



Gender Identity and Same-Sex Attraction

MARCH 24, 2024

Goals

- 1) Understand the Bible and Church's commandments around same-sex relationships and gender identity
- 2) Distinguish between discernment and judgement
- 3) Review scientific research on same-sex attraction
- 4) Review scientific research on gender identity
- 5) Discuss a Christian approach to relating with those who experience same-sex attraction and/or identify as gender diverse

Same-sex relationships:

- A) are an alternative lifestyle that people do not choose
- B) can and should be blessed by the church
- C) I cannot comment because we shouldn't judge
- D) are a sin and against the Word of God

What is the reference for truth?

The Scripture is the Word of God, the ultimate authority and revelation of the truth

God's Word is the Truth and he is the judge

Sexual behaviour is covered in the scripture

Any other principal that is in contradiction is not Biblical and doesn't match the truth

The truth is also revealed through the apostles and the Church



What does the Bible say?



“And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth” Genesis 1:26-28

“Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning made them male and female, and said 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'?” Matthew 19:4-6

“Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.” 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

What does the Bible say?



“You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination.” Leviticus 18:22

“If a man lies with a male as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination. They shall surely be put to death. Their blood shall be put upon them.” Leviticus 20:13

“Flee from sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?” 1 Cor 6:18-19

“Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.” 1 Cor 6: 9-10

Discernment vs Judgement

Discernment = identify what is right and wrong based on the Word of God

- the Lord told us to “be ware of false teachers”
- Discernment is knowing what’s a false teaching
- When we say same-sex relationships are a sin, we are discerning

Judgement = to make a determination about someone, e.g., label someone as good, bad, evil, etc.

- We are not in a position to judge, we are all sinners
- If we say “this person who is attracted to people of the same sex is a sinner,” we are judging
- Someone may be struggling with any sin and living a life of repentance and in the eyes of God they are a righteous person

OK... but what does the science say?

Sex = biological and physiological attributes which fit into one of two categories:

male or female

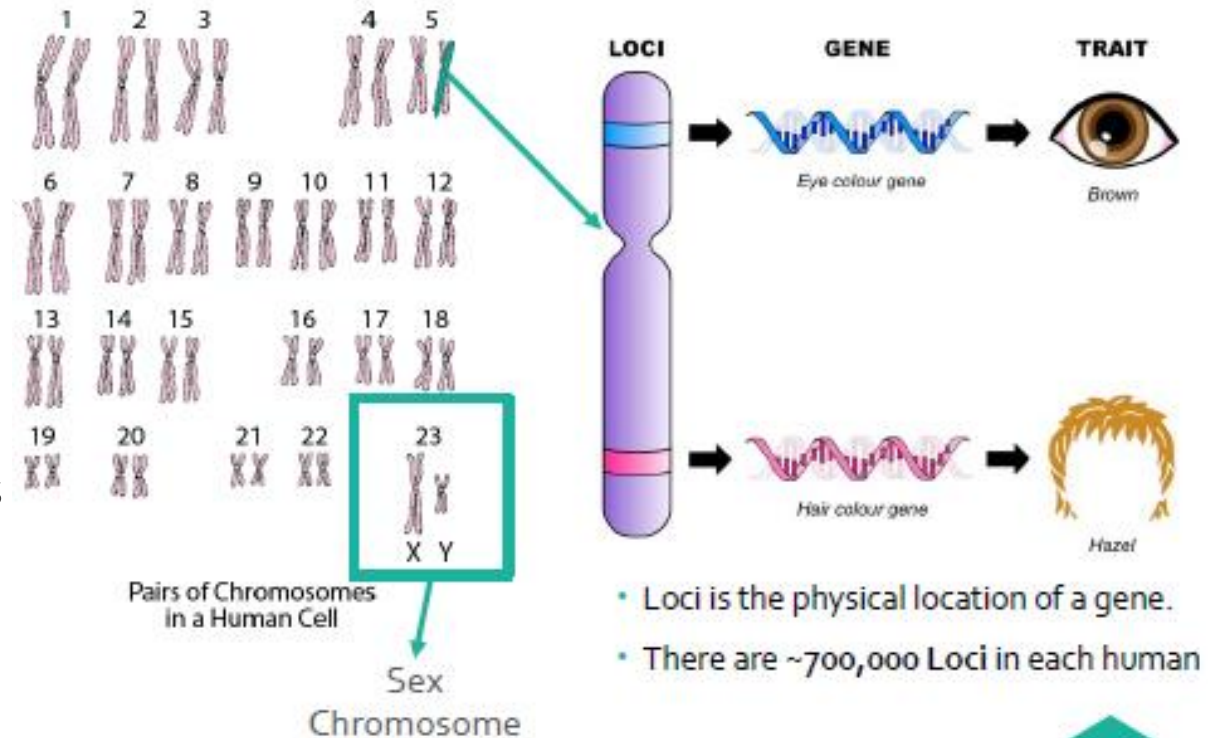
= determined by our chromosomes

= known as early as 7 weeks gestation

= observed, not assigned, at birth

Gender = social and cultural roles and behaviours

Gender identity = internal sense of gender



The science on a “gay gene”

Large study looked at the genome of ~0.5 million people to see if they could connect same-sex sexual behavior with specific genes

- “ there is certainly no single genetic determinant (sometimes referred to as the “gay gene” by the media).”
- “Rather, many loci with individually small effects ... additively contribute to individual differences in predisposition to same sex sexual behavior.”
