### Is it Wrong to Defy Your Sexuality? (Part 1)

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<td>Students will understand the biblical perspective on Gender Dysphoria and accept God’s design for their sexuality.</td>
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| Definitions         | Biological sex: refers to our reproductive anatomy as male or female including our internal and external sex organs, chromosomes, and hormones which are wired into our DNA.  
                      | Gender: a sociological term redefined as being self-determined based on sexual and mental orientation  
                      | Gender identity: the awareness and sense of oneself as either male or female  
                      | Gender dysphoria: describes a person whose gender identity is in conflict with their biological sex |
| Checklist       | 1. A PowerPoint is available for this lesson.  
                     2. An architect’s blueprint.  
                     3. The diagram called “Digression of Gender Distinction.” |
1. Mark A. Yarhouse, Understanding Gender Dysphoria: Navigating Transgender Issues in a Changing Culture
2. Nate Collins, All But Invisible: Exploring Identity Questions at the Intersection of Faith, Gender, and Sexuality

Lesson Overview

God didn’t make a **mistake** when He designed you as either a boy or a girl.

**You can’t reassign God’s design.**

Biological sex refers to “our reproductive anatomy as male or female including our internal and external sex organs, chromosomes, and hormones which are wired into our DNA.”

Gender has become a sociological term redefined as “being self-determined based on sexual and mental orientation.”

Gender identity is “the awareness and sense of oneself as either male or female.”

Gender dysphoria describes a person whose gender identity is in conflict with their biological sex.

Biological sex is based on **design** while gender, gender identity, and gender dysphoria are all based on **desire**.

**You can’t reassign God’s design.**

Why were you **born** as a male or female?

You are either a male or female because of **biology**.

I. You have a **biological** blueprint.
   
   A person can alter their physical anatomy to **mimic** the opposite gender, but they cannot change their biological blueprint.

II. Your biological blueprint has a **Designer**.
   
   God **delights** in you as either a boy or a girl.

   **You can’t reassign God’s design.**
As you listen to this hypothetical situation, you need to think about how you would respond.

Tommy is a classmate in your science class. He is quiet, respectful, and he does well academically. You often see his papers being passed back and he usually has an A. Every now and then you make small talk with him but most of the time he just keeps to himself. Overall he’s just an ordinary and good classmate. You even borrowed his pencil one class period. You also invited him to your youth group’s evangelistic activities several times, but he wasn’t interested in coming.

As the year progresses you notice that Tommy’s grades aren’t as good as before. He also seems to be more withdrawn but still polite. Near the end of the year his hair style and his wardrobe started to change. It seemed odd to you but, oh well, summer break was coming and you wouldn’t see Tommy until next school year. Or at least you thought.

Is everyone with me so far in the hypothetical story?

It’s been a great summer but now it’s time for the new school year to start. Your class schedule is set and this year you have to take Advanced Biology. On the first day of class, everyone is meeting the new students and reuniting with students they haven’t seen all summer.

The teacher quiets everyone and introduces the new students. One of the new students looks familiar to you but you don’t think much of it. Her name is Tammy and she sits a few seats behind you. Later that day in the lunch room you’re sitting with your friends and you notice Tammy walking by. One of your friends asks you if you know who that girl is that just walked by. You acknowledge that she looks familiar but that you’re not sure who she is. Your friends whisper to you that it’s Tommy. She explains to you that Tommy decided last year that he wanted to be a girl so now he’s Tammy. That’s why you recognized her, awkward!

You and your friends talk about Tammy for a few minutes as they each give their opinion. Some of your friends say it’s weird, some say it’s no big deal, and Tommy can be Tammy if he wants, if that makes him happy. You’ve been pretty quiet so far until your friend asks you for your opinion. Your friends know you believe the Bible and you’re pretty sure what the Bible says, but what in the world do you say?

You may be thinking this is a strange or uncomfortable theoretical situation, but it is actually a serious cultural issue right now that’s not going away. Society is telling people to not only explore their sexuality, but to reassign it if they choose to.
Parents are allowing their children to change genders if they feel like they are the opposite sex. Teachers are being instructed to use non-gender pronouns in schools. You can’t call your students boys and girls because you might offend someone or leave someone out who might be confused about their gender. Some people even go as far as having a sex change. As we proceed to give you a biblical perspective regarding this issue we need to emphasize that we DO need to engage in conversation about gender confusion. We cannot be silent nor can we be sarcastic. We really need to have courage to show compassion to those who are struggling with their gender identity.

The past couple of weeks we have answered some difficult questions: Do all religions lead to God and is abortion wrong? Our attempt is to deconstruct the world’s thinking on these issues and construct a biblical viewpoint. Tonight’s question is one that is just as difficult because of the current cultural confusion it brings. Here’s the question: Is it wrong to defy your sexuality? We are actually going to look at this issue for the next two weeks.

