

## Elders Position on Gender Dysphoria

We affirm with **Genesis 1:26-27** that mankind is created in the “image of God”. We also affirm that being made in His image, God created mankind as male and female. Accordingly, men and women are of equal value before God, though neither identical nor interchangeable in design. Man and woman are intended to complement one another in God’s creation. As His image-bearers, every person is to be afforded the highest dignity and regarded as being of incalculable value to both God and man.

We further affirm from **Psalm 139:13-16** that God has fashioned every person with intentionality, after His own purposes. Therefore, we reject the sociological construct that permits mankind to manipulate gender identity under the guise of individual autonomy and find such to be as **Romans 1:26-27** describes, “contrary to nature”. God is a God of order in this life and in the life to come. Sexual identity not only creates such order, it defines it: marriage, childbearing, family, societal relationships in this life as well as in the future resurrection of the body unto judgment beyond the grave.

We understand from **Ephesians 5:22-33** that sexual identity and roles are integral to the substance of the gospel of Jesus Christ and that any manipulation which denies one’s biological sex does ultimate violence to the truth of the gospel. We believe that the gospel of Jesus Christ is the ultimate answer to mankind’s universal problem: a sinful nature that rejects the love and wisdom and authority of a holy God. We compassionately appeal to all persons to embrace this good news of forgiveness and by grace through faith, look to the sacrificial work of Jesus Christ. We must all submit our wills and our bodies to the authority of God, no matter our past pain, sorrows, or brokenness. We cling to the promise of **1 John 3:2** and **Philippians 3:20-21** that God has better for His children in the resurrection.

We acknowledge that gender dysphoria is becoming more pervasive and that children and adolescents in particular are finding growing opportunities to solve this circumstance with decisions that deny God’s design. We express deep compassion for all such persons but reject any manipulation of sexual identity as a workable and righteous solution. We urge all persons to consider **Romans 8:18-25** and to join us in patiently waiting for His promised redemption of our bodies.