** Gender Identity**

 *Who makes the call (and how)?*

Introduction

1. LGBTQIAPK. Each one of these letters stands for the title of a group of people with a specific sexual orientation or condition. Each one of the titles represented is somewhat independent and unrelated. What message is sent by continuing to group more and more of these sex and gender issues together?

2. In defense of gender neutrality, people use this phrase, *“who you are on the outside, should match you are on the inside.”* As someone who understands human nature as the Bible teaches it, what is wrong with that statement?

**What Does the Bible Say About the Issue?**

**Genesis 1:26-28**

1. Those supportive of the transgender movement talk about a person’s assigned gender (the designation of a gender of male or female at birth). According to Scripture, God is the one who assigns us our gender. He made them male and female. With what characteristics does Scripture identify a person’s gender?

*Just as in a perfect world people would always have physical attractions to the opposite gender, so also in a perfect world people’s gender identity would always match their sex. However, just as in a fallen world people have physical attractions to the same gender, so also in a fallen world people of a particular sex identify with the opposite gender.*

*Just as in the discussion about sexual orientation, the origins and causes of such attractions can be debated (nature vs. nurture, “I was born this way” vs. “This is a choice”), so also in the discussion about gender identity the same can be done. However, rather than dismissing or minimizing this challenging issue with which a person is struggling, we will seek to help him or her deal with it in a God-pleasing way.*

**Psalm 139:14; 1 Corinthians 6:19,20**

2. Put in your own words what we can say about our bodies, even after the fall.

3. As a result of the Father’s creation, the Son’s redemption, and the Spirit’s sanctification, what does Paul encourage us to do with our bodies?

**Jeremiah 17:9**

4. Our bodies certainly bear the marks of the fall. However, as it pertains to our gender, the evidence offered by our bodies (chromosomes, hormones, reproductive organs) is, in most cases, clear. In contrast, describe what we know about the thoughts and desires of our inner being since the fall.

**Romans 6:12-14**

5. When our inner being desires what is contrary to God’s will, summarize Paul’s instructions to us regarding what we are to do with our bodies.

**Philippians 3:7-11**

6. In contrast to the world, which tells us to be true to our desires, live how we want to live, and strive to eliminate all pain from our lives, God urges us to take up our crosses, whatever they may be. Name some blessings he promises as we do so.

7. Instead of hoping to attain the complete absence of any discomfort or unease of mind and spirit during this life, what is the ultimate goal a Christian hopes to attain? List ways this will impact someone who struggles with gender identity.

8. In response to people who identify with the gender opposite their sex, Christians will sometimes say, “God doesn’t make mistakes.” Evaluate this response.