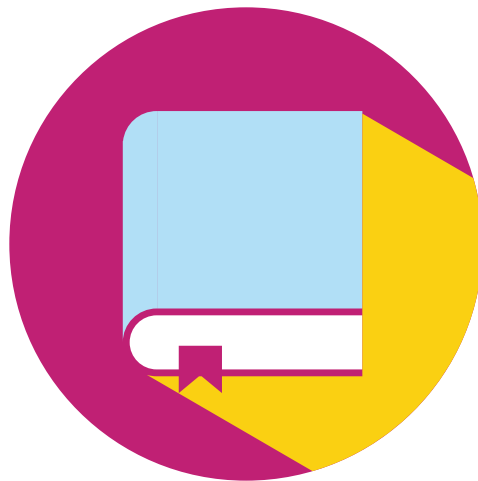


THE BIBLE AND TRANSGENDER INCLUSION

CONVERSATION GUIDE



GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

1. Pursue conversations in the context of relationships.
2. Share your story & why trans inclusion matters to you.
3. Identify common ground & shared values.
4. Ask for pronouns & describe the importance of that question.
5. Share your faith journey & love for God.



THE
REFORMATION
PROJECT

KEY CONVERSATION 1:

Creation—Genesis 1:27

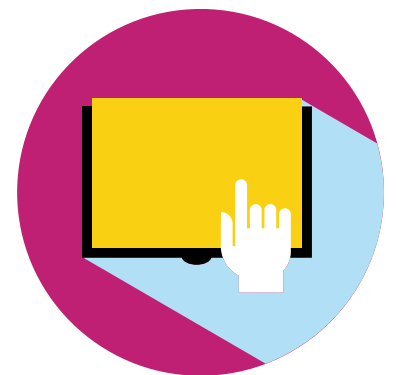
- Some argue that being transgender is not part of God's design because Genesis 1:27 says that God created humanity "male and female."
- It's true that God created male and female, but that doesn't mean everyone should be expected to fit neatly into those categories. After all, God created night and day, but dawn and dusk are widely seen as the most beautiful times of day.
- In the same way, Genesis says that God created creatures of the sea and creatures of the land, but no one takes issue with frogs or other amphibians.
- God's creation is bursting forth with blurred boundaries and with all the beauty they bring. Gender identity and expression are part of that creative diversity.



KEY CONVERSATION 2:

Inclusive Arc—Isaiah 56:1, Acts 8:25-39

- Eunuchs aren't identical to modern categories like "gay" or "transgender," but the Bible's trajectory toward greater inclusion of eunuchs offers an important precedent for inclusion of gender and sexual "others" today.
- Deuteronomy 23:1 forbids eunuchs from entering the assembly of the Lord, but Isaiah 56:4-5 prophesies that they will one day be included:
"To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths, who choose what pleases me and hold fast to my covenant—to them I will give within my temple and its walls a memorial and a name better than sons and daughters."
- That prophecy was fulfilled when an Ethiopian eunuch became one of the first Gentile converts to the faith in Acts 8:26-39.
- Within the text of Scripture itself, we see greater inclusion of gender and sexual minorities.



KEY CONVERSATION 3: The Law—Deuteronomy 22:5

- Deuteronomy 22:5 says that “a woman must not wear men’s clothing, nor a man wear women’s clothing.”
- The same chapter bans mixing seeds and fabrics, indicating that a broader concern was mixing categories of many kinds.
- While that type of separation was central to the old covenant, Christ fulfilled the law and made those once-necessary barriers obsolete.
- This law isn’t about gender identity. Transgender women are women and transgender men are men—not women wearing men’s clothes or vice versa. The categories for men’s clothing and women’s clothing change from culture to culture even within the biblical text itself. Given this fact, neither Deuteronomy nor the rest of the Old Testament should be read as legislating gender-appropriate apparel or addressing non-binary or other gender expansive identities.



KEY CONVERSATION 4: Jesus and Eunuchs—Matthew 19:11-12

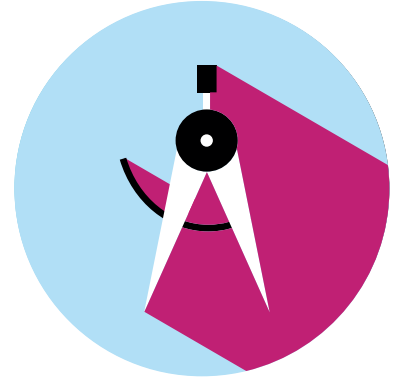
- In Matthew 19:12, Jesus describes and commends three types of eunuchs—those who “were born that way,” those “who have been made eunuchs by others,” and “those who choose to live like eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven.”
- Jesus’s teaching shows that there is room in the new creation for people who don’t fit a binary, procreative mold.
- The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus changed the significance of procreation for Christians, as we now become part of the family of God through personal faith rather than procreation.
- Eunuchs, though not the same as transgender people, were a kind of gender and sexual minority, and Jesus affirmed their inclusion as they are.



KEY CONVERSATION 5:

The Kingdom of God—Galatians 3:28

- In Galatians 3:28, we see a kind of blueprint of the kingdom of God: “There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”
- This doesn't mean that gender no longer exists, but it does indicate that the male-female hierarchy behind a binary view of gender will be overcome in Christ.
- Jesus told us to pray for God's kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven. If the binary, patriarchal pattern of gender relations will be overcome in the kingdom of God, then we should work toward that same reality in the here and now.



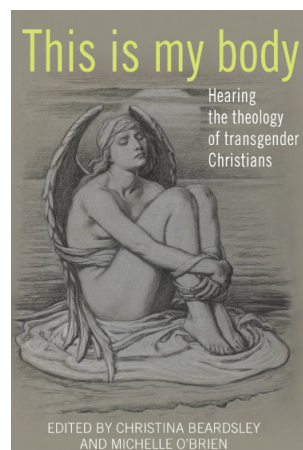
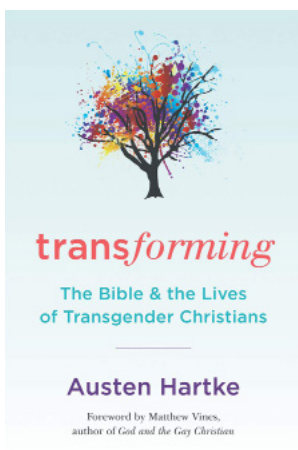
GET INVOLVED

The Reformation Project is a Bible-based, Christian grassroots organization whose mission is to promote inclusion of LGBTQ people by reforming church teaching on sexual orientation and gender identity. We run national conferences, leadership development cohorts, and offer trainings and resources to empower LGBTQ Christians and their allies. If you'd like to become a more vocal advocate in your church, we'd love to partner with you.

Sign up at www.reformationproject.org.

*This guide was created in partnership with Kit Apostolacus, a transgender Christian theologian.

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