

WHAT ABOUT PRONOUNS #2?

In our previous study, we discovered why the pronouns he, she, her, and him are important.

The _____ to use a gender-dysphoric person's preferred pronouns is not about being _____; it's about enforcing a false worldview.

We hold to the *correspondence theory of truth* that says: *truth is when an idea, belief, or statement matches (or corresponds with) the way the world actually is (reality)*. 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.

Here, again, is the objective truth: Sex is binary. God made it clear in the beginning. "Male and female He created them" (Genesis 1:27). Postmodernists reject this absolute truth. They point out that not all males are XY, and not all females are XX. Some people are born *intersex*, a term that covers a broad range of chromosomal or anatomical variations that affect a person's sex characteristics. Some people are born XXY, XXYY, or XYY. Sometimes, the SRY gene isn't on the Y chromosome¹. Sometimes, physical differences in a person's sexual anatomy preclude them from fitting neatly into a male or female category. There's an endless list of examples. Here's the postmodernist's point: the many chromosomal and anatomical variations are evidence that biological sex is *not* binary—it's not as simple as male or female. This argument is false for at least three reasons.

First, though intersex people are born with chromosomal or anatomical variations, the vast majority of them are obviously male or female.

Second, variations don't nullify the _____.

Third, there are only two sexes because there are only _____ possible _____ sex cells.

We're not denying that people with intersex conditions exist. Nor are we denying that transgender people identify as something other than their biological sex. We can affirm the reality of these people and their experience while simultaneously affirming there are only two sexes. These are not mutually exclusive.

What we can't do, however, is deny the reality regarding human sexuality: there are only two sexes—male and female. We know this from Scripture and creation. God has spoken clearly through both revelations. Let's hold fast to this truth but make sure we also uphold the value and dignity of people born intersex or who identify as transgender.

What should we do if pressured to use preferred pronouns?

First, if you're pressured or required to state your preferred _____, don't. Don't participate in the _____.

This was the written response of one Christian employee when directed to list his preferred pronouns in all his communications:

I appreciate the goal of mutual respect and creating a welcoming environment for everyone. My desire is to be respectful of everyone. The expectation to display my pronouns asks me to accept a premise that I can't accept—namely, that my pronouns could be different than he/him. It's an ontological claim about the nature of reality, and I hold a different view. I'm not asking those that are transgender to accept my view of reality, but I'm being asked to accept theirs.

I can live and work with respect toward anyone with differing beliefs than my own, including my transgender coworkers. Can I be respected in my beliefs that differ on the nature of gender and identity while affirming the dignity of every person?

As it turned out, this man's employers were open to what he had to say, and he was told the pronouns were not mandatory. Perhaps that will be your experience as well.

Second, if you're being pressured or required to use preferred pronouns at _____, school or _____, use names instead. Do not participate in the lie.

¹ The SRY gene (for sex-determining region of the Y chromosome), determines sex in humans; although many genes are involved, SRY is the key switch and individuals with SRY develop into males, while those without it develop into females.

Here are several additional reasons to use a person's name or a generic "you".

- The demand to use preferred pronouns is a violation of our freedom of conscience and constitutes compelled speech.
- Using preferred pronouns affirms a false worldview.
- You are being pressured to abandon your worldview and adopt *their* worldview.
- Using preferred pronouns violates the principle of reciprocity.
- Using preferred pronouns supports social transitioning, a first step in a process that can lead to self-harm.
- Practicing "pronoun hospitality" is not hospitable but insincere.

Finally, if you're asked to use preferred pronouns when _____ of others, then graciously, but _____, refuse.

Preferred pronouns are not the first cultural trend that Christians have had to reject. It won't be the last. Like Daniel, we are exiles living in Babylon. Just like he was pressured to yield to the land's laws, we will be pressured to succumb to society's social rituals. Like Daniel, make loyalty to God your top priority. You might feel like you're standing alone, but you'll never be alone.

Resources:

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

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

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

GRACE NEWS AND NEEDS

- ***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.***
- ***Men's Breakfast, Saturday, August 26th, 7:30 AM.***
- ***VOM Needs for August: Nerf Ball / Dental Floss / Gauze for bandages - rolls or flat.***