**VICTORIOUS LIFE BIBLE STUDY: SERIES: “ASK THE PASTOR”**

**LESSON: “BROKEN SEXUALITY” SESSION ONE**

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**QUESTION**: In contemporary society the acceptable norm Oman and woman has been modified to accept homosexuality/ transgender and bisexuals Where does the church stand on acceptance of these Genders?

A few years ago, a young man announced to his family in the presence of his pastor, “I’m gay, I’m not broke, so don’t try to fix me.” To that the pastor replied, “Sir, we’re all broken and we all need to be fixed.” The first so called sexual revolution, also known as the sexual liberation, is said to have taken place in the 1920’s. In the Western World, the second revolution was from the 1960 to the 1970s and was designed to challenge traditional codes of behavior related to sexuality and interpersonal relationships. The so called Sexual liberation, which has proven to have brought bondage, included increased acceptance of sex outside of traditional heterosexual and monogamous relationships (primarily marriage). The normalization of public nudity, pornography, premarital sex, homosexuality, masturbation, alternative forms of sexuality, and the legalization of abortion all followed. Another part of this second movement that is still being felt some fifty years after its inception, is that it seeks to redefine humanity in ways in which sexual functions and gender roles are not fixed, but fluid, even changing from day to day. A practice that the enemy has used and continuing to use to destroy the lives of countless millions and wreak havoc on the God established family unit. The very unit in which this movement has worked overtime to deconstruct. Look at the following Statistics on todays family. In 1960, at the height of the post-World War II baby boom, there was one dominant family form. At that time 73% of all children were living in a family with two married parents in their first marriage. By 1980, 61% of children were living in this type of family, and today less than half (46%) are. Almost 70 percent of black children are born to single mothers and many American children will experience the hurt from broken bonds at an early age. About [35% of American adolescents](http://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/demo/tables/families/2018/cps-2018/tabc2-all.xls) live without one of their parents, and [around 40%](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/unmarried-childbearing.htm) of American children are born outside of marriage. Although these kids’ parents are usually in a relationship or even cohabiting at birth, mom and dad often break up while their child is still young. Only 9% of children were raised without their father in 1960, yet today [a quarter](http://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/demo/tables/families/2018/cps-2018/tabc2-all.xls) of American kids are raised without their father. The declining share of children living in what is often deemed a “traditional” family has been largely supplanted by the rising shares of children living with single or cohabiting parents. For example, one study found that over a three-year period, about three-in-ten (31%) children younger than 6 had experienced a major change in their family or household structure, in the form of parental divorce, separation, marriage, cohabitation or death. Today, about 62% of children live with two married parents – an all-time low. Some 15% are living with parents in a remarriage and 7% are living with parents who are cohabiting. Conversely, the share of children living with one parent stands at 26%, up from 22% in 2000 and just 9% in 1960. Today, [only 44%](http://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/demo/tables/families/2018/cps-2018/tabc3-all.xls) of black children have a father in the home. In unison, the rate of black out-of-wedlock births went from 24.5% in 1964 to 70.7% by 1994, roughly where it[stands today](http://ifstudies.org/blog/trends-in-unmarried-childbearing-point-to-a-coming-apart).

 In the midst of all the shifting debris of todays family, the LBGT community has grown louder than ever in its attempt to reshape, redefine and deconstruct the very identity of humanity and redefine the very meaning of that which we call gender. This movement is now attempting to remove what we term “binary gender identification” (defining gender as male and female) and has now come up with a long list of so called gender identity’s that are subject to change depending upon what day it is. Let me share the ones I found in my research.

**LGBTQ+**- Acronym for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender. The term is often used to refer to the community as a whole. Other common variations of LGBTQ+ include LGBT, LGBTQ, LGBTQIA, and LGBTQIA+ which include individuals who identify as queer/questioning, intersex, asexual and more.

**Intersex-** Intersex people are born with a variety of differences in their sex traits and reproductive anatomy, including differences in genitalia, chromosomes, internal sex organs, hormone production, and more.

**Non-binary-** Describes a person who does not identify exclusively as a man or a woman. Non-binary people may identify as being both a man and a woman, somewhere in between, or as falling completely outside these categories. Also referred to as gender queer and gender variant.

**Pansexual-** Describes someone who has the potential for emotional, romantic or sexual attraction to people of any gender though not necessarily simultaneously, in the same way or to the same degree.

