

# Male and Female He Created Them

*A Biblical Examination of Gender, Identity, and Compassionate Truth in Digital Ministry*

---

I recently observed a situation in a Christian streamer's Twitch chat that has become an increasingly common thing in digital ministry spaces. A viewer entered the chat and introduced themselves stating their pronouns were they/them, identifying as non-binary. The Christian streamer, rather than gently and lovingly speaking truth, affirmed the viewer's stated identity. The interaction was over in seconds. Most viewers did not even notice it happened. But something significant did happen: a person who needed truth received approval of a falsehood, dressed up as love.

This guide is not written to vilify anyone in that interaction. The streamer almost certainly meant well. The viewer almost certainly was carrying real pain. Moments like that are now constant in digital ministry, and Christians who stream, moderate, and engage online have to know what Scripture actually teaches about gender, identity, and how love and truth fit together. The most loving thing we can do is not always the most comfortable thing. Sometimes, especially in this cultural moment, the most loving thing we can do is refuse to bend.

## The Question We're Actually Asking

When someone in your stream says "my pronouns are they/them," the question being placed in front of you is not really about grammar. It is not even really about pronouns. The deeper question is: *Will you agree that I am whatever I say I am?* It is a question about reality itself. It's about whether God's design of humanity is true, or whether each individual is the final authority on their own identity.

This is not a small question and Christians cannot punt on it.

Scripture answers the question. So we have to ask ourselves.. are we willing to answer with Scripture, even when that answer is unwelcome?

## What Scripture Says About How God Made Us

The very first thing Scripture tells us about humanity is that we are made in God's image, and that God made us male and female:

- **Genesis 1:27 (ESV)** — *"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."*
- **Genesis 5:2 (ESV)** — *"Male and female he created them, and he blessed them and named them Man when they were created."*

This is not buried in an obscure passage. It is the opening declaration of who we are. Before sin, before the fall, before any of human history's complications.. the binary of male and female is part of God's good design. It is not a curse. It is not a result of the fall. It is part of what was declared "very good" in Genesis 1:31.

The creation account in Genesis 2 expands on this. God forms the man, declares "it is not good that the man should be alone," and creates the woman from him as "a helper fit for him" (Genesis 2:18, 22). The man and the woman are made distinct, complementary, and called together to bear God's image and steward His creation.

Jesus Himself affirms this design directly when He is questioned about marriage and divorce:

- **Matthew 19:4–6 (ESV)** — *"Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."*

Jesus does not treat the male/female distinction as a cultural artifact of an ancient society. He grounds it in creation itself, in how God made things "from the beginning." If Jesus is Lord, His view of gender is not optional for those who follow Him.

## The Body Is Not a Costume

One of the most quietly devastating ideas of our cultural moment is that the body is essentially a costume. Something separate from the "real you," something that can be edited, swapped, or overridden if it does not match what you *feel* inside. Scripture says the opposite.

- **Psalms 139:13–14 (ESV)** — *"For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made."*
- **Jeremiah 1:5 (ESV)** — *"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you..."*
- **1 Corinthians 6:19–20 (ESV)** — *"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body."*

In Christian anthropology, we are not souls trapped in bodies. We are *embodied* souls. The body is not a prison, a costume, or a malfunction. It is part of who you are. Your maleness or femaleness is woven into you by God Himself, on purpose, before you ever drew a breath. That is not a problem to solve. It is a truth to receive.

This means, and this matters deeply, that someone struggling with gender dysphoria is not actually wrong about their body. Their body is exactly what God made it to be. What they are wrong about is whether *their feelings* have the authority to overrule it.

## “Neither Male Nor Female” — What Galatians 3:28 Actually Means

A passage that frequently gets misused in this conversation is Galatians 3:28:

- **Galatians 3:28 (ESV)** — *“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”*

Some take this verse to mean that Christianity dissolves gender as a category, that in Christ, the male/female distinction no longer matters. Read in context, that is clearly not what Paul is saying.

The entire chapter is about how salvation comes by faith in Christ, not by ethnicity, social status, or any other human distinction. Jew and Greek still exist. Slaves and free people still exist. Men and women still exist. Paul’s point is that *access to Christ* is not gated by any of these categories. All of us, regardless of who we are, come to Jesus on the same ground.. faith in Him.

Paul himself, in the same letters where he insists on the unity of believers in Christ, gives gender specific instructions to husbands and wives, men and women in the church (Ephesians 5:22–33, 1 Timothy 2:8–15). If gender were erased in Christ, those passages would make no sense. Galatians 3:28 is about equal standing before God, not the abolition of God’s creational design.

