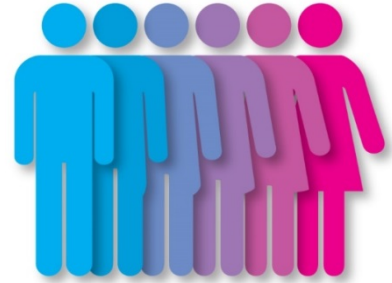


Gender Identity and Sexuality



Patricia Weerakoon
and
Kamal Weerakoon

Presented as an ISCAST-CASE Lecture at New College, UNSW
on Monday 20th April 2015 at 7.30 pm

It is suggested that this pdf file be used in conjunction with the accompanying mp3 audio lecture file. The pdf document has two slides per page together with a final page of references at the end.

Note that there is also a separate Q & A mp3 audio file

Gender Identity and Sexuality



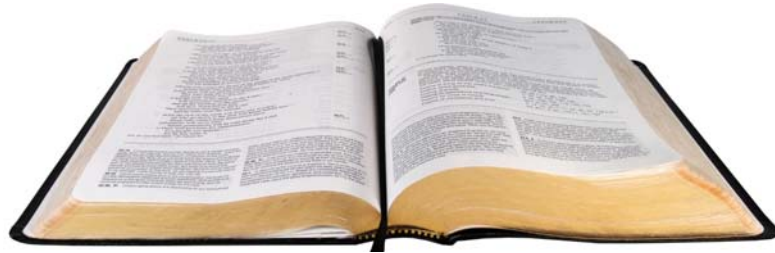
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Outline

1. Bible on gender
2. Current state of scientific study of gender & sexuality
3. Social attitudes to gender
4. Proposed Christian response
5. Resources

1. The Bible on Gender



The Bible assumes binary gender

Gen 1:27: “male and female he created them”

Jesus affirms the created order in Matt 19:4

Jesus was unambiguously a man

The metaphoric use of husband and wife is never gender ambiguous

Even in wrongful sexual activity – e.g. Sodom – gender is not ambiguous

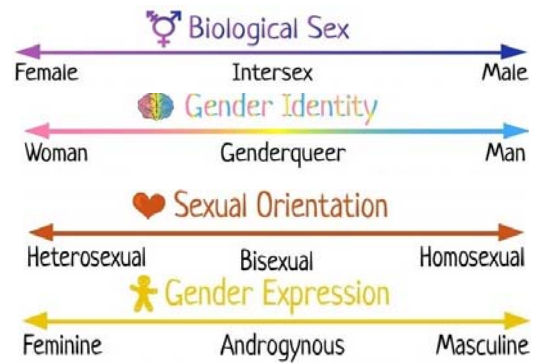
Binary gender grounds fellowship

Biblical
peace: Fellowship between and because
of **difference**.
Not fellowship among sameness.

2. Gender Science



The **Complexity** of Sex and Gender



Biological Sex (natal sex): Intrauterine development

	Male	Female	Disorders of sexual development (DsD)
Sex Chromosomes	XY Sex (Sry gene)	XX	Turners syndrome Klinefelters syndrome
Gonads, Testis or Ovaries	Testis	Ovary	Ovo-testis
Hormones	Testosterone	(Oestrogen)	Congenital adrenal hypertrophy Androgen insensitivity S
The Genitalia	Male	Female	Ambiguous genitalia
Brain Sex – neurology	Male	Female	The last frontier?

Complexity of brain sex/gender

Androgen Insensitivity Syndrome

- Genetic male: **XY** chromosomes
- Gonads male: **Testis** (undescended)
- Hormone: **Testosterone**
- Gender identity: **female**
- Internal genitalia not developed
- External genitalia female (**vagina**)



Eden Atwood

Gender non-conforming?



Or Gender Dysphoria?



Same Sex Sexuality (Orientation)

Same sex attraction: Who are you erotically attracted to?

Only SSA – 1.1% men, 0.5% women; Mainly SSA – 1.0% men, 0.9% women; Equally to both 0.4% men, 1.4% women

Same sex behaviour: Whom have you had sex with?

Only SS – 0.9% men, 0.3% women; Mainly SS – 1.1% men, 0.8% women; Equally with both 0.3% men, 0.8% women

Sexual identity: How do you think of yourself?