**Transgender-** Often abbreviated as "trans." An umbrella term used to describe people whose true [gender identity](https://lovehasnolabels.com/resources/glossary/#gender-identity) does not “match” the sex or gender they were assigned at birth. People who are transgender express themselves in many ways and do not necessarily need to alter their appearance in any way. When talking to or about someone who identifies as transgender society believes that it is important to be respectful of how they identify, and use their self-ascribed identity, name, and pronouns.

**Agender:** A person who identifies with this term will often consider themselves as not subscribing to any gender identity.

**Cisgender:** This term is commonly used to refer to people who identify exclusively with the gender assigned at birth.

**Demigender:** This is a term used to describe a person who feels a connection and/or has an internal leaning toward a particular gender.

**Gender Fluid:** This describes a person who moves fluidly between genders or whose gender shifts over time.

**Gender Neutral:** Someone who expresses themselves in such a way that they do not wish to be perceived as any one gender

**Gender Questioning:** Gender questioning describes someone who is questioning all or parts of their gender identity or expression and does not wish to identify themselves with a specific gender identity.

**Intergender:** Intergender describes a gender identity that is a mix of both masculine and feminine identities.

**Multi-Gender:** Multi-gender describes people who hold more than one gender identity.

**Gender Nonconforming:** Gender nonconforming is most commonly used to describe a gender expression different from cultural stereotypes associated with that person’s perceived gender or gender assigned at birth.

**Genderqueer:** Genderqueer describes a gender identity that is not defined as exclusively male or female. Genderqueer people experience their gender in unique ways. Their identity can include elements of the feminine, masculine, and nonbinary, or none of these. Identifying as genderqueer may be viewed as a rejection of associations or labels.

**Furry’s**- Kids identifying as animals.

The LBGT movement is one that possesses a spirit that is extremely antagonistic, aggressive, warlike and is determined to invade every area and precinct of our society. Our educational systems, schools, colleges, businesses and in recent years has aimed to invade the sanctuary of the righteous that we know as the church. Denominations, in many of their major gatherings, have been divided and have even split over where they stand on the issues of gay members, gay marriage and the Ordination of gay ministers and Priest. It is clear that the movement seems to respect no bounds as it is attempting to impose its will on practically every established institution. Because the movement has couched its argument using terms such as discrimination, racism and has attached itself to the Civil Rights movement many denomination have caved in to the pressure ignoring the Biblical revelation. The following churches has accepted the openly gay lifestyle and confirms openly gay Priest and Ministers. The [Metropolitan Community Church](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metropolitan_Community_Church), a predominantly LGBT church, has ordained LGBT candidates for ministry since its founding in 1968. In 1972, the [United Church of Christ](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Church_of_Christ) became the first mainline Protestant denomination in the United States to ordain an openly gay clergy person. Other churches that allow LGBT clergy are the [Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evangelical_Lutheran_Church_in_America), the [Presbyterian Church (USA)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Presbyterian_Church_%28USA%29), the [Episcopal Church in the United States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Episcopal_Church_in_the_United_States), the [Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_Church_%28Disciples_of_Christ%29), the [Church of Scotland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church_of_Scotland), the [Church of England](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church_of_England), the [Church in Wales](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church_in_Wales), the [Church of Sweden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church_of_Sweden), the [Church of Norway](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church_of_Norway), the [Church of Denmark](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church_of_Denmark), the [Church of Iceland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church_of_Iceland), the [Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evangelical_Lutheran_Church_of_Finland), the [Evangelical Church in Germany](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evangelical_Church_in_Germany), the [Methodist Church in Britain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Methodist_Church_in_Britain), the [Protestant Church in the Netherlands](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protestant_Church_in_the_Netherlands), the [United Protestant Church in Belgium](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Protestant_Church_in_Belgium), the [Swiss Reformed Church](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swiss_Reformed_Church), the [United Protestant Church of France](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Protestant_Church_of_France), the [Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evangelical_Lutheran_Church_in_Canada), [Anglican Church in Canada](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglican_Church_in_Canada), the [Old Catholic Church](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_Catholic_Church), the [Czechoslovak Hussite Church](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czechoslovak_Hussite_Church) and the [United Church of Christ in Japan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Church_of_Christ_in_Japan).

