

GENDER & SEXUALITY 1

(Thinking through our Christian understanding of sexuality and gender)

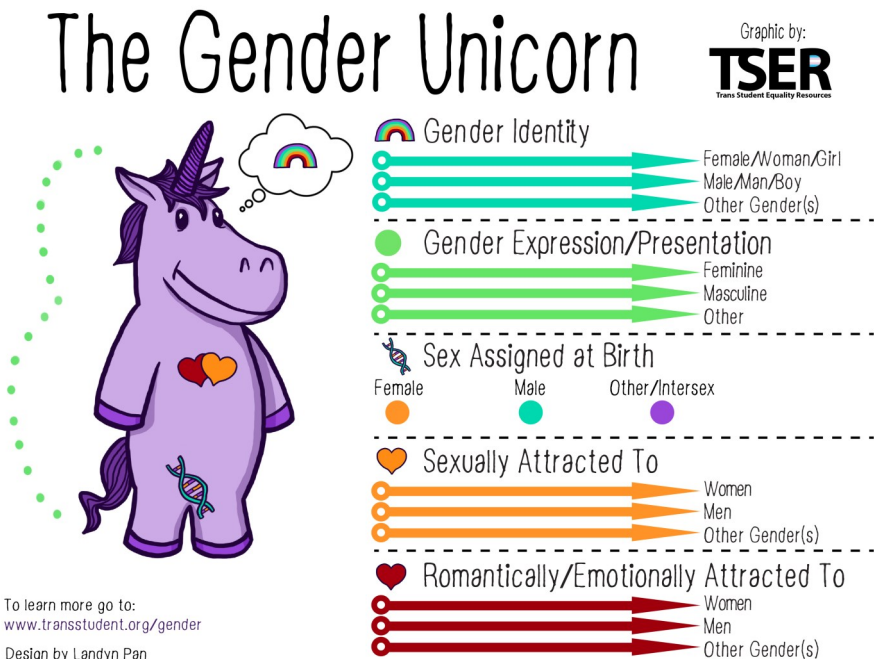
Where are we now?

How do you respond to the recent news stories of rugby players Israel Folau and Billy Vunapola?

How do you respond to news of Tasmania making gender optional on Birth Certificates?

Would you drink coffee from a Pride Costa cup? Wear a rainbow lanyard in the NHS? Appear under the rainbow flag with colleagues after training on Inclusion?

What do you make of the Gender Unicorn?



How have we got here?

Proverbs 18:13

*To answer before listening –
that is folly and shame.*

Individualism

*“Look out ‘cause here I come
And I’m marching on to the beat I drum
I’m not scared to be seen
I make no apologies, this is me” (The Greatest Showman “This is me”)*

Gnosticism

“I have a girl brain but a boy body” (I am Jazz)

Influence of minorities

Stonewall: “Acceptance without exception”

Role of Media (and social media)

Normalising and influencing

Virtue signalling

But... Secular cracks appearing

Women’s sport

Tavistock clinic concerns

Free speech v Hate crime

How do we respond?

Awareness

Compassion

Acknowledgement of our own confusion

Repentance for our own failings

Biblical Thinking and application of the gospel

- **Remember God's good Creation**

Genesis 1-2 "In the beginning God..."

Matthew 19:4-5 Jesus says:

'Haven't you read,' he replied, 'that at the beginning the Creator "made them male and female,"⁵ and said, "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh"?

- **Don't underestimate the impact of the Fall (Judgement)**

Genesis 3:16-19—God's judgement on men and women

Romans 1:18-25—God's judgment on those who suppress the truth

Revelation 13:11-17—Satan's influence on ideologies

Romans 8:20-21— creation in bondage to decay

- **Live in the light of the Redemption that is possible today**

John 3:3—born again

2 Cor 5:17 Our identity is found in Jesus Christ

Romans 12:1—Be transformed by the renewing of your mind

- **Wait and look forward to the future Restoration**

Romans 8:23—fully realised redemption of our bodies and this earth

1 Corinthians 15—resurrection bodies

Ephesians 5—Christ and the Church

Revelation 21-22 the new creation

Resources which aim to apply the gospel to sexuality and gender:

Livingout.org

Washed and Waiting by Wes Hill

The plausibility problem by Ed Shaw

A war of loves by David Bennett

A better story by Glynn Harrison

Gay Girl Good God by Jackie Hill Perry

Questions to think through before next time:

What does it mean to be female?

What does it mean to be male?

Why did God create human sexual relationships?

