**Date –** May 1, 2022

**Sermon Series** –Fearfully and Wonderfully Made

**Sermon Title** – The Gendered Body

**Scripture** – Genesis 1:27 ESV

God created man in his own image,

in the image of God he created him,

male and female he created them.

**BIG IDEA** – According to the Bible’s view of reality, God created our bodies such that our gender is rooted in our biology. That is, from the Bible’s point of view, the objective fact of the body’s biology determines the body’s gender.

**Summary** -- Do you know why you believe something or why you don’t? In order to have a meaningful conversation about gender, we really need to understand our WORLDVIEW. Your worldview is a set of glasses through which you see the world, a map telling you where you are in the world, and a compass telling you where you need to go. Your WORLDVIEW is your assumptions and convictions about reality. The conversation about the gendered body is really about worldview – secular worldview and biblical worldview.

The prevailing secular worldview on gender says that it is determined not discovered. And that the self is the key authority on gender determination. Gender is not objectively given; instead, it is subjectively determined. Gender is determined by one’s internal psychology, not one’s external biology.

According to Genesis 1:27, God created biological sex and gender as indivisible. Scripture says that gender is given by God not determined by your heart. This biblical worldview asserts that the creator God exists as stated in the Bible; and that the BIBLE is true.

**Questions** –

* Our worldview becomes apparent in our decision making – especially, moral decision making. When you are trying to make a decision about what is morally right or wrong, to help you find the answer you look to three words – authority, knowledge, and trustworthiness.

**Authority**: Who has the right to tell me what to do?

**Knowledge**: Who knows what is best for me to do?

**Trustworthiness**: Who loves me and wants what is best for me?”

Ponder these three questions for a moment. Based on your answers, where is your worldview based? It’s OK to be honest.

* The prevailing secular worldview about gender holds to *chosen-ness* as opposed to *given-ness*; and changeability as opposed to stability. The prevailing secular worldview on gender says that it is determined not discovered. And that the self is the key authority on gender determination. Gender is not objectively given; instead, it is subjectively determined. Gender is determined by one’s internal psychology, not one’s external biology. What are your thoughts about this perspective? Please be respectful if opinions differ.
* Randy shared this thought – “I am not saying that the disconnect some have between their inner self and their external biology isn’t real. Or painful. Our mission as a church is to love God and love people. We want to come alongside and walk with people gently, patiently, and truthfully. And that means being grounded in reality.” What does this say to us about how to treat people who disagree with our worldview or people who do have a disconnect between their inner self and their eternal biology?
* Randy referenced a verse from Judges in his message. *In those days, there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.* (Judges 21:25 ESV) How does this apply to our current secular worldview?
* Genesis 1:27 ESV

*God created man in his own image,*

*in the image of God he created him,*

*male and female he created them.*

According to this verse, God created biological sex and gender as indivisible. Just as the image of God is essential to who we are, male or female is essential to who we are. How would you explain that biblical worldview to someone with a secular worldview?

* Consider Psalm 139:13-16.

*For you formed my inward parts;
    you knitted me together in my mother's womb.
14I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
    my soul knows it very well.
15My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
    intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
16Your eyes saw my unformed substance;
in your book were written, every one of them,
    the days that were formed for me,
    when as yet there was none of them.*

What does this scripture tell us about how God created us?

What do we know about God’s creation?

* The strongest witness for created and gendered embodiment comes from Jesus himself. Matthew 19:4 – “*He answered*, “*Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female.*”

If we do not consciously develop a biblical worldview, then we will unconsciously absorb the world's worldview. How do we develop a biblical worldview?