**Canada**: Under the guise of banning “conversion therapy,” Christian sexual ethics just became illegal in Canada–and similar laws are coming to the United States. Conversion therapy is a widely discredited and outdated practice that attempts to “cure” people of homosexuality via behavioral therapies like electric shock treatment.  Almost nobody in the West uses this technique anymore. So why are anti-conversion therapy laws now taking effect across Western Countries like Canada, Germany, France, and even parts of the United States? Clearly, banning archaic conversion therapy practices isn’t the true goal.  According to the Daily Wire, the Canadian law, enacted on Jan. 7 and titled “C-4,” now defines conversion therapy as “any counseling or advising against transgender or nonbinary identity or non-heterosexual sexuality — even if the young person or adult requests it.” Notably, no mention is made of conversion therapy in the other direction: counseling young people to adopt non-heterosexual sexuality is, presumably, still legal in Canada. The ban on so-called “conversion therapy” is not restricted to psychologists’ offices, however. The law states that “conversion therapy means a practice, treatment or service designed to (a) change a person’s sexual orientation to heterosexual […]” and so on. The words “treatment” and “service” seem vaguely medical, but what qualifies as a “practice?” According to sources interviewed by The Hill, it could mean anything – including a pastor preaching from the pulpit. **(Article in, “The Collegian” February 4, 2022)**

It is vital like never before, that we as believers have an understanding of where we stand on ALL issues of human sexuality. The main questions that we must ask is, what does the Bible say about theses many issues? What should the stance of our local church and what should our posture be when addressing those who find themselves needing ministry regarding these issues? As we move forward, I want us to understand that our study has a two-fold purpose.

**First**, we must be willing and able to disciple the Christian community; and

**Second**, we must be willing and able to engage this conversation outside the Christian community was a public witness.

The issues we struggle with today regarding our sexuality and gender are not new, but ancient. The issue is not just behavior, but it is about our very identity. We are struggling to answer the ancient question, **“What is humanity?”** As Christians, we believe that a proper understanding of humanity must be informed by the biblical narrative.

***Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule...” God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them (Genesis 1:26-27 NASB).***

**Humanity is created in the image of God.** The image/likeness of God does not speak to human form, but to the sharing of God’s spirit.

**“...the LORD God formed *’adam* of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; the human became a living being” (Genesis 2:7).**

**Job 33:4 “The Spirit of God has made me, And the breath of the Almighty gives me life.**

**“Augustine taught that true freedom is not choice or lack of constraint, but being what you are meant to be. Humans were created in the image of God. True freedom, then, is not found in moving away from that image but only in living it out.” ― Augustine of Hippo**

**“People today are trying to hang on to the dignity of man, but they do not know how to, because they have lost the truth that man is made in the image of God. . . . We are watching our culture put into effect the fact that when you tell men long enough that they are machines, it soon begins to show in their actions. You see it in our whole culture -- in the theater of cruelty, in the violence in the streets, in the death of man in art and life.”**

**― (Francis A. Schaeffer, [Escape from Reason: A Penetrating Analysis of Trends in Modern Thought](https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/142938))**

Any deviation from God’s original intent in creation, His laws He has put in place regarding Humanity and attacks on humanity it an attack, not just on the person, but on the image of God in them. Always be mindful of the God in each of us.

**Humanity is created as male and female.** In the ancient world, the gods were male and female. and it was sometimes assumed that the first human was created as bisexual, possessing both male and female characteristics. The mythological gods of the ancient near east copulated (engaged in sex acts) with each other, they copulated with humans, and sometimes copulated as animals or with animals. The Genesis narrative challenges these assumptions. **The God of Genesis is of one substance, and is not gendered as male or female.**

**Genesis 1:2**

**The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.**

**Job 33:4 “The Spirit of God has made me, And the breath of the Almighty gives me life.**

**"God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” (John 4:24)**

It was through His voice God created and shaped the first human and named him ADAM. The Hebrew word *’****adam* is best translated as *human.* The testimony of Genesis is that humans are created as gendered beings – male *’adam* and female *’adam (Eve)*.** The bible is clear that the God of Genesis does not copulate with humans, and humans do not copulate with animals. Male and female humans are suitable only for each other.

**Male and female were “both naked and not ashamed”** (Genesis 2:25). This signifies the intimacy and joy of their sexual union. Sex, in the proper context, is not shameful. The Song of Solomon celebrates sexual desire in which male and female share mutual love and joy.

