
BIBLE TALK

This week the question is: **Can people choose their gender?**

The pop culture of today (2022) says that people are allowed to choose their own gender.

- There are people who have a woman's chromosomes who say they are actually men trapped inside a woman's body.
- There are people with a man's chromosomes who say they are actually women trapped inside a man's body.

In 2012 "The American Psychiatric Association has revised its Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders and it no longer lists being transgender as a mental disorder."¹ The World Health Organization (WHO) made this same decision, but not until May 25 of 2021.²

On June 16, 2017, Canada passed a "pronoun law" entitled "Bill C-16." If you do not address a person by the gender specific pronoun which they have chosen for themselves, you can be arrested and jailed for "hate speech."³ As a matter of fact, a father was jailed when he refused to call his daughter by masculine pronouns.⁴

Now, the question we're asking in this short study is this: **"Can people choose their gender?"** Can a person decide for himself he is actually a woman trapped inside a man's body? Or can a person decide for herself she is actually a man trapped inside a woman's body? The answer to this is simply: **NO, a person cannot decide such a thing for himself or herself.**

Gender is a fact of life—not a choice.

- A twenty year old person cannot say, *"I am a sixty-five year old person trapped inside a twenty year old body. Therefore, since I'm actually sixty-five years old, I want to retire and begin receiving Social Security benefits."*

¹ <https://nicic.gov/being-transgender-no-longer-mental-disorder-apa-2012>; accessed 1/31/2022.

² <https://www.therecoveryvillage.com/mental-health/news/transgender-no-longer-considered-mental-disorder/>; accessed 1/31/2022.

³ <https://www.cbc.ca/cbcdocspov/features/canadas-gender-identity-rights-bill-c-16-explained>; accessed 1/31/2022.

⁴ <https://www.independentsentinel.com/father-jailed-in-canada-for-using-incorrect-pronouns/>; accessed 1/31/2022.

- A twenty year old person cannot say, *"I am a thirty-five year old person trapped inside a twenty year old body. Therefore, since I'm actually thirty-five years old, I want to run for president of the United States."* (Thirty-five is the minimum age for someone to become president.)
- A white man cannot say, *"I'm actually a black woman trapped inside a white man's body. Therefore, since President Joe Biden promised to appoint a black woman to the Supreme Court, I want him to consider me for the position."* (If Joe Biden actually appointed someone like this, no one would believe he kept his promise.)

Gender is a fact of life—just like a person's age and race. People do not choose whether to be a man or woman. People do not choose to be young or old. People do not choose to be black or white. These things are determined by God and they cannot be changed.

Jeremiah 13:23

²³ Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? Then may you also do good who are accustomed to do evil.

Here are two questions. What is the answer to each question? The answer to both questions is: **NO, an Ethiopian cannot change his skin color and a leopard cannot changes its spots.** God made each person and each animal the way He wanted. Human beings were not consulted by God beforehand. He is sovereign. He knows what is best. He knows what He is doing for the good of society. Scripture records this:

Genesis 5:1-2

¹ This is the book of the genealogy of Adam. In the day that God created man, He made him in the likeness of God.

² He created them male and female, and blessed them and called them Mankind in the day they were created.

God intended that men dress and act like men. He intended that women dress and act like women. Cross-dressing is sinful.

Deuteronomy 22:5

⁵ "A woman shall not wear anything that pertains to a man, nor shall a man put on a woman's garment, for all who do so are an abomination to the LORD your God.

This same truth is repeated in the New Testament scriptures:

1 Timothy 2:9-10

⁹ in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing,
¹⁰ but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works.

God decides the gender of people. God's people will respect this distinction and conduct themselves accordingly. Those struggling with gender-confusion need help to see that God knew what He was doing when He created them as either a male or as a female. These struggling people need help to learn how to rejoice in the gender which God made them and their bodies. It is not helpful to pretend that a man is actually a woman or vice versa.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Well ... thanks for listening to our message this week. We invite you to visit our website www.WillOfTheLord.com. There you may download the notes and the audio file of the message you just listened to.

Call again next week when we consider a new subject on *Bible Talk*.