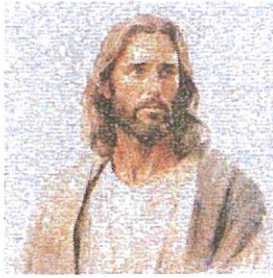


CELEBRATE:



One Body, Many Parts

CTK Believe Out Loud Education Series

Session 4: The Science/Story/Wisdom of Gender and Trans 101

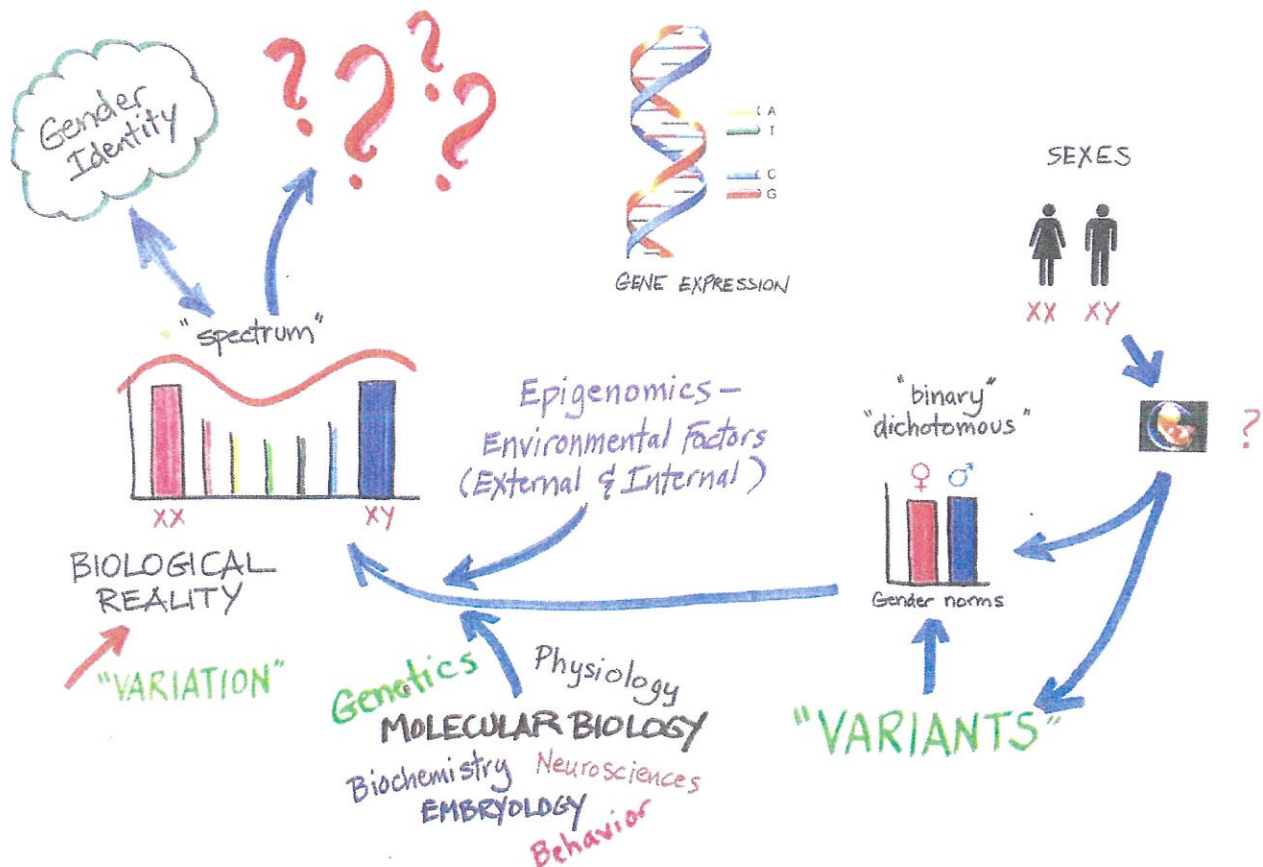
*But Ruth said: 'Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you!
Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge;
your people shall be my people, and your God my God.
Where you die, I will die—there will I be buried.
May the Lord do thus and so to me, and more as well,
if even death parts me from you!'
When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.
(Ruth 1:16-18)*

The Science behind Sex and Gender

Presentation by The Rev. Deacon Linda Brown

Brief Bio:

Deacon Linda holds graduate degrees in Environmental Biology from CU Boulder and has 30 years of experience in various aspects of the environmental sciences. She has served as a deacon in the Episcopal Church since 2011, specifically at Holy Comforter in Broomfield and St. Luke's in Denver. She is presently serving at Cathedral Ridge Camp & Retreat Center near Woodland Park where the focus of her diaconal ministry is care of creation – not only of the natural environment, but of people as well! She and her husband, Jesse, presently live in Arvada.



