

Archdiocese of San Francisco April – May 2024

Gender Ideology: What Catholics Need to Know

Mary Rice Hasson, JD



Series

- The Big Question: “Who am I?”
- “Transgender Tipping Point: 10 Years Later”
- The LGBTQ Generation: Influences on Youth
- What About “Transgender” Body Modifications?
- Gender, Mental Health + Suicide: The Facts
- The Catholic Response: Truth and Charity

Preliminaries

- Pain all around
- (not) Personal judgment
- (defies) Politics
atheists, “radical feminists”
- Perspective: Catholic





CNA

Catholic
News
Agency

By Courtney Mares
Rome Newsroom, Mar 11, 2023



**“Accompany...
never abandon them”**

**The marginalized?
The suffering?**

They need the love of Christ



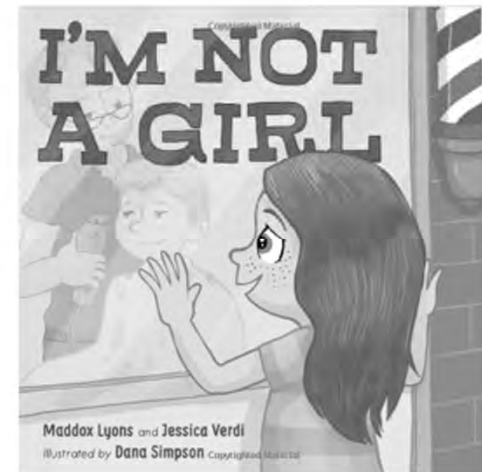
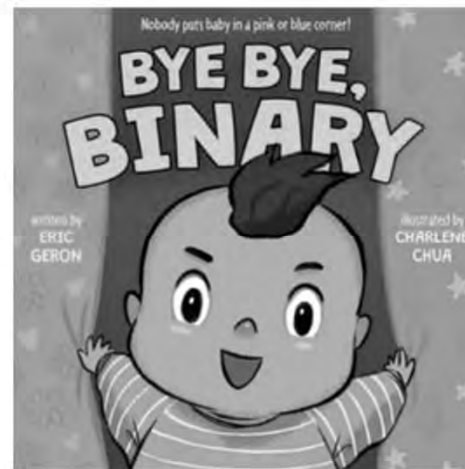


Gender ideology is a
“dangerous **ideological colonization**”
– Pope Francis (2023)

“It is one thing
to be understanding
of human weakness
...and another
to accept ideologies
that attempt to sunder...
inseparable aspects of reality.”
– *Amoris Laetitia*, 56

“Today children-children!-are taught in
school that everyone can choose
his or her sex.
**Why are they teaching this?
Let us not play with truths...
behind all this we find gender ideology.”**

- Pope Francis, *Aleteia*, 9.1.2017



The questions of every human heart

Who am I?

Where did I come from?

Where am I going?

What is my purpose?

Why is there evil?

What comes next?

Fides et ratio, 1 (1998)



Searching for identity and meaning...

Who am I?

Christian anthropology

- **Created**
 - By God, in love, for love (eternity)
- **Image and Likeness** of God
- **“Ontological” Dignity** – Inalienable. Infinite.
 - Knowable by Reason, Revelation
 - Basis for UN Decl. Human Rights
- **Embodied person** - Unity of body and soul.
- **Male or Female** (Gen 1:27) – received as gift
- **Identity (relational): son or daughter of God**



Who am I

Christian Anthropology, cont'd

- **Human nature** (respect design – “good”)
- **Body reveals meaning** (self-gift)
- **Sexual union:** life-giving, love-giving
- **Marriage:** faithful, fruitful, permanent personal covenant
- **Family:** mom, dad, child- Trinity
- **Sin, but redeemed** (grace and mercy)
- **Eternal life**



Catechism of the Catholic Church

- 2334 Created “male and female” with “**equal personal dignity**”
- 362 Created in the **image of God**, a being at once corporeal and spiritual
- 364 The human body shares in the **dignity of ‘the image of God.’** Man...is obliged to **regard his body as good** ...God has created it and will raise it up on the last day.
- 371 God created **man and woman** together **and willed each for the other.**
“bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh.”
- 2333 Everyone, man and woman, should **acknowledge and accept his [or her] sexual identity.** *Physical, moral, and spiritual difference and complementarity are **ordered to marriage and the flourishing of family life.***

“Who am I?”

Christian anthropology - natural law

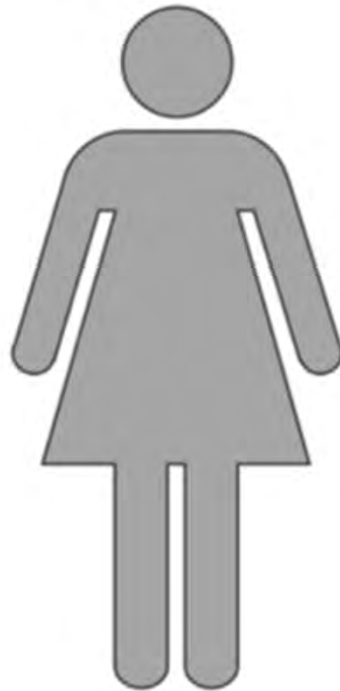
- **Created:** by God out of love for love, eternal life
- **Identity:** Son or daughter of Lord (gift). Sexual identity - “male” or “female” (Gen 1:27)
- **Dignity:** Intrinsic. God’s image/likeness (Gen 1:26-31)
- **Unity:** body and soul. Embodied persons
- **Human nature:** Designed for human flourishing
- **Body:** Reveals meaning. M or F . Self-giving love.
- **Sex:** life-giving, love-giving (inseparable purpose). M+F
- **Marriage:** Covenant 1 male + 1 female. Permanent, faithful, fruitful
- **Family:** Mother, father, child. “anthropological basis” “Trinity”
- **Sinful but redeemed** by Christ. Grace, mercy, **Eternity.**



XY (SRY gene)
Small gametes
sperm



XX
Large gametes
ova



6,500 genes differ. Brain patterns differ in utero.
“Every cell has a sex.” (NIH) 30 trillion cells.

