

TRANS AND THE GOSPEL - WEEK 3

IS TRANS A SIN OR NOT?

Considering the lens of **divinity**, whereby that which is sacred/honoring to God is of primary value, why would we ask this question? What complications do we see in that question? What practical implications?



Intown Community Church

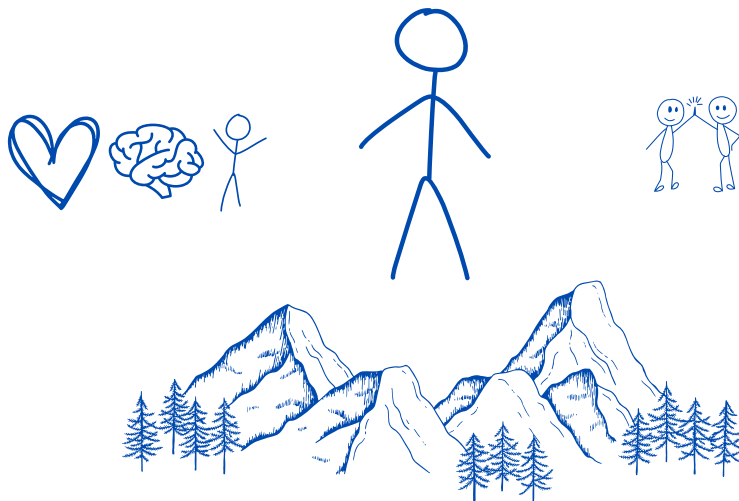
BREAKING DOWN THE QUESTION

As we have defined trans as those individuals who experience gender incongruence/dysphoria, what do we mean by 'trans' here? The experience of incongruence itself? Certain actions or types of presentation? Transition? The wide spectrum of trans definitions makes these designations difficult.

What is sin? Our confessions tell us it is any lack of conformity to the law (will, plan) of God. But reformers saw in scripture both a discussion of **corruption** (the effects of sin in the world and in ourselves) and **transgressions** (moral actions against God's will). Both stem from the fall in Genesis 3. But again, how do we understand the *state* of being trans - as a product of corruption? As an active sin itself? When does it become a transgression?

IS TRANS A SIN OR NOT?

Why are we asking this question?



19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. 23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. (Rom 8)

'WOULD JESUS USE MY PRONOUNS?'

YES?

Some may feel that pronouns are a personal and cultural linguistic choice, and using them is an act of respect of that individual and/or a description of that individual's current state/presentation rather than a description of a biological or ontological reality.

NO?

Some may feel that the use of pronouns that do not line up with someone's biological sex is an agreement with that person of their views of gender incongruence and an affirmation of their choice of gender and/or gender presentation.

"I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY DID THAT!?!"

People who are comfortable using alternate pronouns may see those who don't as uneducated or disrespectful. They worry that if someone 'misgenders' someone who is trans, it will have shut down conversation/relationship because it immediately forces the deepest issues to the surface, perhaps without sufficient relational capital.

People who are not comfortable using alternate pronouns may see Christians who do as minimizing an important biblical truth (at best) or even completely compromising to culture and sully the name/witness of Jesus. They may fear this of organizations as well - that they may have to leave their work/church if leaders allow/agree with such positions (or worse, require them).

PAUL TALKING ABOUT...MEAT?

4 Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "an idol has no real existence," and that "there is no God but one." 5 For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"— 6 yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

7 However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. 8 Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. 9 But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. 10 For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? 11 And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. 12 Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. 13 Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble. 1 Cor 8

What if I'm not comfortable using alternate pronouns? Some suggestions:

1. Use **names**. Names can be very dignifying to a person anyway. Some trans individuals choose/modify their names as non-binary intentionally, which may help.
2. Use 'sloppy third person'. We often talk about 'they' or 'them' or 'their' while meaning a singular individual anyway!
3. Have a conversation. If you have a deep relationship, you may be able to have a conversation about why it is hard for you to use their new pronouns. This needs to happen *in person*.