***May he kiss me with the kisses of his mouth! For your love is better than wine... Draw me after you and let us run together! The king has brought me into his chambers. We will rejoice in you and be glad. We will extol your love more than wine... (Song of Solomon 1:2–4).***

The writer of Hebrews declared, **“Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled” (13:4)**. The Apostle Paul teaches us that husband and wife are co-equal partners who share their bodies for mutual sexual pleasure (1 Corinthians 7:3-4).

**The purpose of sex is twofold: intimacy and procreation.** “Now the man had relations with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth...” (Genesis 4:1). The Hebrew word *yada* (knew) speaks to experiential knowledge. Marital love is expressed sexually. Proper sexual expression is not limited to physical pleasure, but must include sharing life with one’s spouse. Humanity flourishes because of love. The sexual love of marriage causes the marriage to flourish and causes humanity to flourish and multiply. With the creation of the male and female, God pronounced creation to be “very good.” Sex is God’s very good idea.

**The Impact of the Fall (Sexual Brokenness)**

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**Genesis 3:1-11**

**21st Century King James Version**

**Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, “Yea, hath God said, ‘Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden’?” 2 And the woman said unto the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden, 3 but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, ‘Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it,lest ye die.’” 4 And the serpent said unto the woman, “Ye shall not surely die; 5 for God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.” 6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof and ate, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he ate. 7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves things to gird about. 8 And they heard the voice of the Lord God, walking in the garden in the cool of the day. And Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. 9 And the Lord God called unto Adam and said unto him, “Where art thou?” 10 And he said, “I heard Thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.” 11 And He said, “Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?”**

The consequence of eating from that tree would be death. The serpent tempted Eve to eat the forbidden fruit, and she ate, and Adam ate with her. After they had both eaten, their eyes were opened in a way they had not been before—now for the first time they recognized that they were naked. Adam and Eve had no guilt before. They hadn’t sinned against God, so there was no reason for any shame. Now that they had violated His word, they realized they had guilt. They had sinned against their Creator, and they sensed that guilt and were ashamed of their nakedness.

As long as they had no sin, they sensed no need for any covering. There was no judgment or scrutiny for them. Now that they had sinned, they were keenly aware, in their guilt and shame, that they were exposed. So they fashioned from fig leaves clothes to cover their loins, or their genital areas ([Genesis 3:7b](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Gen%203.7b)). They tried to cover up their guilt and shame with the product of their own efforts. This was the remarkable first attempt at [works salvation](https://www.gotquestions.org/salvation-by-works.html)—they sought to be free from guilt by covering up their nakedness on their own. When God called out to Adam, at first Adam hid because he knew he was naked and he was afraid ([Genesis 3:10](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Gen%203.10)). Ever since Adam’s sin, nakedness has been associated with shame (see [2 Samuel 10:4–5](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/2%20Sam%2010.4%E2%80%935); [Isaiah 47:3](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Isa%2047.3); [Ezekiel 16:39](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Ezek%2016.39); [23:29](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Ezekiel%2023.29); [Hosea 2:3](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Hos%202.3); [Nahum 3:5](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Nah%203.5); [Revelation 16:15](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rev%2016.15)). The fall has affected all of us. We all have an inborn sense that we need a covering. Being exposed to other eyes makes us feel uncomfortable, vulnerable, and afraid.

As closed the last heading we discussed the goodness of sex as ordered in a creation not corrupted by sin. However, with the sinfulness of the first humans, the created order was corrupted. This signifies a change in human nature in which nakedness is associated with shame. As we continue to read the biblical narrative, we discover that sinful humans behave shamefully, especially when it comes to sex. The Bible is an “R” rated book. When we talk about sex, we often do so in whispers. But, not the Bible. The biblical writers spoke loud and plain, often in coarse, earthy language.

**The first consequence of human sinfulness was a disordered relationship between male and female.** The joy of sex and procreation gives way to increased “pain in childbirth”. The mutual love and respect between the male and female gives way to a relationship in which the female is subjugated to the male (cf. Genesis 3:16). Here we must point out that any reading of the biblical text that supports male domination or female inferiority is informed by the curse, not creation, and certainly not by redemption. The disordered male/female relationship is often demonstrated in the imposition of cultural gender roles that distort created order. In some cultures, women have been prohibited from political participation, education, and other opportunities because they have been perceived as inferior or incapable.