How do we deal with the "Gender Issues of Today" as Christians?

Reference Videos:

https://www.gotquestions.blog/gender-dysphoria.html

https://www.gotquestions.org/transsexualism-gender-identity-disorder.html

https://www.gotquestions.org/born-wrong-gender.html

https://www.wisdomonline.org/devotionals/details/gendered-language

Tough Topic: Questions to ask

- Can you be born the wrong gender?
- Who cares...to each their own...right?
- Language matters...using the right pronouns?
- Are our views outdated on gender and sexuality?
- How would have Jesus addressed these issues?
- Locker rooms, bathrooms, and sports...dealing with society?

What does God's Word say about Gender?

"We live in a confused and fallen world, and that confusion extends everywhere, so that even the most basic questions, like "what gender am I?" become difficult for some people to answer. Some people claim they were born as the wrong gender, or at least in the wrong body. A man may believe he is actually a female, but his soul is "stuck" in a male body. Such claims receive support from others who advocate a "gender-neutral" society. But those who view gender distinctions as nothing more than arbitrary labels or a "box" to be broken out of are actively rejecting God's design in creation."

Genesis 1:26-27

"Then God said, 'Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness... So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.'"

- What does it mean to be created in the image of God?
- How do you understand the distinction between male and female as presented in Genesis?
- How can we honor our identity in Christ amidst societal pressures regarding gender?

Romans 12:2

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind..."

- How can we approach discussions about gender identity with love and grace?
- What does it mean to renew our minds in the context of evolving gender norms?

• How can we engage with individuals who identify differently from traditional gender roles?

(<u>Luke 17:1–2</u>) - 'Things that cause people to stumble are bound to come, but woe to anyone through whom they come. It would be better for them to be thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around their neck than to cause one of these little ones to stumble'"

"God's plan was perfect, but, as with everything in mankind's sphere, perfection was corrupted by sin. Sin negatively impacted the entirety of creation, hurting not only humanity's relationship with God, but with one another and the rest of the created order. Our world is fallen, and the effects of sin permeate everything."

Root Issues:

"Until the 1950s, the idea of differentiating between sex and gender was completely foreign to the medical and psychological communities. After all, aside from extremely rare instances, every human being has either two X chromosomes, and is therefore biologically female, or an X and a Y chromosome, and is therefore biologically male. It was not until the past decade or so that a distinction between sex and gender became popularized. Popular culture and postmodern psychology, however, do not change the fact that human beings are either XX or XY. No amount of hormone therapy or surgery can change that fact.

Adding to the confusion is the multiplication of alternate gender options that have appeared in recent years. There are now upwards of 50 gender options, including, but not limited to the following: agender, androgyne, androgynous, bigender, cisgender, gender fluid, gender nonconforming, gender questioning, gender variant, genderqueer, non-binary, pangender, transfeminine, transmasculine, transgender, and transsexual. If those options are not sufficient, many surveys also include choices such as "neither" "other," and "none of the above." The Bible nowhere mentions a man believing himself to be a woman, or vice versa. The Bible is explicitly consistent in equating gender with biological sex. Biblically speaking, human beings are male or female. There is no gender spectrum or continuum even hinted at in the Bible.

Pride:

"Why is pride so sinful? Pride is giving ourselves the credit for something that God has accomplished. Pride is taking the glory that belongs to God alone and keeping it for ourselves. Pride is essentially self-worship. Anything we accomplish in this world would not have been possible were it not for God enabling and sustaining us. "What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?" (1 Corinthians 4:7). That is why we give God the glory—He alone deserves it.

Proverbs 8:13 – "The fear of the Lord is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate."

Proverbs 16:18 – "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall."

So what does the Church do?

When sexuality and gender are filtered through unbiblical cultural views, the best tactic for most Christians is like that of the "conscientious objector": polite, peaceful, firm refusal to actively participate in Pride Month events without demanding others to follow suit.

"Faced with commercials, flags, statements, and public events endorsing "Pride," Bible-believing Christians often feel they need to do something or say something to counter the month-long wave of hype. Scripture denounces many actions and attitudes championed during Pride Month as <u>serious sins</u> (1 Corinthians 6:9–11). The Word calls us to be clear about truth (<u>Proverbs 12:17</u>). Yet the same Bible encourages tact, common sense, and discretion (<u>Proverbs 18:6</u>; <u>Matthew 10:16</u>). It's all too easy to be baited into fruitless arguments and a feeling of frustration (<u>Proverbs 29:9</u>). That which we say and do should be guided by thoughtfulness rather than by volatility (<u>Proverbs 15:1</u>)."

- We are to be witness of The Good News
- Be a visual example of Christ
- Be "in" a culture without being "of" that culture
- Be a polite non-participation
- Be calm Many will be offended by truth spoken in humility and love (1 Peter 4:4)
- Let the Holy Spirit work
- Vote, preach, display, learn

"The immorality rampant in society today is a symptom of mankind's rebellion against God. Abortion, homosexuality, drug abuse, and child molestation are proof that "evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse" (2 Timothy 3:13). We are now living in a hedonistic and materialistic society. People are lovers of themselves—"looking out for number one"—and doing what is right in their own eyes. All these things, and many more, can be seen around us every day (see 2 Timothy 3:1–4)."

2 Timothy 3:13 – "while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived."

2 Timothy 3:1-4 – "But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God."

Matthew 24: 37-39 - "For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man."

Romans 3:23 "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."