

1.DESIGN

2.DISTORTION

3.DESTINY

And God said, “Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind.” And it was so. ²⁵ God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. **And God saw that it was good.**

²⁶ Then God said, “**Let us make humanity in our image, in our likeness**, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals,^[a] and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

²⁷ **So God created humanity in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.**

²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

²⁹ Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. ³⁰ And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.

³¹ **God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.** And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

HORIZONTAL

HIERARCHICAL

MARK A. YARHOUSE

UNDERSTANDING
GENDER
DYSPHORIA



NAVIGATING TRANSGENDER

ISSUES IN A CHANGING CULTURE

Gender dysphoria The experience of distress associated with the incongruence wherein one's psychological and emotional gender identity does not match one's biological sex

Transgender An umbrella term for the many ways in which people might experience and / or present and express (or live out) their gender identities differently from people whose sense of gender identity is congruent with their biological sex

Transvestism Dressing or adopting the presentation of the other sex, typically for the purpose of sexual arousal (and may reflect a fetish quality). Such a person may not experience gender dysphoria and may not identify as transgender. Most transgender persons do not cross-dress for arousal and see transvestism as a different phenomenon than what they experience

Genderqueer: An umbrella term for ways in which people experience their gender identity outside of or in between a male-female binary (eg no gender, genderfluid). Some people prefer a gender neutral pronoun (e.g. 'one').

Intersex: A set of medical conditions with congenital anomaly of the reproductive and sexual system

Queer: Generally used as an adjective for the LGBTQI community but can also refer to queer theory or queer theology, which are fields of academic discourse. Queer is often used to infer that one does not want to be limited, labelled or expected to have simply one kind of attraction but has at some point been attracted to the same sex.

Heteronormative: Denoting or relating to a worldview that promotes heterosexuality as the normal and preferred sexual orientation

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.

Deuteronomy 22.5

Alice's Gender CV

Aged 6 feared rejection from boys if I joined in kiss chase in the playground

Aged 9 started boarding school

Aged 10-12 received corporal punishment from the head master

Aged 13 made a vow never to speak to boys again

Aged 15 assigned myself gender neutral

Teenage years onwards:

disordered eating both as resistance to my shape and as a means of self-protection
started to scrutinise Greek and Hebrew re women in Scripture, particularly regards
public teaching and preaching

began to ask: Is the soul gendered

What is a woman?

Young 20s started counselling to deal with my disordered eating

Mid 20s turned down speaking opportunities in front of men

Late 20s, early 30s married Chris, had three children

Late 20s, early 30s worked hard on my restoration,
especially truth / reality versus lies / unreality

Ongoing experience of the goodness of God and His immense love for me

Late 30s surrendered my gender ambivalence and gender neutrality,
aligned myself with God's design that I am a woman

Salvation for Others

56 This is what the LORD says:

“Maintain justice
and do what is right,

And let no eunuch complain,
“I am only a dry tree.”

4 For this is what the LORD says:

**“To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths,
who choose what pleases me
and hold fast to my covenant—**

**5 to them I will give within my temple and its walls
a memorial and a name
better than sons and daughters;
I will give them an everlasting name
that will endure forever.**

for my house will be called
a house of prayer for all nations.”

8 The Sovereign LORD declares—
he who gathers the exiles of Israel:
“I will gather still others to them
besides those already gathered.”

Divorce

19 When Jesus had finished saying these things, he left Galilee and went into the region of Judea to the other side of the Jordan. ² Large crowds followed him, and he healed them there.

³ Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?”

⁴ “Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’^[a] ⁵ and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’^[b]? ⁶ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

⁷ “Why then,” they asked, “did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?”

⁸ Jesus replied, “Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. ⁹ I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery.”

¹⁰ The disciples said to him, “If this is the situation between a husband and wife, it is better not to marry.”

¹¹ **Jesus replied,** “Not everyone can accept this word, but only those to whom it has been given. ¹² **For there are eunuchs who were born that way, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by others—and there are those who choose to live like eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. The one who can accept this should accept it.**”

Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” ²⁷ So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian^[a] eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸ and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹ The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

³⁰ Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.

³¹ “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

³² This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

**“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,
and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.**

³³ **In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.
Who can speak of his descendants?
For his life was taken from the earth.”**^[a]

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” ³⁵ Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

³⁶ As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” ^[37]^[a] ³⁸ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.

³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

Husband: servant leader

Wife: gifted partner

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So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, ²⁷ for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 5.26-28

¹⁷ The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!"
And let the one who hears say, "Come!"
Let the one who is thirsty come; and let
the one who wishes take the free gift of
the water of life.

Revelation 22.17