## Real Suffering, Real Compassion

It would be wrong to talk about this issue without acknowledging that people who struggle with their gender are often in genuine pain. Gender dysphoria: the persistent, distressing sense that one’s body and one’s felt identity do not match.. is real suffering. The people experiencing it are not faking it. Many have wrestled with it since childhood. Many have suffered abuse, isolation, depression, and despair. Some have taken their own lives.

Christians who care about truth must also care about these people. Cruelty is not faithfulness. Mockery is not courage. Treating someone struggling with their gender as a punchline or as a threat to be defeated rather than a soul to be loved, is its own kind of betrayal of the gospel.

- **Matthew 12:20 (ESV)** — *“A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not quench...”*

This is how Jesus is described. This is how His followers should be.

At the same time, and this is where many well-meaning Christians stumble.. compassion does not mean agreement. A doctor who tells a patient with anorexia that they really are overweight is not being compassionate. They are being complicit. Compassion that refuses to tell the truth is just cowardice wearing a kind face.

## How We Treat Every Other Suffering

It is worth pausing on this point, because it shapes everything that follows. Gender dysphoria, in modern medicine, is classified as a mental health condition. The DSM-5 (the diagnostic manual psychiatrists use) lists it among mental disorders. That is not a slur. It is a clinical description: persistent distress caused by a felt mismatch between body and identity.

So set the religious question aside for a moment and ask a medical question: how do we treat every other condition where a person's felt sense of their body does not match physical reality?

- **Anorexia nervosa** is a condition where a person experiences themselves as overweight, often dangerously so, despite being severely underweight. We do not affirm the perception. We do not put the patient on a diet. We treat the perception. We help the person reconcile with the truth about their body.
- **Body dysmorphic disorder** is a condition where a person fixates on a perceived flaw in their appearance that others cannot see. We do not approve unlimited cosmetic surgery. We treat the underlying disorder.
- **Body integrity dysphoria** is a real, documented condition where a person experiences a healthy limb as not belonging to their body and seeks its amputation. Ethical doctors do not amputate healthy limbs. They treat the dysphoria.
- **Schizophrenia** involves perceptions, voices, and beliefs that do not line up with reality. We do not validate the voices. We help the person.

In every other case in modern medicine, the response to a felt mismatch between body and reality is not to alter the body to match the feeling. It is to help the person reconcile with what is real. We do this not because we are cruel, but because we know that affirming the perception makes the suffering worse, not better. The most loving thing a doctor can do for a patient with anorexia is to tell them the truth about their body.

Gender dysphoria is the singular exception. It is the one condition in modern Western medicine where the protocol has been flipped where, instead of helping the person reconcile with their body, the body itself is altered to chase the feeling. Hormones. Surgeries. Permanent, often irreversible changes to a body that is medically healthy.

This is not faithfulness to the medical model. It is a departure from it. It raises a question Scripture answers more clearly than medicine does: *why this condition? Why this exception?* If every other body/feeling mismatch is treated by reconciling feeling with body, why does this one alone get reversed? Only this one particular illness.

That question opens the door to the next one.

## The Spiritual Dimension

It would also be wrong to talk about this issue as if it were merely a sociological or psychological phenomenon. Scripture is clear that there is a spiritual battle behind the visible struggles of human life:

- **Ephesians 6:12 (ESV)** — *“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.”*
- **John 8:44 (ESV)** — *“...He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”*

The enemy’s first attack on humanity in Genesis 3 was a question aimed at God’s word: “Did God actually say...” (Genesis 3:1). The pattern has not changed. Every assault on God’s design for humanity, throughout history, has carried the same fingerprints: *did God really make you that way? Are you sure? Maybe you know better.*

Romans 1 describes a process where humanity exchanges the truth of God for a lie, and as a result, God gives them over to confused desires, including confusion about their own bodies (Romans 1:24–27). It is a sobering reading. It is also recognizable.

This is not to say that every person struggling with gender identity is personally demon-possessed.. that is a careless oversimplification. It is to say that the ideology behind this cultural moment is not neutral. It is shaped by something. And Scripture tells us what that is.

It is worth noting briefly that angelic beings, including fallen ones, are spiritual beings who do not reproduce, do not marry (Matthew 22:30), and do not share the embodied male/female creational design God gave to humanity. Scripture typically refers to them with masculine pronouns, so we should be careful not to overstate the comparison. But the underlying point stands: the male/female image-bearing design is a uniquely human gift. To reject it is not just to reject a body. It is to reject a category of being that God specifically created humans to inhabit.