“Who am I?” (Science)

“**Sex**” = classification based on
body’s design for repro role
(produce gametes - sperm or egg)

Sex is binary (M/F) because
reproduction is binary (M/F).

Sex (male or female) is

- * **Defined** by gamete size
- * **Determined** at conception
by chromosomes
- * **Observed** in utero/at birth
- * **Immutable.**

“LGBTQIA” - “Intersex” (DSD) Disorder of Sexual Development

DSD: ABNORMAL M/F BODY/DEVELOPMENT

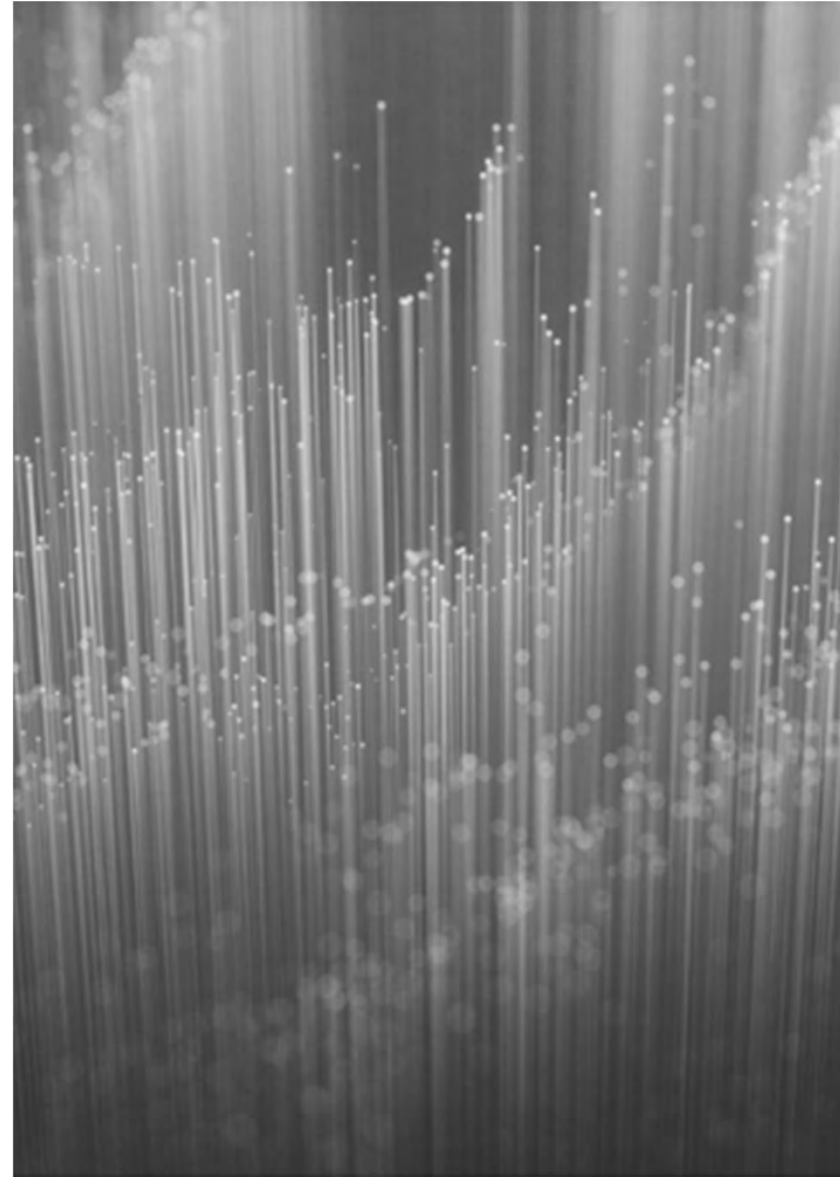
Objective diagnosis: DNA, labs, images.

- Not a third sex (no third gamete)
- Treatment: restore function, health

“TRANS”: HEALTHY BODY - PSYCHIC DISTRESS

Subjective ”diagnosis” – self-perceived, self-reported

- Identity- or body-related distress; body disassociation.
- Treatment: Impair function, alter body. “embodiment goal”



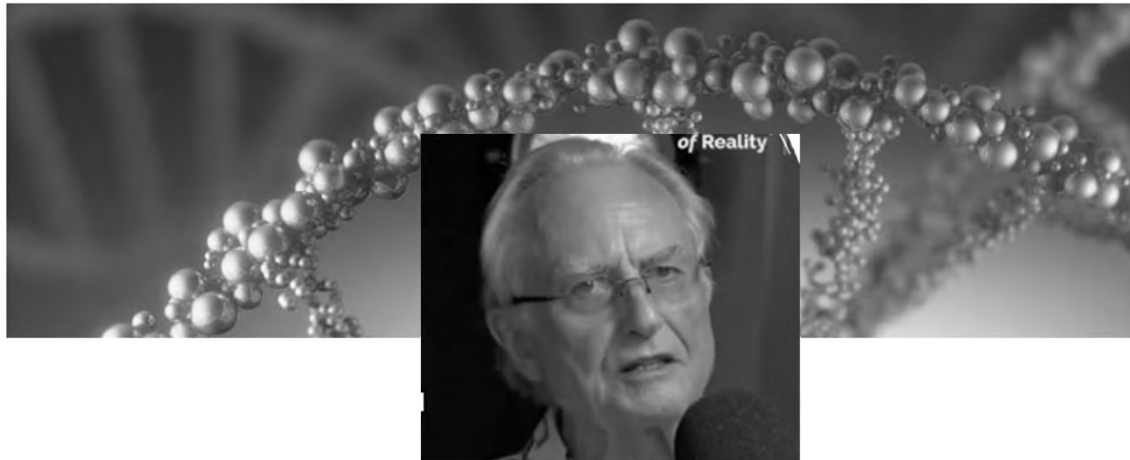
SCIENCE: Two sexes, male and female. “Sex” is not “assigned.”

Sex and gender: The medical establishment’s reluctance to speak honestly about biological reality

It is never justified to distort the facts in the service of a social or political cause, no matter how just.

