

LGBTQ and the Christian

How do Christians think about sexuality and gender differently from the current cultural perspective?

Overview:

	Cultural Story	Christian Story
Creation My identity/purpose	I have no _____ identity	I am designed _____ or _____ in God's image
Fall My problem	I am lost until I _____	I can't accurately know who I am apart from God's grace and truth
Redemption The solution to my problem	I must _____ who I say I am	I am being transformed into a _____ in Jesus with my brothers and sisters
Restoration My ultimate hope	I long to be _____ for who I am	I long for the day when I am free from sin, fully satisfied in Jesus

Step by step:

CULTURAL STORY

CREATION – my identity/purpose

Cultural Story – I have no intrinsic identity

If this is true, then, "There isn't actually a 'you' at the heart of all of these experiences.... You are the sum of your parts...if everything else in the universe is like this, why are we different? Why think of ourselves as somehow not just being a collection of all our parts, but somehow being a separate, permanent entity which has all those parts?"

Julian Baggini

Western culture now believes in “a _____ self from which all [moral and meaning] judgments are supposed to flow.”
Robert Bellah

FALL – my problem

Cultural Story – I am lost until I find myself

Jean Jacques Rousseau –

Glennon Doyle –

“When I saw Abby, I remembered my wild. I wanted her, and it was the first time I wanted something beyond what I had been trained to want. I loved her, and it was the first time I loved someone beyond those I had been expected to love. Creating a life with her was the first original idea I’d ever had and the first decision I made as a free woman. After thirty years of contorting myself to fit inside someone else’s idea of love, I finally had a love that fit – custom made for me, by me. I’d finally asked myself what I wanted instead of what the world wanted from me. I felt alive. I’d tasted freedom, and I wanted more.

“I looked hard at my faith, my friendships, my work, my sexuality, my entire life and asked: How much of this was my idea? Do I truly want any of this, or is this what I was conditioned to want? Which of my beliefs are of my own creation, and which were programmed into me? How much of who I’ve become is inherent, and how much was just inherited? How much of the way I look and speak and behave is just how other people have trained me to look and speak and behave? ...

“Over time, I walked away from my cages. I slowly built a new marriage, a new faith, a new world view, a new purpose, a new family, and a new identity by design instead of default. From my imagination instead of my indoctrination. From my wild instead of from my training.

“What follows are stories about how I got caged – and how I got free.”

Glennon Doyle, *Untamed*, 5-6.

REDEMPTION – the solution to my problem
Cultural Story – I must live out who I say I am

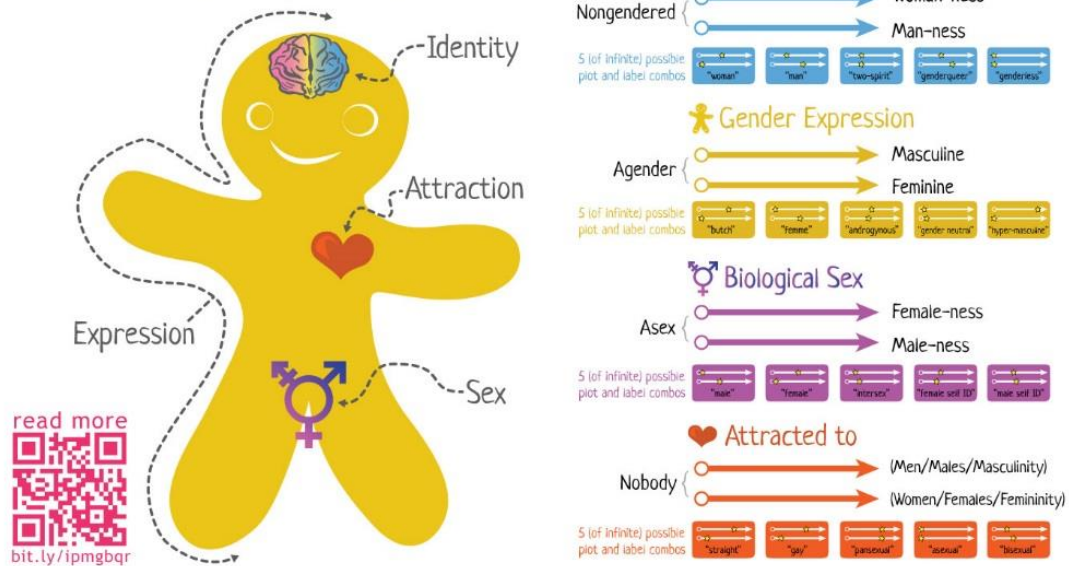
Charles Taylor, a Canadian philosopher, describes what he calls “a culture of authenticity.”

“Our moral salvation comes from recovering authentic moral contact with ourselves There is a certain way of being that is my way. I am called to live my life in this way and not in imitation of anyone else’s If I am not, I miss the point of my life. I miss what being human is for me.”

Charles Taylor
David Brooks, *The Road to Character*, 249.

The Genderbread Person v2.0 by its pronounced METROsexual comr

Gender is one of those things everyone thinks they understand, but most people don't. Like *Inception*. Gender isn't binary. It's not either/or. In many cases it's both/and. A bit of this, a dash of that. This tasty little guide is meant to be an appetizer for understanding. It's okay if you're hungry for more.



RESTORATION – my ultimate hope
Cultural Story – I long to be socially affirmed for who I am

Why does disagreement feel like hate?

CHRISTIAN STORY

CREATION – my identity/purpose

Christian story – I am designed male or female in God's image

Our identity flows from our Creator.

“So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.” Genesis 1:27

* We know who we truly are in relation to whose we are.

“I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
my soul knows it very well.
¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
¹⁶ Your 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.

¹⁷ How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!
¹⁸ If I would count them, they are more than the sand.
I awake, and I am still with you.

Psalm 139:14-18

FALL – My problem

Christian story – I can't accurately know who I am apart from God's grace and truth.

"For although they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks to Him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools."

Romans 1:21-22

Psalm 36 – A Sinful Identity		
1	"Transgression speaks to the wicked deep in his heart. There is no fear of God before his eyes."	We listen to ourselves.
2	"For he flatters himself in his own eyes that his iniquity cannot be found out and hated."	We _____ ourselves.
3	"The words of his mouth are trouble and deceit; he has ceased to act wisely and do good."	We _____ ourselves.
4	"He plots trouble while on his bed; he sets himself in a way that is not good; he does not reject evil."	We _____ ourselves.

"He sets himself in a way" = a biblical image of orientation

REDEMPTION – The solution to my problem

Christian story – I am being transformed into a new self in Jesus with my brothers and sisters.

“For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”
2 Corinthians 5:21

“Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.⁴When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.”
Colossians 3:2-4

Rosaria Butterfield –

“Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices ¹⁰and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. ¹¹Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.”
Colossians 3:9-11

Our racial and social distinctives are gifts, not essence. They are not definitional.

“The Christian who makes Christ and His love the core of his or her identity, then, discovers that we need not completely reject other identity factors. Our race and national identity, our work and profession, our family and politics and community ties can all remain intact. They are no longer the ultimate basis for our significance and security, but that does not mean they are flattened or eliminated. Rather we are free to enjoy them as God’s gifts to us, but we are no longer enslaved to them as our saviors.”
Timothy Keller

* Jesus both rejects and redeems our previous identities.

RESTORATION – My ultimate hope

Christian story – I long for the day when I am free from sin, fully satisfied in Jesus.

“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. 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.” Romans 8:18-21

“For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.” 1 Corinthians 13:12