## Love Without Affirmation

Here is the lie our culture has handed us: *if you really loved me, you would agree with me.* Here is the truth that Scripture hands us back: love and agreement are not the same thing. They are sometimes opposites.

- **1 Corinthians 13:6 (ESV)** — *“...[love] does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.”*
- **Ephesians 4:15 (ESV)** — *“Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ...”*

- **Proverbs 27:5–6 (ESV)** — *“Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy.”*

When the Christian streamer in our opening story affirmed the viewer’s stated identity, it likely felt loving in the moment. It avoided conflict. It avoided awkwardness. It probably made the viewer feel welcomed.. but Scripture does not define love as affirmation of whatever someone says about themselves. Scripture defines love as willing the genuine good of another person. Their good as **God** defines it, not as **they** define it.

Jesus loved the rich young ruler (Mark 10:21) and He let him walk away. Jesus loved the woman caught in adultery and He told her, “Go, and from now on sin no more” (John 8:11). He did not affirm. He told the truth, in love, and let people decide what to do with it.

We are called to do the same.

## The Pronoun Question

The most immediately practical question in digital ministry is: *what do I actually do when someone tells me their pronouns are they/them?* Faithful Christians do not all answer this question the same way, and we should be honest about that.

Three positions are commonly held among thoughtful believers:

- **Use them as common courtesy.** Some Christians argue that using someone’s preferred pronouns is similar to using a nickname or a married name. A courtesy, not a doctrinal statement. These believers reason that being approachable opens doors for relationship and gospel conversation, and that refusing pronouns at first contact ends the conversation before it begins.
- **Refuse them as a matter of truth.** Other Christians argue that pronouns, unlike names, are inherently tied to the male/female reality of a person. To that person's identity. To use “they/them” for a single individual, or to use opposite sex pronouns for someone, is to participate in affirming a false claim about reality. They reason that we cannot speak what we believe is untrue, even to be polite.
- **Avoid them entirely.** A third path is simply to use the person’s name, not their pronouns at all. This avoids affirming a false identity without making every interaction a flashpoint over grammar.

This document will not declare one of these the definitive Christian answer, because Scripture does not address pronoun usage directly. What Scripture **does** address is that we **must not affirm falsehood, must not lie, and must love people genuinely** (Ephesians 4:25, 1 Corinthians 13:6). Each believer has to wrestle with how to honor those commands in real interactions.

What is clearly not acceptable, for a Christian, is silently affirming the underlying claim that a person's stated identity overrides God's design. We can be kind. We can be welcoming. **We cannot be dishonest.**

## When This Happens on Your Stream

Whether you are a streamer, a moderator, or an engaged community member, here is practical guidance for the moment someone in chat announces they are non-binary, trans, or uses non-traditional pronouns:

- **Do not panic, and do not pounce.** A live stream is rarely the right place for a deep theological back and forth, and the person in your chat is a person, not a debate prop.
- **Welcome the person without affirming the ideology.** Something like "Welcome in, glad you're here, this is a Christian channel and we read the Bible together" sets the tone without endorsing the identity claim.
- **Do not lie to keep the peace.** If you would not say "I affirm what you said," do not perform affirmation through how you address them. Use their name. Be warm. Be honest.
- **Be ready for the followup.** Some viewers will press you. "So you don't respect my pronouns?" is a common question. Have a kind, prepared answer: "I respect you. I want you to know God loves you and made you on purpose. I just believe Scripture teaches something specific about how He made us, and I do not want to be dishonest with you."
- **Remember the audience is bigger than the one viewer.** Every other Christian in your chat is watching how you handle this. Cowardice teaches them cowardice. Cruelty teaches them cruelty. Faithful, gentle truth teaches them how to navigate the same conversations.
- **Move on.** Once you have given a faithful, kind response, do not chase the moment. Get back to Scripture, back to worship, back to whatever your stream plan was. Most viewers want to see you handle the moment well and then continue.

## A Word to Moderators

Moderation in this area requires real discernment. Not everyone who enters a Christian stream with declared non-traditional pronouns is the same kind of person, and the response should not be the same either:

- **Trolls** show up to provoke a reaction. They are not seeking. They are looking for a video clip. Time-outs and bans are appropriate when behavior is disruptive, mocking, or abusive.. not because of the person's stated identity, but because of how they are conducting themselves.

- **Genuine seekers** sometimes wear the language of the culture they are still inside. Their pronouns may be the most recent thing they understand about themselves. Behind those pronouns can be a real hunger for God. Patience, not bans, is the right response here.
- **Confused believers** also exist. These are people who are wrestling with identity questions while also trying to follow Jesus. These need pastoral care, not punishment.