By Alan Sokal and Richard Dawkins Updated April 8, 2024, 3:00 a.m.

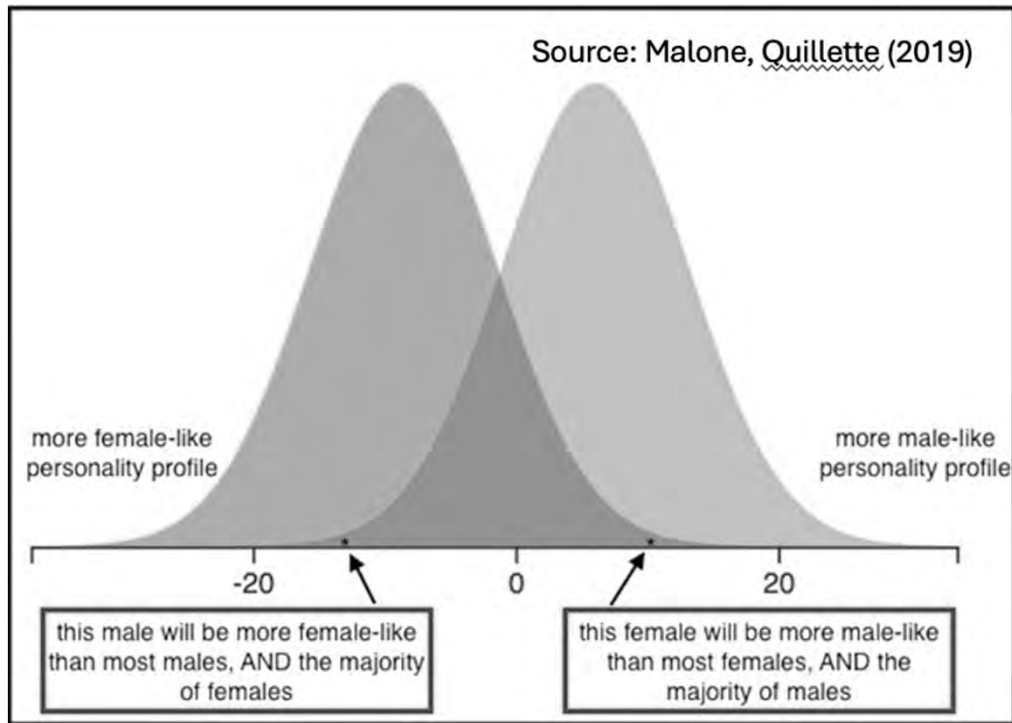
Boston Globe 4.8.24.



“A baby’s sex is not ‘assigned’; it is determined at conception and is then *observed* at birth...**A person’s sex is an objective biological reality, just like their blood group or fingerprint pattern, not something that is ‘assigned.’**”

– Richard Dawkins (atheist, scientist) and Alan Sokol 4.8.24

Sex stereotypes (conformity) do not determine sex.



Across cultures, “typical” personality traits vary by sex, but don’t determine sex.



• Non-stereotypical interests and behavior do not determine sex. No one is born in the “wrong” body.



USCCB Doctrinal Note: No one is “born in the wrong body”

- “A soul can never be in another body, much less be in the wrong body. *This* soul only comes into existence together with *this* body.” (p. 3)
- “The soul does not come into existence on its own and somehow happen to be in this body, as if it could just as well be in a different body.”

“Who am I?”

According to
Gender Ideology





The Original Rebellion, on repeat: Believe the **lie** that “**freedom**” from God’s design (**human nature and moral law**) brings happiness.

THE PILL | ARTICLE

The Pill and the Sexual Revolution



THE GAY REVOLUTION



SEXUAL LIBERATION FOR ALL

Marxism, Revolution and Utopia



TRANSHUMANISM

Philosophical threads of “gender ideology”

Dualism - Mind – body separation

Marxism atheist materialism

Marxism (Cultural) dismantle religion, morality

Marxist (Feminism) reject mg, family, repro

Sexual liberation (Frankfort school) pleasure

Nihilism pointless existence

Individualism autonomy

Moral relativism will, pleasure

Scientism science as authority

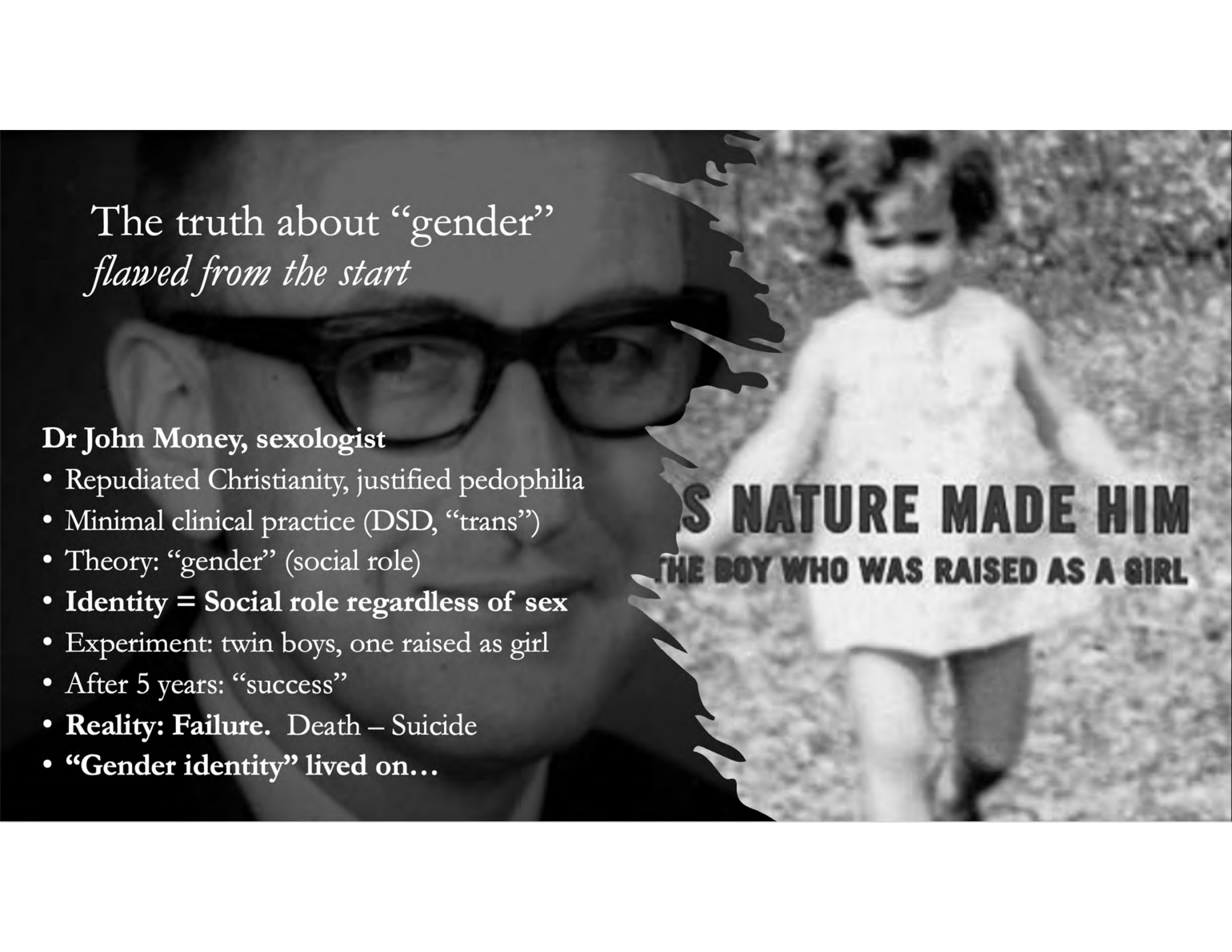
Psychological view person as feelings, desire

