

true wōman 101

divine design

an eight-week study in biblical womanhood

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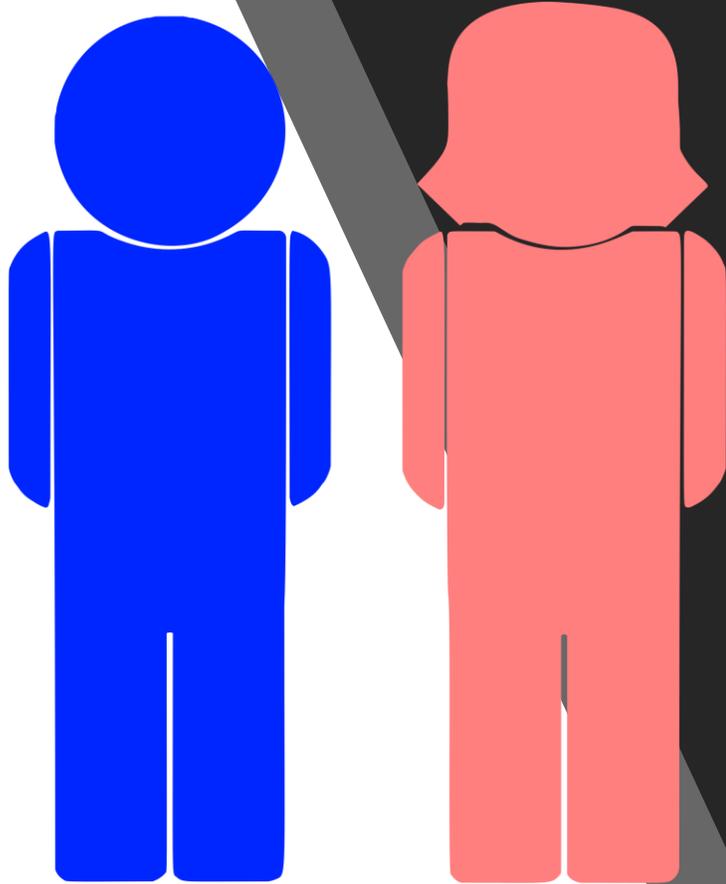
Winter/Spring  
Study

# Gender Matters

- Bigger picture: gender is not about us but a greater reality
  - Created in God's image
  - Portrait of the relationship between Christ and his Church
  - Display God's glory
    - Isaiah 43:6-7



# Gender Defined



- *“In patriarchal theology, woman not only fares badly in the doctrines of God, creation, & sin, but little better in the doctrines of redemption.... Feminist theology arises at the point where this sexist bias of classical theology is perceived & repudiated*

- Rosemary Radford Ruether in her book “Feminist Theology & Spirituality” (1984)

*“The Story of  
Gender”  
Series of articles on  
TGC Australia by  
Andrew Moody*

- *Man appears as a creature made from the ground to care for it on God’s behalf. His name “Adam” comes from the Hebrew for ground “Adamah”. “Adam” is also the Hebrew name for the human race that comes from him...In verse 18, God observes that Adam needs a helper[*
- *Woman is introduced to us here as a being created to meet the need of Adam. She is made from man and takes her name accordingly: she is called “Ishah” (from the Hebrew for male “Ish”) “because she was taken out of Man” (v23).*
- *Taken in isolation this might communicate the idea that woman is wholly defined by man. But that would be to forget what we have already seen in Genesis 1—woman, just as much as man, bears God’s image and rules his creation. Chapter 2:18 speaks of her in terms of Adam’s equal-and-opposite.*

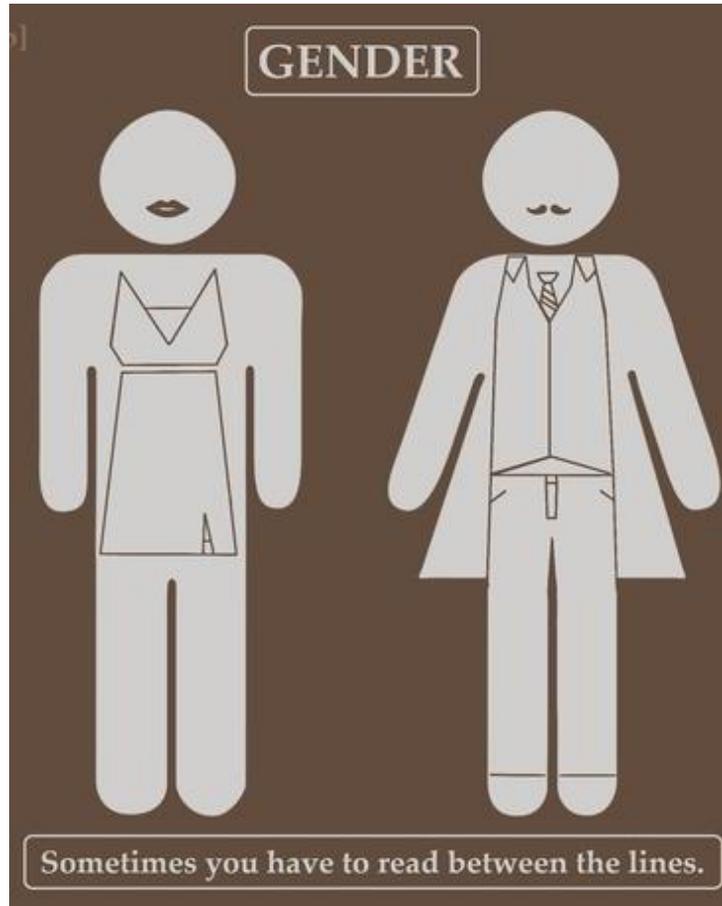
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- *Gender, then, as we discover it here, is a network of relationships involving equality, participation and interdependence. It is not about social stereotypes or personal feelings or even innate characteristics. Some of those things may be important, but gender itself is about the way humans are made. It’s about the way they exist in relation to each other, and the way they live out God’s plan.*

# Gender re-defined

## “Understanding Gender”

[www.genderspectrum.org](http://www.genderspectrum.org)



- While our 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:
  - – Body: our body, our experience of our own body, how society genders bodies, and how others interact with us based on our body.
  - – Identity: our deeply held, internal sense of self as male, female, a blend of both, or neither; who we internally know ourselves to be.
  - – Expression: how we present our gender in the world and how society, culture, community, and family perceive, interact with, and try to shape our gender. Gender expression is also related to gender roles and how society uses those roles to try to enforce conformity to current gender norms.
- Each of these dimensions can vary greatly across a range of possibilities. A person's comfort in their gender is related to the degree to which these three dimensions feel in harmony

*Man's deepest need isn't really for woman; nor is man woman's real reason for existence. Both man & woman ultimately stand before God as his people. Their greatest need, duty & hope isn't to be found in each other, but in him. If we make gender or sexuality substitute gods we'll freight them with a burden they just can't bear.*

*It is only God who really defines our identity. It is only God who can provide us with the grace we need to live as men & women.*

*Andrew Moody – "The Story of Gender"*