A moderator's job is not to enforce theological purity in chat. It is to keep the space safe for the Word to be opened and for honest conversations to happen. Err on the side of patience, with clear limits when behavior crosses into disruption.

## The Identity God Actually Gives You

Behind everything I have said so far is a single, deeper truth: the enemy's oldest strategy is identity theft.

The first temptation in Eden was not, on the surface, about disobedience. It was about identity. *"You will be like God"* (Genesis 3:5). The serpent's question to Eve was, in essence: *you don't really know who you are, do you? Maybe you're more than what God told you. Maybe you can be something else.*

That is still the playbook. Every cultural ideology that has tried to remake humanity.. Every "you can become whatever you decide to become" message, no matter what label it wears, is a variation of the same old whisper from the garden. The faces change. The strategy does not.

This is why the trans and non-binary ideology cuts so deep. It is not really about clothing, or pronouns, or even bodies. It is an identity claim: *you get to decide who you are. The voice inside you is the highest authority on you. You are whoever you say you are.*

Scripture answers that claim with a question of its own:

### ***What name does God give you?***

That question matters more than any name that culture hands out. Because the name God gives you is not invented; it is given. The One who gives it knows you better than you know yourself.

So what does God actually say about who you are?

- **Genesis 1:27 (ESV)** — *"...in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."*

*You are an image-bearer of the living God. That is your most fundamental identity.*

- **Psalm 139:13–14 (ESV)** — “For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.”

*You are not an accident. You are a deliberate, careful work of God.*

- **Isaiah 43:1 (ESV)** — “...Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.”

*God knows your name. He calls you by it. You do not have to invent one.*

- **John 1:12 (ESV)** — “But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God...”

*In Christ, you are not just an image-bearer; you are an adopted child of the Father.*

- **2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)** — “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”

*In Christ, you are not your old self, not your old shame, not your old confusion. You are new.*

- **Revelation 2:17 (ESV)** — “...To the one who conquers...I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.”

*God Himself gives the names that finally last.*

Set those names alongside what the culture offers: an identity you must invent, defend, and reinvent every time it stops feeling true. The culture’s identity is a job that never ends. The identity God gives is a gift that cannot be taken from you.

This is what I am inviting people to. Not just “stop saying you’re non-binary.” Not just “use the pronouns of your biological sex.” I am inviting people to lay down a name they made and receive a name God gave. The tradeoff is not even close.

## To the Person Who Is Struggling

If you are reading this and you have wrestled with your gender.. if you have felt for years like your body and your sense of self do not line up.. please hear this clearly and directly:

You are not a mistake. The body God gave you is not a mistake. You were not assigned anything at birth by accident or by oversight. Before you were ever born, God knew you, formed you, and made you on purpose (Jeremiah 1:5, Psalm 139:13). Your maleness or femaleness is part of how He made you to bear His image. It is good. It is yours. You do not have to escape it. You can come home to it.

The pain is real. The confusion is real. I am not pretending it isn’t, but the answer Scripture offers is not affirmation of the confusion. It is reconciliation.. with God, with

your own body, with the design He gave you. That reconciliation is possible because of Jesus.

- **1 Corinthians 6:9–11 (ESV)** — “...Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. **And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.**”

Read that last line again. *Such were some of you.* The early church was full of people who had been all of those things and were no longer. The gospel does not just forgive. **It transforms.** It does not just save you *from* something. It saves you *into* something. A new identity in Christ, more solid and more beautiful than any identity culture could ever offer.

You do not have to figure all of this out today. You do not have to fix yourself before coming to Jesus. You come to Him as you are. He will do the rest.

## The Gospel Is Big Enough

For Christians who stream, moderate, or engage in digital ministry, the gospel is big enough for this moment. It is big enough for the viewer in chat declaring an identity Scripture does not affirm. It is big enough for the streamer who is afraid to speak. It is big enough for the moderator who does not know what to do. It is big enough for the brother or sister wrestling privately with what their body is and what their feelings are doing.

**Truth without love is brutality. Love without truth is cowardice. Jesus was full of both (John 1:14). His followers are called to be the same.**

We do not have to fix anyone. We do not have to win every chat exchange. We simply have to point.. clearly, gently, and honestly.. to the One who made us male and female on purpose, who knew us before we were born, who came in a real body to save real bodies, and who is making all things new.

---

*This resource was born from a real conversation in digital ministry.*

*“Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.” — Proverbs 27:17*