Post-modernism no truth, no nature, no reality

Gender ideology self-defined identity, license



Farnan, Person and Identity, 2023



The truth about “gender”
flawed from the start

Dr John Money, sexologist

- Repudiated Christianity, justified pedophilia
- Minimal clinical practice (DSD, “trans”)
- Theory: “gender” (social role)
- **Identity = Social role regardless of sex**
- Experiment: twin boys, one raised as girl
- After 5 years: “success”
- **Reality: Failure.** Death – Suicide
- **“Gender identity” lived on...**

S NATURE MADE HIM
THE BOY WHO WAS RAISED AS A GIRL

Gender theory - Queer theory - Gender ideology
denies human nature, morality, and significance of sexual difference



**Marxist feminist
Shulamith Firestone 1970**
“[T]he end goal of
[Marxist] feminist
revolution must be... the
elimination of the sex
distinction itself...end
tyranny of reproduction”



Queer theorist
Judith Butler

**Queer Theory 1990,
2024**
Subvert “normal”

“Sex’ is as culturally
constructed
as gender...”



**Transhumanist Martine
Rothblatt (1994)**
[male identifies as woman]

Unisexuality: “We
must...be as free to
change our genitals as
we are to change our
religion.”



**“Trans” Activists
Int’l Bill of Gender Rights
1996 “right to define...
gender identities, w/o
regard to...genitalia,
assigned birth sex, or initial
gender role”**
“Right to change one’s
body”



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER



Describes religious groups as promoting bigotry, stigma, and intolerance

“Ideological Colonization”

CLAIMS

“the **right to self-determine one’s gender** is a fundamental part of a person’s freedom”

“a **family** may...consist of persons with **different gender identities and/or sexual orientations**, liberat[ed]... from finality of religion...”

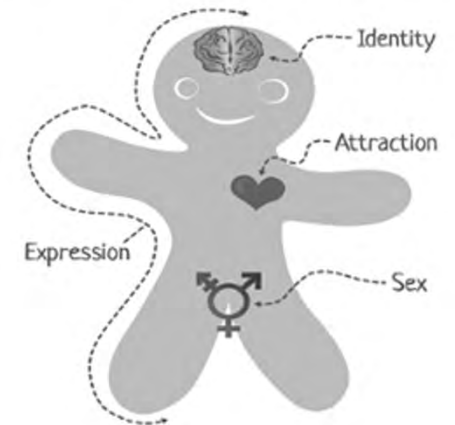
“**rights of adolescents** to respect for gender identity and emerging autonomy”

“Who am I?”

