

Conversations That Matter

The Crossroads of Science and Human Dignity

A Discussion on Anthropology and Gender

Discussion Questions

1. Recalling your own experience of going through adolescence and/or observing this process in a family member or personal acquaintance, how might the developmental challenges of establishing a sense of personal identity and independence contribute to the emergence of gender dysphoria?
2. Given the low quality of scientific evidence supporting the "affirmation only" approach to treating gender dysphoria and the existing data on poor psycho-social outcomes in adults who received cross-sex hormones and/or gender confirming surgery, how might this information be used in your personal conversations with individuals with gender dysphoria?
3. To what extent do the current care guidelines issued by advocacy groups and professional medical societies affect your willingness and ability to question the "affirmation only" treatment approach?
4. The existence of individuals with disorders of sexual development are often used as a rationale for asserting that sex is not binary but rather occurs along a continuum. What do you see as the strengths and weaknesses of such claims? Is this assessment influenced by understanding of the biological purpose of sex as a means of reproduction? How might the teachings of *Humanae Vitae* contribute to this discussion?
5. What are some of the consequences--practical and theological--of separating the "gender" from "sex?"
6. What logical fallacies, contradictions, or circular reasoning can you spot in contemporary debates about gender?
7. What does it look like to ground the concept of gender in a Catholic anthropology?
8. What does it look like, on a practical level, to remain rooted in Catholic truth while reaching out in love to those who disagree?



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Resources

1. Lecture: "[The Genesis of Gender](#)," by Abigail Favale - Catholic Perspective
2. Book: *The Genesis of Gender*, by Abigail Favale (Ignatius, forthcoming Jan. 2022) - Catholic Perspective, not yet published.
3. Article: "[The Eclipse of Sex by the Rise of Gender](#)," by Abigail Favale, *Church Life Journal* - Catholic perspective
4. Book: *Embodied*, by Preston Sprinkle - non-Catholic Christian perspective
5. Book: *Trans*, by Helen Joyce (secular perspective)
6. Podcast: *Gender, A Wider Lens* (secular perspective)
7. Website: [Person and Identity Project](#) (Catholic perspective)
8. Website: personandidentity.com
9. Website: couragerc.org/resources
10. Website: www.ncbcenter.org/bioethics-resources
11. Website: cmda.org/transgender-and-sexual-orientation/
12. Website: acpeds.org/position-statements/gender-dysphoria-in-children
13. Website: segm.org
14. Article: "[Growing Pains: Problems with Puberty Suppression in Treating Gender Dysphoria](#)," by Paul W. Hruz, Lawrence S. Mayer, Paul R. McHugh, *The New Atlantis*
15. Article: "[Deficiencies in Scientific Evidence for Medical Management of Gender Dysphoria](#)," by Paul W. Hruz, *Linacre*