

Understanding the Landscape of Gender Identity

Made to Minister Conference | Session 2

Introduction:

Understanding the terms

- *Mark Yarhouse:* If you've met one transgender person, you've met one transgender person.
- *Biological sex:* male or female according to chromosomes (XX- female, XY- male), external/internal physiology (anatomy)
- *Gender:* the psychological, social, and cultural manifestations of maleness and femaleness (masculinity and femininity)
- *Gender identity:* how a person perceives or experiences themselves as male/female (how they understand themselves)
- *Cisgender:* someone whose gender identity is the same as the sex they were assigned at birth
- *Gender dysphoria:* the experience of incongruence between one's biological sex and gender identity (duration of at least 6 months)¹⁰
- *Transgender:* broad umbrella term for a person who experience a different gender identity than their biological sex
- *Gender-fluid:* gender identity best described as a dynamic mix of boy and girl. A person who is gender fluid may always feel like a mix of the two traditional genders, but may feel more man some days, and more woman other days.
- *Gender non-conforming:* A broad term referring to people who do not behave in a way that conforms to the traditional expectations of their gender, or whose gender expression does not fit neatly into a category
- *Intersex:* those whose sex at birth is somewhat ambiguous; 1 in every 5,000 births (0.02%); people whose chromosomes, genitals or gonads do not allow them to be distinctively identified as male or female at birth

¹⁰ In order to receive this diagnosis, feelings of dysphoria must last 6 months in duration, cause great distress (APA, DSM-5, Washington RD: APA Publishing, 2013) p. 452.

- *Detransitioner/desisting*: A detransitioner is someone who previously identified as transgender and received medical and/or surgical interventions as a result, but stopped taking these interventions and no longer identifies as transgender in the same way.¹¹

Americans' Self-Identified Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity

Which of the following do you consider yourself to be? You can select as many as apply: Straight or heterosexual; Lesbian; Gay; Bisexual; Transgender.

	Among LGBT U.S. adults	Among all U.S. adults
	%	%
Lesbian	13.9	1.0
Gay	20.7	1.5
Bisexual	56.8	4.0
Transgender	10.0	0.7
Other (e.g., queer, same-gender-loving)	4.3	0.3

Percentages total more than 100% because respondents may choose more than one category.

GALLUP, 2021

Understanding the statistics

- 2011: Williams Institute at UCLA: .3% of the US population (700,000 people)
- 2016: Williams Institute at UCLA: .6% of the US population (1.4 million people)¹²
- 2022: Gallup Poll- LGBTQ+ population is at 7.1% of the total US population¹³
 - Double the number from 2012 when Gallup first measured it
 - 86%- straight/heterosexual
 - 6.6% prefer not to answer
 - Trans* .7% of the total US population
 - Other .3% of the total US population
 - LGBT identification has remained somewhat the same; rising in younger generations

¹¹ <https://can-sg.org/frequently-asked-questions/what-do-the-terms-detransition-and-desistance-mean/>.

¹² <http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/How-Many-Adults-Identify-as-Transgender-in-the-United-States.pdf>.

¹³ Jeffrey Jones, "LGBT Identification in U.S. Ticks Up to 7.1%," February 17, 2022, *Gallup News*, <https://news.gallup.com/poll/389792/lgbt-identification-ticks-up.aspx>. Accessed 13 March 2022.

Americans' Self-Identification as LGBT, by Generation

	LGBT	Straight/Heterosexual	No response
	%	%	%
Generation Z (born 1997-2003)	20.8	75.7	3.5
Millennials (born 1981-1996)	10.5	82.5	7.1
Generation X (born 1965-1980)	4.2	89.3	6.5
Baby boomers (born 1946-1964)	2.6	90.7	6.8
Traditionalists (born before 1946)	0.8	92.2	7.1

GALLUP, 2021

- Gender dysphoria in children and teens
 - Gender dysphoria DSM-V criteria¹⁴
 - A marked incongruence between one's experienced/expressed gender and primary and/or secondary sex characteristics (or in young adolescents, the anticipated secondary sex characteristics)
 - A strong desire to be rid of one's primary and/or secondary sex characteristics because of a marked incongruence with one's experienced/expressed gender (or in young adolescents, a desire to prevent the development of the anticipated secondary sex characteristics)
 - A strong desire for the primary and/or secondary sex characteristics of the other gender
 - A strong desire to be of the other gender (or some alternative gender different from one's assigned gender)
 - A strong desire to be treated as the other gender (or some alternative gender different from one's assigned gender)

¹⁴ The DSM-5-TR defines gender dysphoria in adolescents and adults as a marked incongruence between one's experienced/expressed gender and their assigned gender, lasting at least 6 months, as manifested by at least two of the following:

