

Week 4: Feb. 28

Gender

What are some words or phrases you would use to describe the activity at the beginning of the night? How did it feel for you?

Goal of tonight: Biblical understanding of gender

Genesis 1:27: Male and female he created them.

Since we are both created in God's image, men and women both reflect the image of God. Men and women have equal value in God's eyes, so we should treat one another that way.

We have equal value, but generally speaking, men and women are different. Let's talk about stereotypes. A stereotype is an oversimplified idea.

Guys are...

Girls are...

We need to be careful about stereotypes. Yes, God made guys and girls generally to be different, but no one totally fits either stereotype perfectly.

There are lots of ways to be a Godly man and lots of ways to be a Godly woman. Just because you're not a "stereotypical" guy or girl does not mean you are transgender or that something is wrong with you.

Here's how it plays out in my marriage. I'm married to Marcy and we have four kids, including a baby. Did you know I have a baby?

- Stereotypes:
- I like to be active and run and lift weights
- My wife likes to cook
- I hang the Christmas lights
- I take care of our cars
- She decorates the home to make it look nice

Anti-stereotypes:

- She's better at putting things together
- She's better at painting
- She's better at handling power tools than me
- I do as much or more laundry and dishes

- I cry a lot

It's okay to be a guy and not be a typical "macho man." We need men who are competitive, logical thinkers, and who can build with their hands. But we also need men who are sensitive, who like cooking, and who are good things like art and writing.

It's okay to be a girl and not be a typical "girly girl." We need women who are emotionally sensitive, who like babies, and who enjoy making a home look beautiful on the inside. We also need women who are competitive, bold, and who have leadership skills.

In God's eyes, there are lots of ways for a girl to be a girl and for a guy to be a guy.

"But the Bible says men should be this way and women should be this way." The Bible actually has very little to say about that. Usually our perspective of a "Godly man" or "Godly woman" is based more on culture and stereotypes than the Bible. The New Testament talks a lot more about how we should treat each other.

Psalm 139:14: You are fearfully and wonderfully made. You are fearfully and wonderfully made, made on purpose for a purpose.

You may say, "I feel messed up. I feel broken. I feel confused about my gender." If that's you, I invite you to follow the way of Jesus. If you're confident about Jesus, I would say the same thing: I invite you to follow the way of Jesus. In him you truly can find confidence in your identity and how you were made.

The best way to live up to your potential as a man or as a woman is to surrender to him everyday, choose to obey him, and let him guide your thoughts, words, and actions.

For all the men and women, boys and girls in the room, following Jesus is the key to living the life he intended for you.