

# Human Sexuality, Gender, and the Gospel

## Forestgate Presbyterian Church

### Lesson 9: TQIA – The New Cultural Zeitgeist

**Goal for this class:** *To gain a better understanding of what is going on and how we got here.*

#### 1. Resources:

- Trueman, Carl R. *Strange New World: How Thinkers and Activists Redefined Identity and Sparked the Sexual Revolution*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2022.
- Percy, Nancy. *Love Thy Body: Answering Hard Questions about Life and Sexuality*. Grand Rapids, MI: BakerBooks, 2019.

#### 2. Recap

#### 3. Segue: What does LGB have to do with TQ?

#### 4. Framing the problem with eight questions:

##### ***What is going on?***

- USA Today's Woman of the Year
- Parents and medical professionals are complicit in experimenting on young children.
- The trans movement makes a claim that is patently false: The biological sex makes no difference. And, they are doing everything they can to steer people away from the science and demonize any dissenters (religious or otherwise).

##### ***Why are so many intellectuals are talking complete nonsense with absolute conviction?***

- Such that the medical establishment and by-in-large most of the school nurses have bought into the ideology. – this is not real science
- Such that President Biden has stated, “Transgender equality is the civil rights issue of our time.” – this is not real politics

##### ***How did the statement, “I am a woman trapped in a man's body,” become normal?***

- The medical response:
  - Do we bring the mind in alignment with the body? (all of time until 20 years ago)
    - The authority of the body
  - Or, do we bring the body in alignment with the mind? (today)
    - The authority of the inner feelings

### ***How did the inner life of human beings come to hold such power over our identities?***

- Rene Decartes – “I think, therefore I am.” Formulated *mind* and *body* in a way that pitted them against each other, given priority to the former.
  - o The Christian perspective:
  
- Jean-Jacques Rousseau – locates identity in the inner psychological life of the individual
  - o The Christian perspective:
  
- Romanticism – sought to find authentic humanity in an acknowledgement of, and connection to, the power of nature.
  - o Granted authority to feelings, often through art.
  - o The Christian perspective:

### ***How were norms of morality and human nature dismissed?***

- Karl Marx – Religion is a human creation; it is a sign of intellectual weakness in its adherents, and a means of social oppression for its proponents.
  - o The Christian perspective:
  
- Friedrich Nietzsche – Child of Enlightenment irreligion, like Marx, but without the communist bent. “God is dead.”
  - o The death of God means the death of any notion of human nature
  - o The Christian perspective:

### ***How did these ideas get sexualized and then politicized?***

- Sigmund Freud - Sex is foundational to human happiness.
  - o “Man’s discovery that sexual (genital) love afforded him the strongest experiences of satisfaction and in fact provided him with the prototype of all happiness...that he should make genital eroticism the central point of his life.”
    - Follow this to its logical conclusion: “human beings are defined most basically by their sexual desires.”
  - o Christian perspective:

- Wilhelm Reich – Where Marx meets Freud meets Rousseau
  - Sex is politicized and linked to the inner voice of nature
    - Consequence for today: sex education in schools, the state’s interest in the free (sexual) expression of children
  - The Christian perspective:

***How did it get mainstream?*** Some examples...

- Oscar Wilde
  - In the spirit of Nietzsche and self-creation, he shattered the traditional moral codes, including codes of sexual morality...with plays that we still perform in schools today.
  - “All imitation in morals and life is wrong.” Rather the free, artistic creation of the self is the imperative.
- Oprah
  - “What is *your* truth?”
  - Shaming parents of repressed transgender youth.
- Disney and self-empowerment.
  - “be true to yourself”
- Technology
  - The pill – severing the link between sex and pregnancy
  - Internet pornography
  - Music became an item for individual consumption
  - Social media providing a platform for self-expression
- No-fault divorce
- “Micro-aggressions” in colleges
- “having no filter” is seen as a virtue
- Pennsylvania trans swimmer is heralded as “courageous” akin to Jackie Robinson breaking barriers of racism.
- Bottom line: *Far more is caught than is taught.*
  - Our response to the world is more instinctive than self-conscious, comes out of our “social imaginary.”

***So, what is the modern man?***

- Modern man seeks to be true to himself
- Authenticity to inner feelings rather than adherence to transcendent truths, has become the norm
- Affirmation of the sexualized self
- Assumes the authority of the inner feelings and sees authenticity as defined by the ability to give social expression to the same.
- Rejects the idea that human nature has any intrinsic moral structure or significance.

*LGBTQIA is a symptom of the wider cultural turn in the West toward: Expressive individualism, culture of authenticity, postmodern relativism, immanent frame, personal bodily autonomy,... it's the default setting for our age.*