at all. Gender runs from man to woman, with **infinite gradations in the middle.**"

<https://www.quora.com/Are-there-71-genders>

C. Sexuality

Because of the confusion of gender, there is a *confusion* with the view of sexuality.

However, *gender and sexuality are linked*.

God defines gender and sexuality. The culture does not. Please note the *underlying idea* behind all of this:

I determine my gender or sexuality, not God.

C. Sexuality

You do not determine your gender or sexuality. You are either male or female. You were born genetically and physically as one of these 2 genders, linked to your sexuality, *originally made in God's image*. Here's the foundation *in the world and in the church*: Any and every denial or attack on the sexuality of humanity, is an **attack on God**, in whose image we were made.