

Human Nature vs. Transgenderism

Human Nature: “The human male and female are united, not only for generation, as with other animals, but also for the purpose of domestic life, in which each has his or her particular duty, and in which the man is the head of the woman.” (*Summa Theologiae*, I-I, q. 92, art. 2)

Transgenderism: The idea that one’s gender does not match the body one was born with.

“The men and women of the third millennium need the heart of Christ in order to know God and to know themselves” – Dilxit nos, ¶80

For whatever the reasons may be, there are many people today confused about their identity. Pope Francis tells us that in order to really know ourselves, we “need the heart of Christ.” This is the ultimate answer.

Why does human nature contradict the “transgender” movement? Simply put, human nature is something that does not change. It is not based upon a cultural trend. Human nature is what it has always been; that is, the reality and truth about rational creatures. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches, “The dignity of the human person is rooted in his creation in the image and likeness of God” (¶1700). This is the first reality we must accept in order to properly understand human nature: We are products of a Creator who loved us into existence and made us with forethought, intention and distinction. Forethought, meaning that our design was something in God’s mind before He willed us into being; Intention, meaning that no part of our design was a mistake and God meant to create human beings with a spark of the divine in them; and distinction, meaning that He made us inferior to the angels but superior to the plants and animals. And even within the human family, there are distinctions between persons (“God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; *male and female he created them*” [Genesis 1:27]). These three elements of human nature (i.e., forethought, intention and distinction) need to be understood in order to really know ourselves.

The “transgender” movement denies all three of these elements of human nature:

1. It claims that God’s forethought was a mistake
2. It claims that God’s intention of design was a mistake
3. It attempts to determine human distinctions not by objective truth but by modern man’s subjective criteria

A Thomistic approach to this issue sees man and woman as complimentary and necessary for human flourishing and the good of society. “The human male and female are united,” he teaches, but it is also true that “each has his or her particular duty.” It is impossible to know

what these duties may be if we reject the union between men and women. But the “transgender” movement does not just reject that there is a natural union and tendency between men and women; rather, it rejects that men and women are, objectively speaking, men and women to begin with. The American Psychological Association (APA), which has long been one of the biggest institutional promoters of our morally corrupt culture, summarizes well the unreasonable identity of the “transgender” movement:

“Transgender is an umbrella term for persons whose gender identity, gender expression or behavior does not conform to that typically associated with the sex to which they were assigned at birth” (APA, 2024).

Here, it is more clear as to how this movement denies the three elements of human nature discussed earlier. If one’s biological sex does not accord with one’s gender, God’s forethought would be off; if one’s biological sex does not accord with one’s gender, God’s intentionality of design would be off; if one’s biological sex does not accord with one’s gender, God’s distinctions would not be unchanging and would not play a role in human beings understanding their purpose in life.

Gender is the expression of our sex. They go hand in hand and they do not contradict one another. If we are made male (sex), God has willed that we live and act as men – that we be masculine (gender). Likewise, if we are made female (sex), God has willed that we live and act as women – that we be feminine (gender). All the way back in 2004, the Vatican’s Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith published a document that spoke to this topic, stating ...

“In this perspective [i.e., that of gender ideology], physical difference, termed sex, is minimized, while the purely cultural element, termed gender, is emphasized to the maximum and held to be primary” (*Letter on the Collaboration of Men and Women in the Church and in the World*).

Physical differences (i.e., sex) is of the utmost importance when trying to understand our purpose in life. And God thought it so important so as to mention it immediately after He told us that we were made in His image and likeness. The cultural element that gender may be understood as, though, has always and everywhere been in accord with the reality of our bodies. This modern movement to destroy distinctions between the sexes has only bred confusion and moral chaos. God’s forethought is perfect, and so is His intention and design.