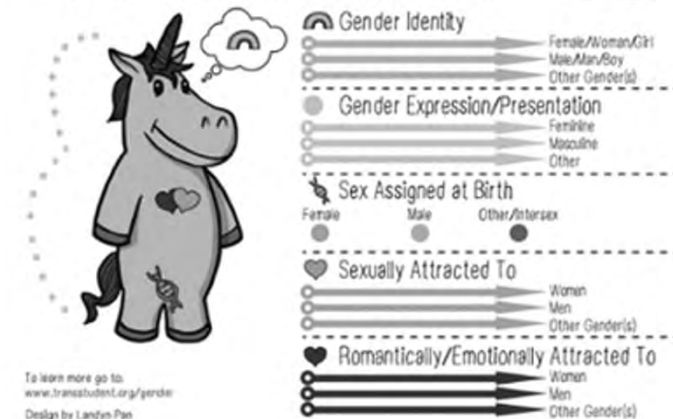
Gender ideology - queer theory

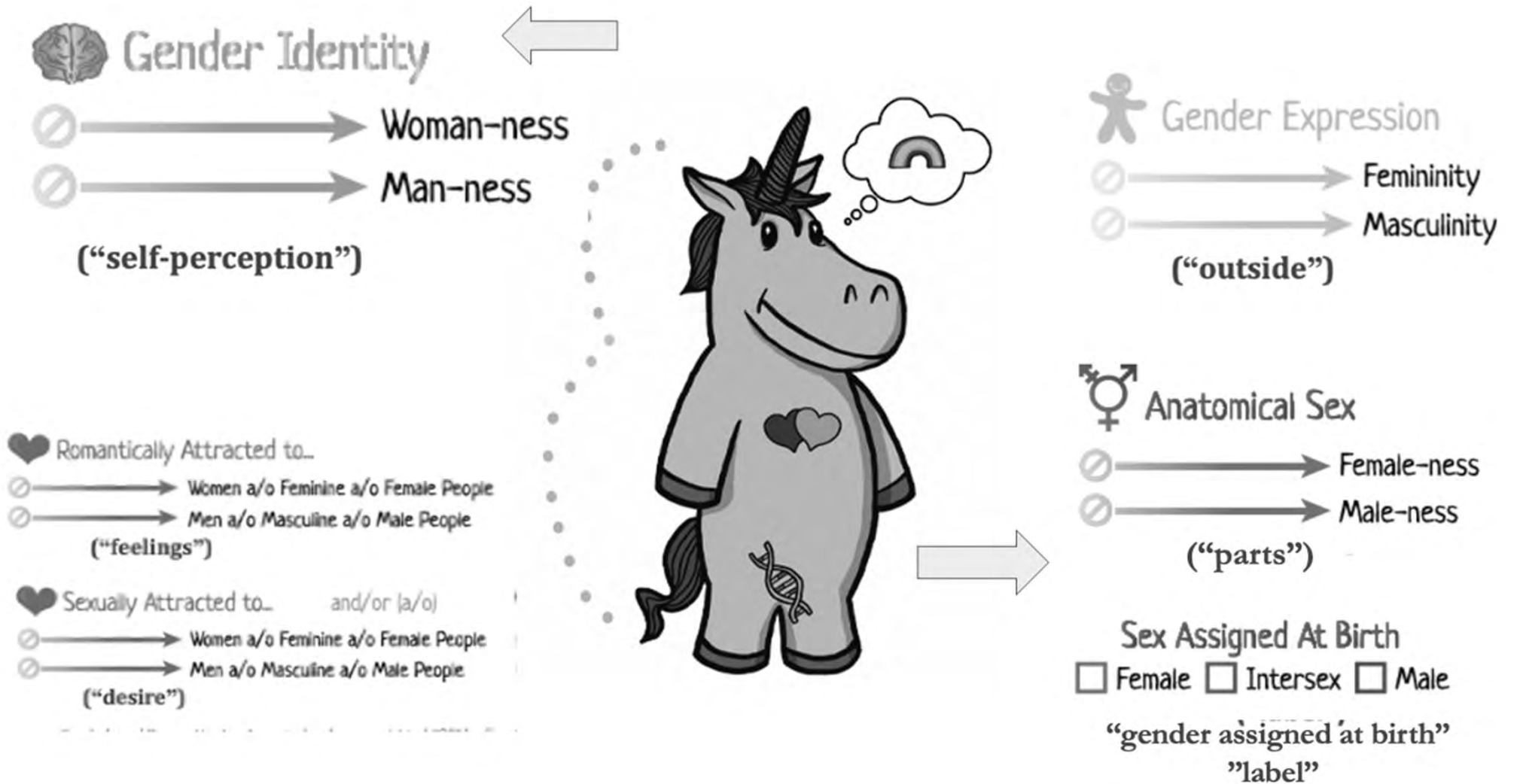
- **Self-creating.** Autonomous self (Atheistic)
- **Identity:** Self-determined, spectrum (“gender identity”), fluid
- **Dignity:** Extrinsic. Contingent. Requires validation
- **Dualistic:** Person = mind/will. Body = thing to be used
- **No human nature** (no design). “Autonomy”
- **Body:** No intrinsic meaning. “tool” or “canvas”
- **Sex:** Pleasure. Solo or with others. Consent is only limit.
- **Marriage:** Contract for adult desire/benefit.
- **Family:** Chosen. Consent. (negate parent-child bond)
- **Oppressor/oppressed:** Power struggle. Dismantle oppressive systems. **Utopia** (Death)

Genderbread Person v1 by its pronounced METR0sexual



The Gender Unicorn Graphic by TSER





Person = bundle of disconnected dimensions, each on a spectrum

Catechesis in Gender Ideology

“I am whoever I say I am”

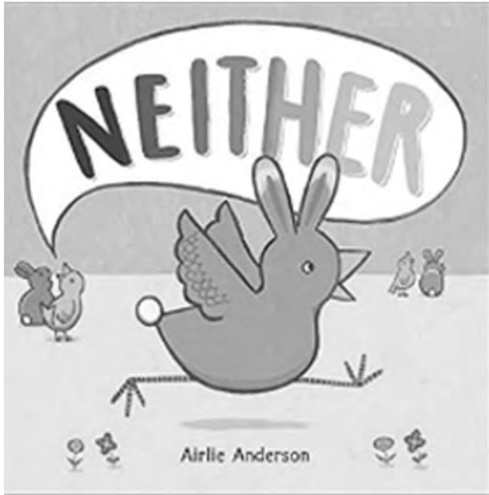


“**Gender** is defined as an individual’s stated gender identity. This can include binary genders such as man/boy, woman/girl Or nonbinary identities such as agender, nonbinary, or gender queer. “

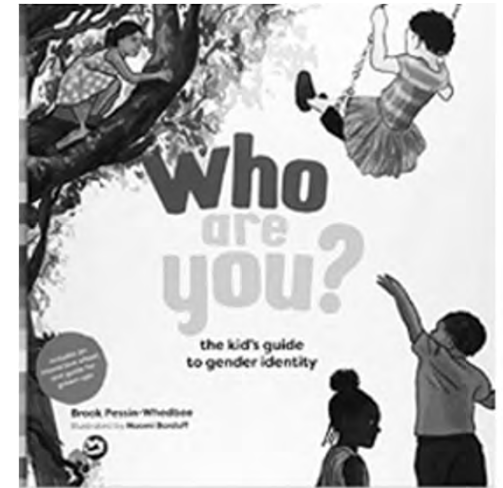


“**Gender identity** refers to a person’s gender-related identity, appearance or behavior as **determined from a person’s internal sense** of their gender, regardless if different from...a person’s physiology or assigned sex at birth”