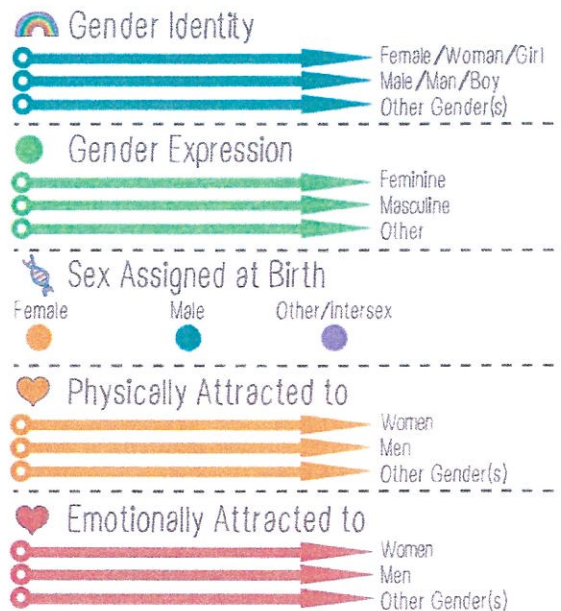
The Gender Unicorn

Graphic by:
TSER
Trans Student Educational Resources



To learn more, go to:
www.transstudent.org/gender

Design by Landyn Pan and Anna Moore



Definitions:

Gender Identity: One's internal sense of being male, female, neither of these, both, or another gender(s). Everyone has a gender identity, including you. For transgender people, their sex assigned at birth and their own internal sense of gender identity are not the same. Female, woman, and girl and male, man, and boy are also NOT necessarily linked to each other but are just six common gender identities.

Gender Expression/Presentation: The physical manifestation of one's gender identity through clothing, hairstyle, voice, body shape, etc. Most transgender people seek to make their gender expression (how they look) match their gender identity (who they are), rather than their sex assigned at birth.

Sex Assigned at Birth: The assignment and classification of people as male, female, intersex, or another sex based on a combination of anatomy, hormones, chromosomes. It is important we don't simply use "sex" because of the vagueness of the definition of sex and its place in transphobia. Chromosomes are frequently used to determine sex from prenatal karyotyping (although not as often as genitalia). Chromosomes do not determine genitalia.

Sexually Attracted To: Sexual Orientation. It is important to note that sexual and romantic/emotional attraction can be from a variety of factors including but not limited to gender identity, gender expression/presentation, and sex assigned at birth.

Romantically/Emotionally Attracted To: Romantic/emotional orientation. It is important to note that sexual and romantic/emotional attraction can be from a variety of factors including but not limited to gender identity, gender expression/presentation, and sex assigned at birth.

Study Questions:

- As you listen to the many discoveries that have taken place in the fields of molecular biology and genetics over the past 50 years or more, what is your reaction to the many possibilities of sex and gender identity/expression?
- What do you think the role of the church should be towards those who are seeking, discovering or finding themselves on the sexual spectrum and/or gender spectrum?
- What words of Jesus speak to you in how we should live in relationship with those who have sexual and/or gender expressions that are different from you?

Additional Resources:

- "Sex Redefined" by Claire Ainsworth, *Nature News Feature*, 18 February, 2015.
- "When Sex and Gender Collide" by Kristina R. Olson, in Special Issue: "The New Science of Sex and Gender," *Scientific American*, September 2017, Vol. 317, No. 3, page 44.
- "Beyond XX and XY," in Spec. Iss.: "The New Science of Sex and Gender," *Scientific American*, Sep 2017, Vol. 317, No.3, p 50.
- "Biological Sex and Gender in the United States" by Risa Aria Schnebly, *The Embryo Project Encyclopedia*, June 13, 2022.