- all tested genetic variants accounted for **8 to 25% of variation in same-sex sexual behavior** and “do not allow meaningful prediction of an individual’s sexual behavior”
- In other words, 75 -92% of same-sex behavior is explained by other factors e.g., our environment, experiences, beliefs, etc.

(Ganna et al., 2019)

Emotions vs Behaviours

Same-sex **attraction** is not always by choice and desires are not sin

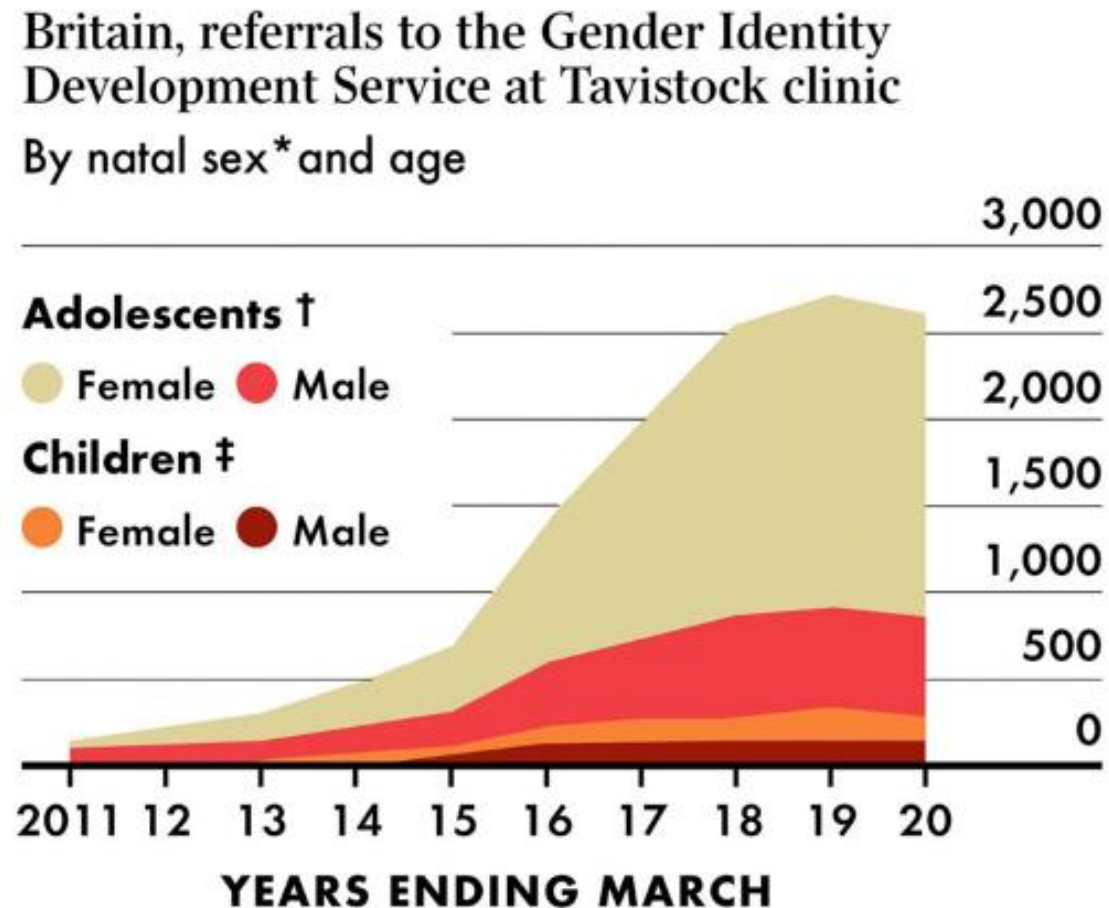
- “So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate” ~ Gen 2:6
- “But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed” ~ James 1:14

