

WONDERFULLY MADE | April 21, 2024

CONNECT

Have you ever felt pressure to conform to a certain gender stereotype?

ENGAGE

Read Matthew 19:4-6, what is the significance of God creating humans as male and female?

Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, while it was written in a specific historical context, how can we apply the timeless principles about honoring God with our bodies to our lives today?

Read Romans 12:1. This passage talks about offering our bodies as a living sacrifice with God's mercy as a motivation for this offering. How does reflecting on God's mercy in your life change your desire to serve him?

APPLY

The core Christian teaching emphasizes loving your neighbor (Mark 12:31). Imagine a transgender friend or family member who feels deep discomfort with their assigned sex at birth. How can we show Christ-like love and compassion while staying true to our beliefs about biological sex?

Many transgender people experience significant emotional distress, known as gender dysphoria.

- Discuss how individuals might feel when they don't conform to stereotypical expectations of masculinity or femininity.
- How can we cultivate empathy and understanding for this experience, even if it differs from our own?
- Share personal experiences (if comfortable) or hypothetical situations to illustrate the negative consequences of adhering to strict gender roles.
- Discuss how our actions and expressions should flow from our identity as men and women created by God, not imposed stereotypes.
- Analyze examples of how gender stereotypes can be perpetuated within the church (e.g., language used in sermons, and events targeted towards specific genders).

PRAYER

- Pray for wisdom and discernment in navigating the complexities of gender identity.
- Pray for those struggling with their gender identity or facing societal pressures.
- Pray for the church to be a place of love and acceptance for all.

GOING DEEPER:

Menlo Midweek Podcast—Tune in every Wednesday for a conversation with the previous week's speaker. It's a deeper dive into the message and an engaging time to learn, reflect, grow.