



The Gender Revolution: A biblical, biological and compassionate response

Patricia Weerakoon,
with Robert Smith and Kamal Weerakoon

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Review by Megan Best

The rapid rise to prominence of transgender ideology in our culture is unlikely to have been missed by many. The conflation of queer theory with the psychiatric diagnosis of gender dysphoria has meant that many Christians are struggling to understand how to respond to the current trans phenomenon, which at times it seems to reach quasi-religious dimensions. Most Christians would agree that God has created us male and female, so how do we engage with a society that rejects this truth as ‘hate speech’? The need for Christians to respond is becoming more urgent as ‘Conversion Therapy’ prohibitions in many jurisdictions impinge on the legality of clergy providing pastoral care to Christians troubled by gender incongruence. Silence will not make these issues go away or help our friends struggling with gender issues. This is why publications such as this are timely.

In *The Gender Revolution*, the authors claim that they aim to provide a biblical, biological and compassionate response to transgender. I think they do more than this. They also help us understand how we reached this cultural moment – which I personally found to be a crucial stage for my own ability to understand what on earth is going on and what to do about it.

Using the analogy of a tree to describe the various elements of sex, sexuality and gender, there is a clear discussion from scientific, psychological, sociological and theological viewpoints which enables even the novice to understand the difference between the concepts involved. Weerakoon and colleagues describe the manipulation of language, the undermining of objective truth about human biology, the de-coupling of sex and gender, and

where sexual orientation fits in. This enables the reader to realise that there are in fact two groups involved – those who genuinely feel they are in the ‘wrong body’, and those who merely seek to undermine the notion of biological sex as binary. Once this is established, the book then considers the pastoral response required to support the former without condoning the latter.

Patricia Weerakoon is a mature Christian with decades of experience in sexology – she is well placed to give sage advice to those who find themselves at a loss in this complicated area. Assisted by her son Kamal, a church minister, and Robert Smith, a theologian, the authors articulate the biblical principles underlying a compassionate response to both suffering individuals and the movement as a whole. The goodness of God’s creation is also emphasised as a way to understand who we truly are, made in the image of God and called good.

This is not an academic text. While many academic citations are given, the prose is easy to read and the discussion is straightforward. This is a short introductory text for the non-specialist who seeks to understand the transgender movement whether to grapple with gender identity individually or in order to truly love one’s neighbour in their suffering.

Someone once told me that if you are dealing with a teenager who is questioning their gender, to hold tight to the child in one hand, and to reality with the other, and don’t let go of either! This book will help you do just that.

The Gender Revolution is available through Matthias Media:
<https://matthiasmedia.com.au/products/the-gender-revolution>

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