In this module called “Deconstruction” we are using the analogies of tools to help us answer these difficult questions. So far we have used a plumb line. Today we are going to use a blueprint. How many of you know what a blueprint is?

**Teacher’s Note:** *Hold up the architect’s blueprint.*

Is it the blue footprint of a Smurf? Or a printer that only uses blue ink? Of course not, a blueprint is a reproduction of a technical drawing documenting an architectural or engineering design.

The blueprint visually communicates how something functions or is constructed. These technical drawings are understood to have one intended meaning. Blueprints use symbols, perspectives, units of measurement, notation systems, visual styles, and page layouts to produce a drawing that is unambiguous and relatively easy to understand and follow. Once the blueprint is drafted, approved and printed it is set and ready to be used.

The builder then takes the blueprints and follows them according to the exact design and measurements to construct the building. The builder doesn’t choose what the building will look like. That’s the job of the architect who drafted the blueprints.

Take your Bible and turn to Jeremiah 29:11.

**Teacher’s Note:** *Have a student read Jeremiah 29:11.*

Did you know that God has a blueprint for your life? One that He drafted, approved and realized? Do you realize that His plans for you are not for evil but for an expected good purpose?
God didn’t make a **mistake** when He designed you as either a boy or a girl. **You can’t reassign God’s design.** Regarding this issue of gender identity, let’s keep in mind you have a blueprint that determines everything about you as a biological being. Before we answer the question of whether or not it is wrong to defy your sexuality, let’s understand some definitions.

The first definition is biological sex. Biological sex refers to “our reproductive anatomy as male or female including our internal and external sex organs, chromosomes, and hormones which are wired into our DNA.”

Another definition is gender. Gender has become a sociological term redefined as “being self-determined based on sexual and mental orientation.”

Because of redefining gender, we now have a term called “gender identity.” Gender identity is “the awareness and sense of oneself as either male or female.” Whichever gender you desire to identify with becomes your gender identity.

This confusion leads to a term called “gender dysphoria.” Gender dysphoria describes a person whose gender identity is in conflict with their biological sex. In other words, a person might biologically be a male, but feel like he is a female.

These definitions are important to understand when dealing with this issue because they reveal the digression of gender distinction.

Teacher’s Note: **Use the chart labeled “Digression of Gender Distinction” to show that gender confusion is rooted in their desires not their design.**

This chart we are going to look at is meant to give you a bird’s eye view of this digression, but in no way is it meant to simplify the struggles associated with gender identity.

*[The chart is at the end of the lesson.]*

When we look at the chart, notice that biological sex is based on who you are and the other three are based on what you want to be. Biological sex is based on **design** while gender, gender identity, and gender dysphoria are all based on **desire**. Remember, **you can’t reassign God’s design.** So this leads us to a couple important questions to ask when you are lovingly sharing your defense against gender identity.

1. Why were you born as a male or a female?
2. Who determines your sexuality?
3. Do you have the right to change it?

Today, we are going to deal with the first question and next week we will answer the other two questions. Please come back next week.

**Why were you born as a male or a female?**

Did you know that there is actually a reason why you were born as either a male or female? Seriously. It doesn’t matter if you are a creationist or evolutionist because the reason is the same: **you are either a male or female because of biology.** You were born with a biological blueprint.
I. You have a biological blueprint.

At conception the blueprint of who you are as a person, male or female, is drafted and approved, whether you believe in God or not. Part of your blueprint is your DNA. DNA is a molecule that contains the instructions that an organism needs to develop, live and reproduce. These instructions are found in every cell and are passed down from your parents. That’s why you look like your mom or dad or uncle or grandmother.

According to science, research, and calculations, the human body houses more than thirty trillion cells. Every cell in your body is marked with a sex chromosome of either XX for girl or XY for boy. You cannot biologically change your DNA, nor can you reassign your sex chromosomes in any cell, let alone all 30 trillion. It is impossible to change your biological sex from one gender to another. Listen, you can’t reassign God’s design.

A person can alter their physical anatomy to mimic the opposite gender, but they cannot change their biological blueprint. Ask Tamikka Brents, an MMA competitor who was knocked out by her opponent, Fallon Fox. Fallon knocked her out at 2 minutes and 17 seconds in the first round. Tamikka’s own words in a news article reads, “I have never felt so overwhelmed, ever in my life. I fought a lot of women and have never felt the strength that I felt in a fight as I did that night.” Fallon punched Tamikka so hard that she gave her a concussion and broke her eye socket, damaging her orbital bone which required seven staples. Do you think it might be because Fallon had a sex change operation in 2006? Fallon altered her body to mimic a girl but her blueprint declares she’s a boy. You can’t reassign God’s design.