- A marked incongruence between one's experienced/expressed gender and primary and/or secondary sex characteristics (or in young adolescents, the anticipated secondary sex characteristics)
- A strong desire to be rid of one's primary and/or secondary sex characteristics because of a marked incongruence with one's experienced/expressed gender (or in young adolescents, a desire to prevent the development of the anticipated secondary sex characteristics)
- A strong desire for the primary and/or secondary sex characteristics of the other gender
- A strong desire to be of the other gender (or some alternative gender different from one's assigned gender)
- A strong desire to be treated as the other gender (or some alternative gender different from one's assigned gender)
- A strong conviction that one has the typical feelings and reactions of the other gender (or some alternative gender different from one's assigned gender)

In order to meet criteria for the diagnosis, the condition must also be associated with clinically significant distress or impairment in social, occupational, or other important areas of functioning.

- A strong conviction that one has the typical feelings and reactions of the other gender (or some alternative gender different from one’s assigned gender)
- Dr. Jerami Carswell: [“When does a child know they’re transgender?”](#)
 - A child will often know they are transgender from the moment they have any ability to express themselves. And parents will often tell this to us. We have parents that tell us that their kids knew from the minute they were born practically. And actions like refusing to get a haircut or standing to urinate, trying to stand to urinate, refusing to stand to urinate, trying on siblings’ clothing, and playing with the “opposite gender” toys. Things like that.
- *Dr. Paul S. McHugh* further noted studies of children who had expressed transgender feelings but for whom, over time, 70%-80% “spontaneously lost those feelings.”¹⁵
- *Dr. John Whitehall* (Western Sydney University professor of pediatrics): Dutch children with dysphoria aged 4-11 revealed 52% had associated psychiatric problems with diagnoses including anxiety, phobias, mood disorders, depression, attention deficit disorder and oppositional behavior.¹⁶

Why do kids and teens struggle with their gender identity? Is there a trans* gene? Biological determinism?

- *J. Alan Branch*: No one knows what causes gender dysphoria. No one has discovered a transgender gene. No one has discovered a transgender brain. What have been found are some variables that correlate with a higher incidence of transgenderism in certain cases. But no biological or genetic trait has been found that is both necessary and sufficient to cause transgenderism.¹⁷

¹⁵ Paul McHugh, “Transgender Surgery Isn’t the Solution”, Wall Street Journal, June 12, 2014. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/paul-mchugh-transgender-surgery-isnt-the-solution-1402615120>. Accessed 10 March 2017.

¹⁶ Dan Flynn, “Confusing Gender Ideology Not For Vulnerable Children”, March 2, 2017. http://www.acl.org.au/confusing_gender_ideology_not_for_vulnerable_children?recruiter_id=3606

¹⁷ Branch, 129.

ROGD: Rapid Onset Gender Dysphoria¹⁸

- Common factors amongst them for a sudden trans identity
 - Few of the children showed any signs of gender dysphoria to their parents growing up
 - Their new identity seemed to appear out of the blue
 - Many if not all of their friends at school were trans, and their coming out often followed their friends' coming out as trans
 - Many of them became more popular after they came out as trans
 - They engaged in heavy online and social media activity surrounding their coming out
 - Many of them had other mental health concerns that weren't being dealt with¹⁹

- What is the typical path of treatment for a teen/child who is struggling with GD?
 - Social affirmation
 - Puberty blockers
 - Cross-sex hormones
 - Gender affirming surgery, gender confirmation surgery, gender reassignment surgery
 - Legal affirmation process

- [Jesse Singal](#), “What’s missing from the conversation about transgender kids”: What’s happening in our society is moving faster than the evidence base.

- *Todd Wagner*: For starters, if you have kids yourself, be a parent. It’s your job to be the adult. Children will be childish, by definition. They think like, well, children (1 Cor. 13:11). They are not reliably knowledgeable, reasonable, or wise. They lack life experience, a firm grasp of reality, and the ability to make decisions of ultimate importance. In fact, they’re not legally allowed to make any major decisions on their own, and any such agreements they try to enter into aren’t binding.²⁰

¹⁸ Preston Sprinkle, *Embodied: Transgender Identities, The Church, & What the Bible Has to Say*, (Colorado Springs, CO: David C. Cook, 2021), 163.

¹⁹ Preston Sprinkle, *Embodied: Transgender Identities, The Church, & What the Bible Has to Say*, (Colorado Springs, CO: David C. Cook, 2021), 163.

²⁰ Todd Wagner, “Talking to Kids About Gender in a Gender-Confused World,” November 15, 2019, *The Gospel Coalition*, <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/talking-kids-gender-confused-age/>. Accessed 18 January 2024.

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