



# *Atlantis Beach Baptist College*

## GENDER AND SEXUALITY CONSIDERATIONS AT ABBC

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### GENDER

Refers to the attitudes, feelings, and behaviours that a given culture associates with a person's biological sex. Developed around 5yrs of age.

- Behaviour that is compatible with cultural expectations is referred to as gender normative.
- Behaviours that are viewed as incompatible with these expectations constitute gender non-conformity.

\*What would Jesus' wear?

### GENDER IDENTITY

Refers to "one's sense of oneself as male, female, or transgender". When one's gender identity and biological sex are not congruent, the individual may identify as transsexual or as another transgender category.

### GENDER EXPRESSION

Refers to the "...way in which a person acts to communicate gender within a given culture, for example, in terms of clothing, communication patterns and interests.

A person's gender expression may or may not be consistent with socially prescribed gender roles, and may or may not reflect his or her gender identity"

### TRANSGENDER

Is the umbrella term for persons whose gender identity, gender expression or behaviour does not conform to that typically associated with the sex to which they were assigned at birth.

While transgender is generally a good term to use, not everyone whose appearance or behaviour is gender-nonconforming will identify as a transgender person

<http://www.apa.org/topics/lgbt/transgender.aspx>

## CISGENDER

Denoting or relating to someone whose sense of personal identity and gender corresponds with their birth sex. Compare with transgender.

## GENDER VARIANCE/GENDER NON-CONFORMITY

Refers to behaviours and interests that fit outside of what we consider 'normal' for a child or adult's assigned biological sex. We think of these people as having interests that are more typical of the "opposite" sex; in children, for example, a girl who insists on having short hair and prefers to play football with the boys, or a boy who wears dresses and wishes to be a princess.

Source: <http://www.genderdiversity.org/resources/terminology/#gendervariance>

**Gender Dysphoria** was included as a recognised diagnosis in DSM-5.

- To be diagnosed with gender dysphoria there must be a marked difference between the individual's expressed/experienced gender and the gender others would assign him or her'
- Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM)
- *Characteristics of the condition-*  
<http://www.dsm5.org/documents/gender%20dysphoria%20fact%20sheet.pdf>

## THEOLOGY RELATING TO GENDER

1. Listen and be present. Proverbs 18:13
2. Remember the big story. God made us in his image. He called what he made 'Good' (it works, functional, reliable). The fall came and God made accommodations in clothing, food etc. Gender is sacred.
3. What does the bible say?

## SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Refers to the sex of those to whom one is sexually and romantically attracted. Developed around 14/15 years of age.

- Categories of sexual orientation typically have included attraction to members of one's own sex (gay men or lesbians), attraction to members of the other sex (heterosexuals), and attraction to members of both sexes (bisexuals).
- While these categories continue to be widely used, research has suggested that sexual orientation does not always appear in such definable categories and instead occurs on a continuum.
- In addition, some research indicates that sexual orientation is fluid for some people; this may be especially true for women.

## SEXUAL EXPRESSION

Refers to 'the way in which a person acts to communicate sexual orientation'

- Implies celibacy as a form of sexual [non-] expression
- Can encompass all forms of sexual expression