II. Your biological blueprint has a Designer.

Teacher’s Note: Hold up the blueprint so every student can see it. You may need to walk around the room. Point out the specific drawings, lines, measurements, etc. The point is to show how detailed, calculated, and complex the blueprint is.

Can everyone see this blueprint? Do you notice how detailed, complex and calculated it is? This blueprint is going to be used to build or create something that had been designed with great detail and forethought. A builder is going to take this blueprint and build it just as it is intended to be built.

Think about your biological blueprint. How it’s detailed, complex and calculated. If your body temperature changes 10 degrees either way then you die. Either you came from nothing or God created you to be something. Your body is way too complex to not have a designer.

God is the designer of your blueprint. You are either male or female at birth because that is how God designed you. In Genesis 1:26-28 God created both male and female in His very own image. He designed your gender, whether male or female, at creation.
God not only designed your gender, He also assigned it to you. In Psalm 139:15, David declares God’s knowledge of him at conception. Remember, at conception your biological blueprint was complete and you had all the information in your DNA to be born either a boy or a girl. God didn’t just design and assign your gender, He also delights in it. Did you know that?

**God delights** in you as either a boy or a girl. When God created Adam and Eve, having designed and assigned their gender, He said it was very good (Gen. 1:31). This statement is one of consecration. God consecrated the human race, setting them apart as His crowning creation. God designed your gender at creation, He assigned it to you at conception and He delights in its consecration.

If a person’s DNA blueprint is approved at conception, then why do people struggle with their gender identity? Why do some people have a disconnect between their biological sex and their preferred gender? Some of you might know a classmate or kid in your school who is struggling with their gender identity. Some of you here might be struggling with it as well.

The struggle is not in the design but in the desire. In other words, most people who struggle with gender dysphoria do not struggle with the facts regarding their anatomy, but rather with their feelings regarding their sexuality. We will look at this struggle more next week.

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**Connection**

As we attempt to connect this issue we need to emphasize that we DO need to engage in conversation about gender dysphoria. We cannot be silent nor can we be sarcastic. We really need to have courage to show compassion to those who are struggling with their gender identity.

So let’s take you back to your lunch room table. You have just been asked by your friends what you think about Tommy changing to Tammy. You could respond like most people and say it’s Tommy’s decision and dodge the issue, you could joke about it in order to hopefully move the conversation to another topic, or you could use this as an opportunity to share what you believe about God’s awesome design.

Share with your friends that you believe that God created Tammy and that He loves Tammy. Make sure that your friends know God loves Tammy just as much as God loves them (John 3:16). Help your friends understand that some people really struggle with their gender identity.

It’s unfortunate that some people live with confusion about their sexuality and that their sexual orientation is in conflict with their biological sex. It’s not because they are weird or abnormal, but because they don’t understand God’s perfect design for their life.

Encourage your friends to be respectful and nice to Tammy even when it is awkward. Share with them Jeremiah 29:11 and explain that God’s plan for Tammy’s life, and for their life, is one that is intended for good. God’s design is perfect and purposeful for every person.
Write a thank you note to God for the way He created you. Thank Him for your biological blueprint and acknowledge to Him your desire to accept and enjoy your sexuality in the way He intended. If applicable, be honest with God about your own struggles with your sexuality, and then tell Him you are going to trust Him with your body. Declare that you know you can’t reassign God’s design.

You can’t reassign God’s design!

1. **What is a blueprint and why is it used?** *(Use this question to spark discussion. The goal is for your group to acknowledge that the blueprint determines how something is going to be built or function.)*

   Ask your group if anyone wants to be an architect, if so, why? Draw out that there is a design and a designer to the blueprint. Ask them if a blueprint for a car would build a good skyscraper? Why or why not? A blueprint is a reproduction of a technical drawing documenting an architecture or engineering design.

2. **Have you ever known someone who struggles with their sexuality?** *(Before you ask this question tell your group you’re not wanting any names. This question will give you an idea of how many have been exposed to this issue.)*

   In a delicate way, ask the students for their reactions and thoughts about this issue. Remind them to be compassionate in their responses.

3. **How should you treat someone who is struggling with their gender identity?** *(This question is intended to stir your group to have compassion on those who struggle. Remind them that being kind and respectful doesn’t mean you accept gender reassignment, but that it gives you an opportunity to share God’s love.)*
## Digression of Gender Distinction

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<th>Application</th>
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<td>Biological Sex</td>
<td>You are male or female based on your biological makeup.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>You are male or female based on your sexual and mental orientation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gender Identity</td>
<td>You are male or female based on how you feel.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gender Dysphoria</td>
<td>You are male or female based on what you want to be.</td>
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