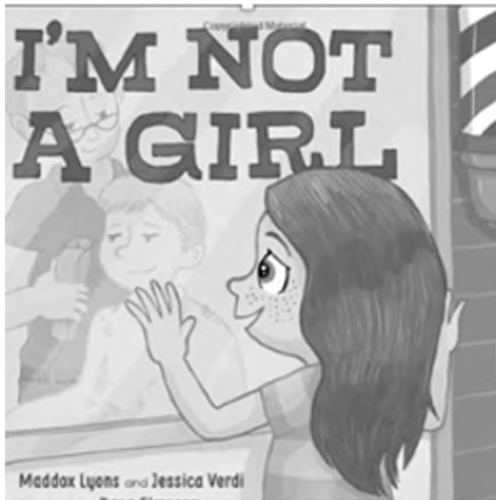
- SFUSD gender-inclusive language guide



Gender “inclusivity”
catechizes children in a
false anthropology



Infinite # identities
Transition is normal
Reject “old beliefs”
“You decide”
“Kids just know”

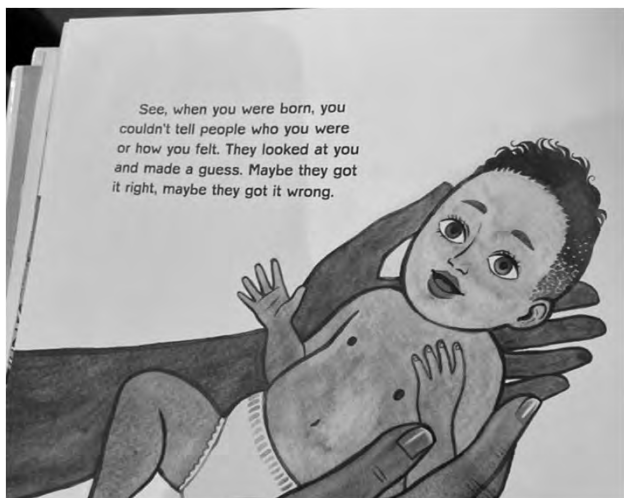


“I am my inside self, not my body”
Dad is now “Mom”



Mahmoud v.
McKnight
(4th Circuit appeal)

- MD Public schools require “gender” books K-6 no “opt out”
- Parental rights and religious liberty but underlying issue: anthropology (core belief in who we are)



“When you were born people couldn’t tell how you felt, they made a guess... maybe they got it wrong”



“I feel like a boy. I’m sure I’m a boy.”
(says the girl)



Images of drag queens, fetish gear,
Same-sex couples

Controversies over
“trans” hormones +
surgeries for kids:

Medical ethics
Anthropology!!
(false premises)



IDEAS | MAR. 11, 2024

Freedom of Sex The moral case for letting trans kids change their bodies.



By Andrea Long Chu, Pulitzer-winning critic for *New York* and *Vulture*

NEW YORK

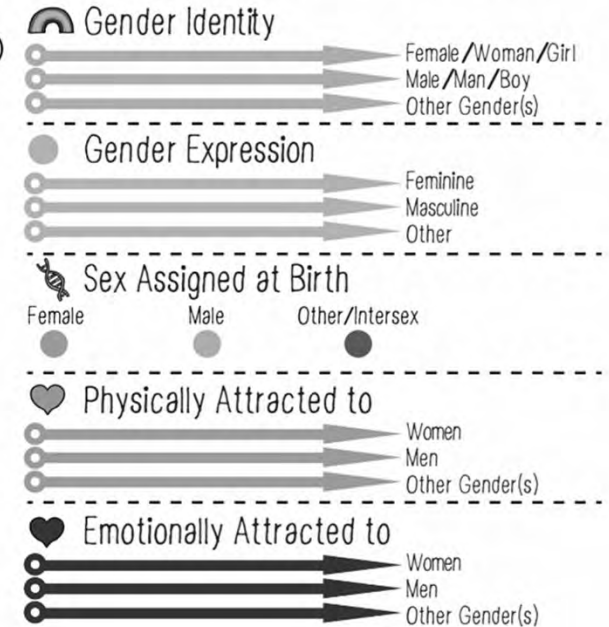
Between 2010 and 2020, iO Tillett Wright photographed 10,000 queer and trans people in all 50 states for a series titled “Self Evident Truths.” This is a selection of people on the trans spectrum from that work. Photo: iO Tillett Wright

- “[We must] defend the rights of transgender kids... as full members of society who would like to change their sex. *It does not matter where this desire comes from.*”
- “We must be prepared to defend the idea that, in principle, everyone should have access to sex-changing medical care, regardless of age, gender identity, social environment, or psychiatric history.”
- -- Andrea Long Chu, male identifying as “transwoman,” *New York Magazine*, 3.31.24



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

**Clash of Anthropologies:
Irreconcilable views of the person**

**The Church
has clear
teaching**
Not only on
the Human
Person
But also
**on Gender
Ideology**

- **Catechism of Catholic Church:** 2333, 2334, 362, 371 “accept sexual identity”
- **Pope Benedict XVI:** 2008, 2012 Christmas addresses; address to German parliament
- **Pope Francis:** Numerous addresses to Bishops
Church Statements
Amoris Laetitia 56
Laetitia 56
on Gender Ideology 155
- **Vatican (CCE) (*Male and Female* 2019)**
- **USCCB** Doctrinal note medical interventions 2023
- **Bishops – US, Nordic, Ukrainian. Dioceses**
- **APRIL 8: Vatican (DDF) “Human Dignity”**
- **See PersonAndIdentity.com “Resources”**

Denying the Maker, identity as “choice”

- **Pope Benedict XVI (12.22.12):** Under gender ideology “man and woman as created realities ...no longer exist...**When the freedom to be creative becomes the freedom to create oneself, then necessarily the Maker himself is denied and ultimately man too is stripped of his dignity as a creature of God...**”
- **CCE Male and Female He Created Them (2019):** Gender Ideology “promote[s] a personal identity and emotional intimacy radically separate from the biological difference between male and female. Consequently, **human identity becomes the choice of the individual...**which can change over time.”