Homosexual – 1.9% men, 1.2% women; Bisexual – 1.3% men, 2.2% women.

Does NOT consider: **arousal and fantasy**

Richters et.al. 2014

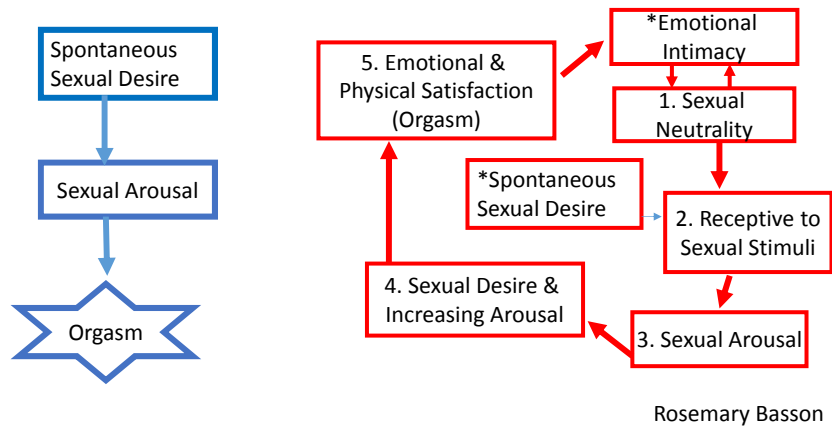
Gender expression or sex roles



‘Characteristics in personality, appearance, and behavior that in a given culture and historical period are designated as masculine or feminine.’

What does it mean to be a man? A woman?
Does it really matter?

Complementary roles in sexual response



3. Social Attitudes Towards Gender



Narcissistic individualistic hedonism

Fluidity: gender is considered a spectrum with no normative connection to one's biological sex.

Voluntarism: a person is whatever they want themselves to be, irrespective of biology, social norms, or any external authority.

World Association of Sexual Health

2014 declaration of Sexual Rights:

3. The right to autonomy and bodily integrity:

Everyone has the right to control and decide freely on matters related to their sexuality and their body. This includes the choice of sexual behaviours, practices, partners and relationships with due regards to the rights of others.

The **Confusion** of Sex and Gender

Queer Transgender
Agender M2F
Intersex
F2M Transvestite Lesbian Hermaphrodite
Ambiguous Genitalia Cisgender Gender fluid
Gender Dysphoria Questioning Androgynous
Asexual Cross dresser Disordered Sex Development
Gay Transsexual Bisexual
Pansexual
Bigender Fluid Gender Identity Disorder
LGBTQIA



4. Towards a Christian Response



Confusion happens

One of the effects of sin is misalignment from God's created pattern;

Including biological misalignment.

Therefore, gender concerns are not always a mental disorder; not always a "choice".

Jesus is the answer

ALL Christians find their identity in **CHRIST** and are fundamentally defined by **HIM**.



We all need a supportive Christian community where we can be honest about our struggles.

Following Jesus

Voluntary heteronomy:

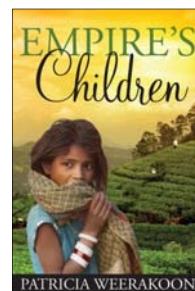
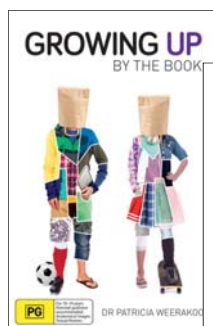
God's created pattern remains the ideal which governs healthy behaviour for Christians.

Explore counselling and medical solutions for dysphoria – with the created pattern in mind.

5. Resources (Shameless Advertising)



<http://www.christcollege.edu.au/sexualityidentity>



Email: patricia.weerakoon@sydney.edu.au
Website: <http://patriciaweerakoon.com/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/patricia.weerakoon>
Twitter: @kamalini

Email: kamal.weerakoon@gmail.com
Blog: <http://thinkingofgod.org/multicultural-ministry-matters/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/kamal.weerakoon>
Twitter: @kamalweerakoon

Note that there is also an mp3 audio Q & A file,
and that a list of references follows

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