It is **acting** on the desires that is a choice and a sin as any other

- Let's recall 1 Cor 6: 9-10
- “Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.”

God has given us power to overcome, but not without struggle and we must all repent

What about the science on gender identity?



Research on Gender Identity

~50-63% of children and youth with gender dysphoria struggle with depression and anxiety (Becerra-Culqui et al., 2018, Kozłowska et al., 2021)

A review of 20 publications, significantly higher rates of eating disorder symptoms in transgender youth (Coelho et al., 2019)

Gender diverse individuals are 3-6x more likely to be autistic than cisgender folks and autistic people are more likely than neurotypical people to be gender diverse (Warrier et al., 2020, Walsh et al., 2018; Strang et al., 2018)

Youth with a recent history of mental health issues were more likely to take steps to socially and medically transition (Diaz & Bailey, 2023)

What else do we know...

In a study of ~1700 youth, 60% of female and 38% of males adolescents had at least one friend who declared a transgender identity around the same time as they did (Diaz & Bailey, 2023)

The WPATH has acknowledged that social influence may be a contributing factor

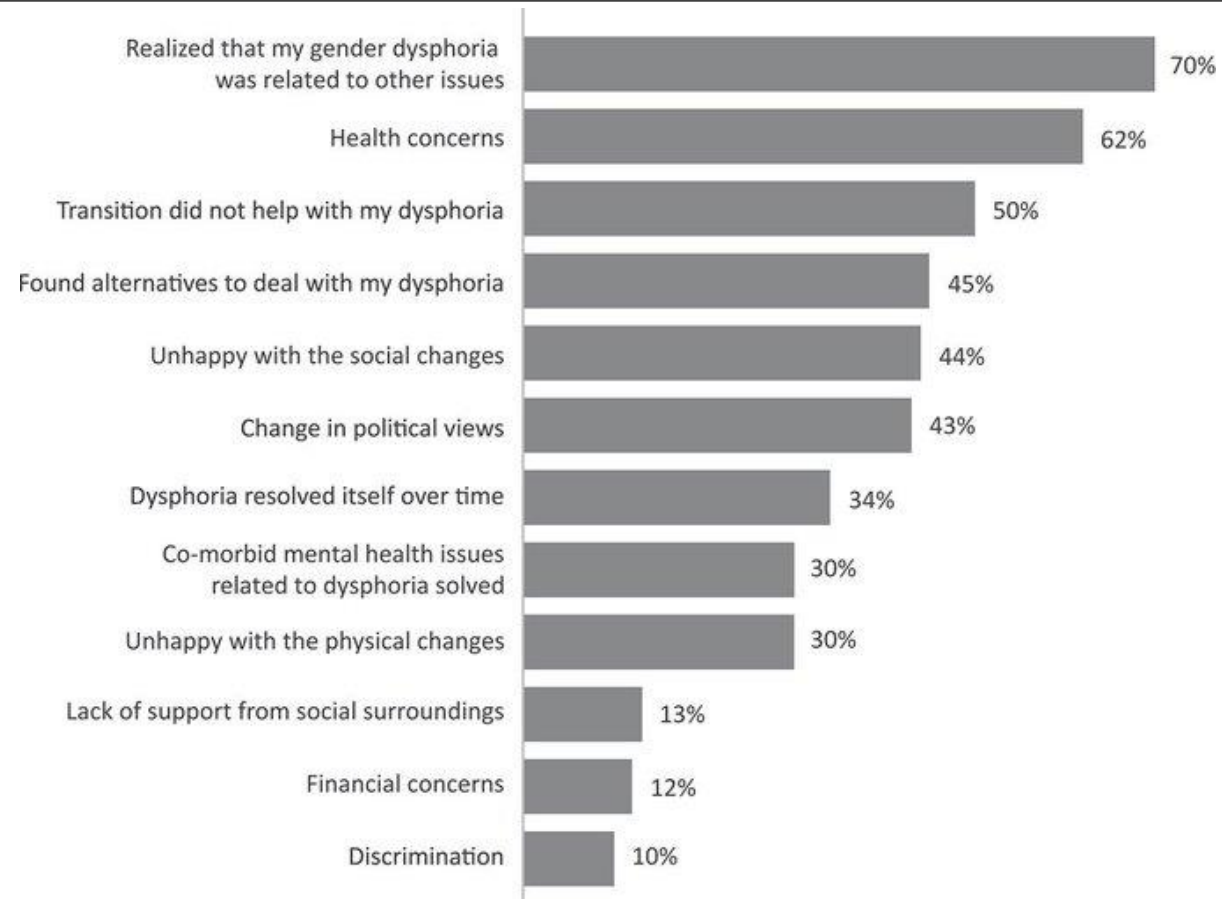
A study on hundreds of youth and adolescents determined there is little evidence that show that socially transitioning = improved mental health (Morandini et al, 2023)

Female-to-male surgical interventions has a high negative outcome rate, including physical complications and worsened mental health (Robinson et al., 2021)

Gender affirming care has not been thoroughly reviewed, it is experimental - CASS Review, 2022

~80% of individuals identifying as trans will not be gender dysphoric after puberty (Ristori & Steensma, 2016)

Top reasons for detransitioning



Vandenbussche, 2021

Christian approach

Remember that we are all sinners, the sins we are challenged with may differ

Show love and care to anyone living a life of repentance, not condemnation

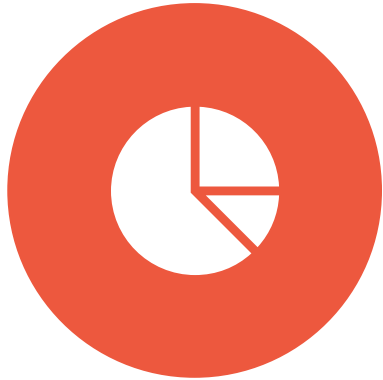
Do not enable, encourage, or empower them to sin

Avoid arguments about the sin; discuss having a relationship with God through repentance and the sacramental life of the Church

Offer support and hope that they can overcome any weakness “I can do all things through the Lord who strengthens me”

Pray for all sinners

In Summary...



THE TRUTH HAS BEEN
REVEALED TO US; LET US
NOT BE DECEIVED



EMOTION IS NOT THE
SAME AS ACTION



WE WILL ALL BE JUDGED,
LET'S SEEK REPENTANCE