Gender theory and Human Dignity

Dicastery Doctrine of the Faith (sec. 55-60)



- **No unjust discrimination:** Respect for dignity of every person ‘Every sign of unjust discrimination’ is to be carefully avoided” [condemns criminalization, torture, etc]
- **Ideological Colonization:** unacceptable: absolutist “experts”, cancels out sexual difference, dictates child-rearing.
- **Gender theory** -scientific coherence is subject of considerable debate.
 - intends to **deny sexual difference...**thereby “**eliminating the anthropological basis of the family.**”
 - ”Desires a **personal self-determination** apart from truth that human life is a gift” (temptation to make oneself God)

Dignitas Infinita
4.8.2024

Gender theory and Human Dignity

Dicastery Doctrine of the Faith (sec. 55-60)



Dignitas Infinita
4.8.2024

- **Church on gender theory:**
 - **“biological sex and the socio-cultural role of sex (gender) can be distinguished but not separated.”**
 - **human life (physical, spiritual) is a gift from God. Accept with gratitude,** service of good
 - **Reject attempts to obscure ineliminable sexual difference** between man and woman: “We cannot separate the masculine and the feminine from God’s work of creation”
- **“Sex change” attempts:**
 - **“the human body shares in the dignity** of ‘the image of God.’” Human are inseparably composed of body and soul (CCC)- Accept it and respect it as it was created.”
 - **Any sex-change intervention, as a rule, risks threatening the unique dignity the person has received from the moment of conception.**
 - Distinguish **DSD – licit** for medical procedures to correct abnormalities

Archdiocese of San Francisco (2023)

“Jesus not only reveals God to us but reveals *us* to us. Our identity is not something we invent or create for ourselves. **Your most fundamental identity is that of a beloved child of God.** Recognize that the desire to understand who you are is a desire to know yourself as created, known, and loved by God.”

– Archbishop Cordileone, *The Body-Soul Unity of the Human Person* (2023)



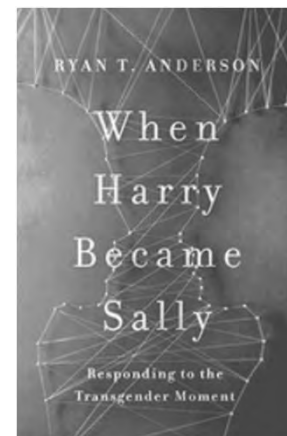
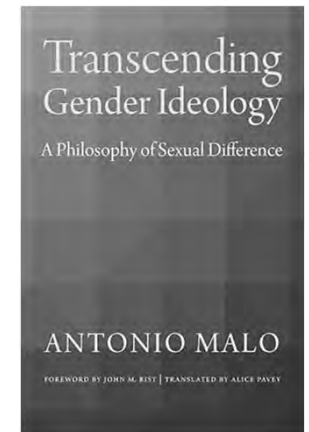
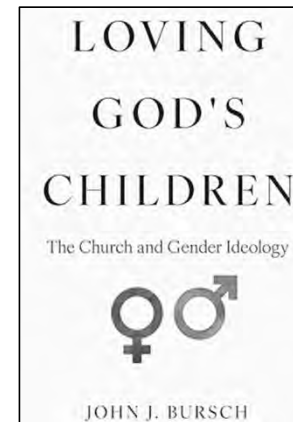
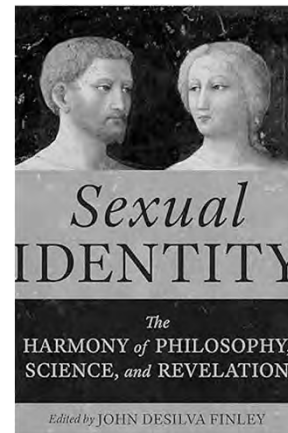
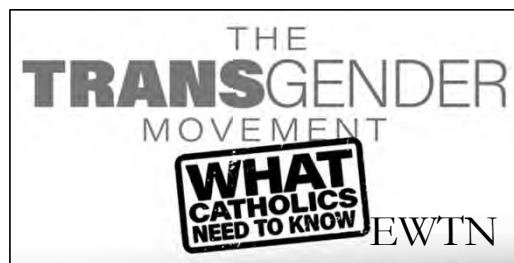
The Truth is... You are “wonderfully made.”

Male or female
Known, Loved, and Cherished
Who are you?
A beloved son or daughter of the Lord

