

WHAT ABOUT PRONOUNS?

Pronouns, him, her, he, and she, seem like little things. But they have become big things. Some of us may be facing this issue in our workplace, amongst our neighbors and within our families. All we're being asked to do is change one word. What's the big deal? Some Christians encourage the church to practice "pronoun hospitality" and use the preferred pronouns of a person who identifies as transgender. They believe it's an act of kindness that engenders relationship and avoids unnecessary distress in a transgender person's mental health. But it's not that simple. It's not that we don't want to be kind or are indifferent about the transgender person's well-being. But we care about truth, we care about faithfulness to God, and we care about the true well-being of others.

What is a pronoun?

Pronouns are words we use to describe _____ . The issue of pronouns is a _____ over truth.

We hold to the *correspondence theory of truth* which states that *an idea, statement or belief is true if it matches (corresponds) to the way things are in the real world.* The pronouns he/him and she/her have been used for millennia to articulate the way the world really is—specifically, that sex and gender are binary *by their very nature.* There are men and there are women, there are males (XY chromosomal pair) and there are females (XX chromosomal pair). And this is *by design,* God's design for humanity. This is why postmodernists are fighting so hard over this issue. They are attempting to bend reality to conform to their desires. They are seeking to write a new narrative, a postmodern narrative, a postmodern worldview.

Here is what is at stake with those simple little words he/him, she/her. We are being attacked by a worldview that is completely foreign to Jesus' view of reality. According to this view, reality is not "out there" in God's world, but "in here" in the internal world of feelings and personal beliefs. There is no objective, absolute truth that is applicable to every person, everywhere, all the time. This outside/inside distinction is central to postmodernism. It is the error that started all other errors, and it drives the people who continue to "suppress the truth in unrighteousness" (Rom. 1:18). It is a rebellion against God's truth and common sense.

Here, again, is the objective truth: **Sex is binary.** God made it clear in the beginning.

GENESIS 1:27

"Male and female He created them"

God made two sexes, two genders, (they're synonyms) for a reason. It is so humans can be fruitful and multiply. When postmodernists attempt to pressure us to use a person's preferred pronouns, they are pressuring us to reject God's truth and common sense and to affirm a false narrative of reality.

Why?

Because the postmodernist insists it's the only way to be nice.

Shouldn't we Christians be nice? Are we not taught in the Bible to love our neighbor? If we love our neighbor, shouldn't we use their preferred pronoun?

No, and here's why.

If pronouns describe objective _____, and we use the wrong _____ to describe a man or a woman, then we are _____ falsely.

We are calling "true" that which does not correspond to the way things really are. We are bearing false witness to our neighbor. But our moral obligation is to speak the truth, even if our neighbor takes offense. Of course, we should never *unnecessarily* offend, but we cannot *remove* the offense that is inherent in the truth. And if we truly love the person

with gender dysphoria, we need to do good to them. We are not doing good to them by lying to them about their true identity because they will not flourish and experience the blessed life if they are basing their life on a lie.

It is only when we live according to God's design for us, that we _____.

The need to speak the truth is driven in part by the reality that it is only when we live according to God's design for us, that we flourish. If we go along with the idea that men can become women and women can become men, we are, in fact, encouraging people to go *against* God's design and are actually harming them. They will never flourish as God intended by trying to live as the opposite sex. By speaking the truth in love, we are encouraging their well-being and their flourishing. But do not expect a postmodernist to understand this. *For the postmodernist, if one claims to have the truth in the correspondence sense, this assertion is a power move that victimizes those judged not to have the truth.*

On the pretext of being nice, the world has made pronouns the skirmish line in a broader battle of worldviews: Who defines reality, God or each one of us?

The _____ to use a person's preferred pronouns is not about being nice; it's about _____ a false worldview.

Resources:

<https://www.whatwouldyousay.org/>

<https://www.prageru.com/>

<https://www.str.org/>

GRACE NEWS AND NEEDS

- **Family Movie Night Fundraiser for Chris & Sarah Villanueva's adoption hosted by Bobby & Jaymee Lang. Saturday, August 12th, 7 PM. 2337 Vermont Street. Please RSVP by texting Sarah @ (619) 602-8283.**
- **Women's Worship Night, Friday, August 18th, 6:30-8:00 PM, Sanctuary.**
- **Baby Dedication Informational Meeting, Sunday, August 20th, 10 AM, Modular. No signup.**
- **VOM Needs for August: Nerf Ball / Dental Floss / Gauze for bandages - rolls or flat.**