Resources: Person and Identity [dot] com



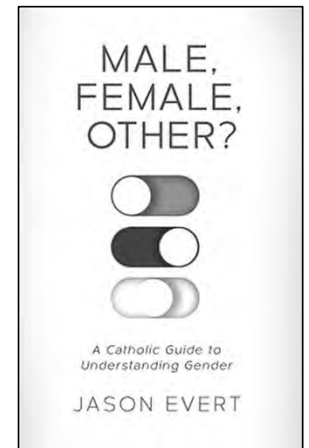
Extensive Resources, FAQs, videos



50 Questions on
Gender Ideology

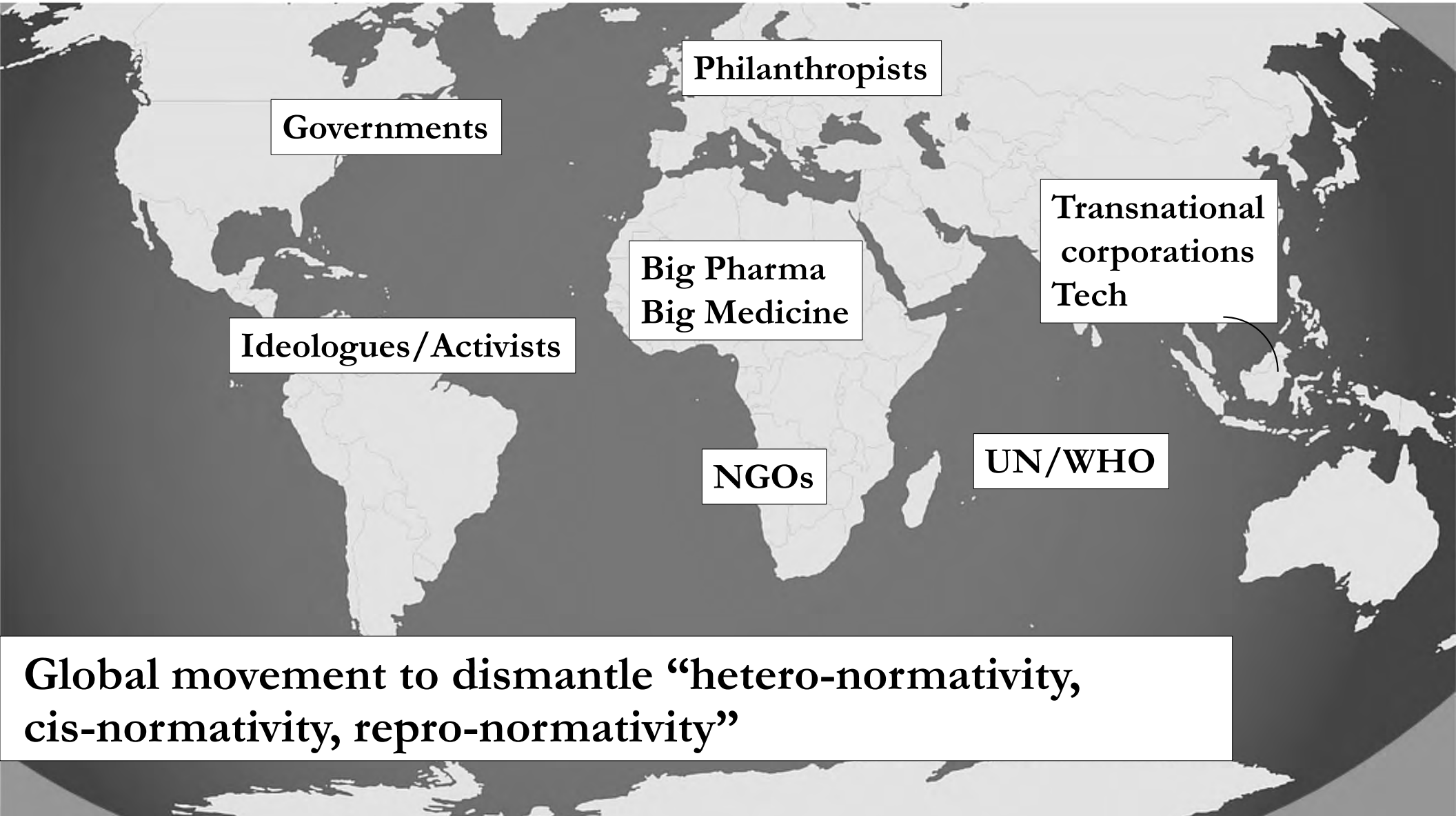
Mary Hasson
Theresa Farnan

Coming soon!
Summer 2024



Myths (and contradictions)

- **The individual self-determines an identity – “re-creation”**
 - Some kids are “trans kids” – born “trans”? “born in wrong body”?
 - NO. Only males and females. Cannot change sex.
 - Identity or body-related distress can’t be a “sign” of an impossibility.
- **The only limits on a self-determined identity are technological.**
 - No human nature – no objective “good”
 - Bodies are just a collection of parts – no coherence
 - Ex. Lancet: “Bodies with vaginas”
 - Ex. “Nullo” or “Both” - bodies with both or no (“nullo”) genitals



Governments

Philanthropists

**Transnational corporations
Tech**

**Big Pharma
Big Medicine**

Ideologues/Activists

NGOs

UN/WHO

**Global movement to dismantle “hetero-normativity,
cis-normativity, repro-normativity”**

God, who is love, created me.

I am loved.

I am known.

I am gifted and designed (male or female).

I belong (son or daughter).

I am made for relationship (self-gift).

God created me body and soul.

I am good. I am priceless.

I am made for love (not to be “used”)

I am made for self-giving.

My body is good.

My body is designed for self-gift.

I am made for more: to seek truth and “the good”

I have a purpose. My life matters.

I am made for eternal life with God.

I am sinful, called to conversion (mercy)

I am not alone. Church: teaching, Sacraments



Dignitas Infinita

“body and soul”



- **Infinite dignity:** Church confirms the ontological dignity of the human person, created in the image and likeness of God and redeemed in Jesus Christ.
- The soul and the body both participate in the dignity that characterizes every human.
- In the body
 - each person recognizes himself or herself as **generated** by others
 - men and women can establish a loving relationship capable of **generating** other persons.
- Creation is prior to us and must be received as a **gift**.
- We are called to protect our humanity, and this means accepting it and respecting it as it was created.

Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith
On Human Dignity, 4.8.2024

Dignitas Infinita

“body and soul”



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Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith
On Human Dignity, 4.8.2024

Language: Avoid ideological terms

- **Instead of**

- **1. Gender:** Person's internal sense of self as male, female, both or neither; How individual perceives self compared to stereotypes (also: "gender identity")
- **2. Gender identity: APA:** "An internal, deeply felt sense of being male, female...both or neither." Feelings or self-perception
- **3. Cisgender:** A person whose gender identity aligns with the sex assigned...at birth.
- **4. Transgender:** person whose self-perception or "felt" identity doesn't match person's sexed body.
- **5. Sex assigned at birth** – label "assigned" by doctor's glance at external genitalia at birth. Can be discarded/changed at will.

- **Say....**

- **1. Sex:** Male or female (immutable). Determined by reproductive role. Accept the sexed body + identity (M or F) as a given.
- **2. Identity (M/F); Self-perception or asserted identity** (if referring to claimed "gender identity")
- **3. Male or female.** "Cisgender" is an invented term that serves as a foil to normalize "trans."
- **4. Male or female** who identifies as "transgender"
- **5. Sex/biological sex:** Sex is an immutable biological fact - the whole body's organization for a reproductive role. It is determined at conception (not "assigned") and observed in utero or at birth.

Accompaniment “leads others closer to God”

“[S]piritual accompaniment must **lead others ever closer to God**”

“To accompany them would be **counterproductive if it became a sort of therapy** supporting their self-absorption and **ceased to be a pilgrimage with Christ to the Father.**”

Evangelii Gaudium 170



Source: USCCB media