

Worldview: Understanding Your “Self”

We can wobble and fall on the shifting sand of self-determined identity or confidently stand on the solid rock of a God-given identity built on the One (and only One) who can give it.

God made man in His image and likeness to know Him as well as to create and have dominion over His creation. When Adam rebelled, he did not entirely forfeit the image of God nor the ability to have dominion, but that image and capacity were tarnished and corrupted by the sin and death that would stain everything man did...and does. Then and now, fallen man is Self-absorbed, Self-assured, Self-conscious, Self-important, Self-reliant, Self-righteous and every other “self-hyphenated word” we can think of. Self now is the filter of every decision man did and does make.

The Battle for the True Self Begins...

All that man needed to be fully man was established in man by God on the 6th day of creation. Yet, man forfeited that position sometime between day six and not heeding God’s prohibition.

Genesis 2:17 God to Adam: “but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

Genesis: 3:1-7

Enter into the Garden, the serpent: Crafty and cunning...

Serpent: “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’”

Eve: “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’”

Serpent: “You will not surely die. ⁵For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

Result: So, when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. Eve saw:

- The tree was **good** for food. (She was surrounded with food, but that seemed better!)
- It was a **delight** to the eyes (carries the meaning to covet, greedily, lustfully, exceedingly)
- The tree was to be **desired** to make one **wise** (desired: synonym to “delight”) (wise: skillful, understanding, wisdom, prosper)
- She **took and ate and gave** to her husband who was with her.

Then the **eyes of both were opened**, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

- Eyes opened: Closed to their innocence in God, opened to sin, now dead in it.
- Aware of nakedness: No shame where there is innocence. No longer innocent.
- Sewed fig leaves together to hide their new understanding of “self”. The effort of self to hide the others “now opened eyes” to who they were.

- ❖ Adam and Eve were now dead to God, left to grasp in the dark for identity and meaning apart from God.

Because now...

2 Corinthians 4:4 ...the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Imprisoned...

2 Timothy 2:26 ...been held captive to do his (the devil's) will.

Incapable...

1 Corinthians 2:14 ... The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

Internally Corrupt and Defiled...

Mark 7:21-23 For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, ²² coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. ²³ All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

When Adam did wrong, he became wrong; he became a sinner. This is a very important idea. Adam's spirit, though (now) dead to God, was still very much alive but was alive to the wrong things. His spirit was alive to sin, to self, and to the influence of the enemy. When Adam ate the fruit, he consciously chose to step outside of the pre-existing, God-ordained arrangement in which his needs were met in God. Instead, Adam chose to rely on his own ingenuity, strength, and will power to generate life for himself. He rejected an economy of receiving from God and chose instead an economy of achieving on his own. From that point forward, he lived contrary to how he had been designed.

Frank Friedmann, Stunned by Grace, page 36

In Search Of a Lost Identity

Here's the irony: Adam already had an identity! He was like God, accepted by God, secure in God, created by and loved by God. He needed do nothing more to walk in what was already his. But he rejected God's definition of who he already was for the lie of believing he could become more than God said. Now, no matter how hard man tries nor how falsely secure in his self-created identities he wants to be, he can only hope to be accepted by the ever-changing mores of the culture.

Philosophy's Basic and Foundational Questions:

- **Where Did I Come From?** _____
- **Why Am I Here?** _____
- **Who Am I?** _____
- **Where Am I Going?** _____

- Apart from the convicting and convincing power of the Holy Spirit, no one will answer or desire to answer this question Biblically.

An Infinitesimal Sample of Man's Attempt to Answer Identity Worldview Questions:

Donald Kalish, Chairman Philosophy Dept., UCLA/ 1964 – 1970 *"There is no system of philosophy to spin out. There are no ethical truths, there are just clarifications of particular ethical problems. Take advantage of these clarifications & work out your own existence. You are mistaken to think that anyone ever had the answers. There are no answers. Be brave & face up to it."*

George Bernard Shaw, Playwright, Author, political and social activist; 1856-1950

"Life isn't about finding yourself. Life is about creating yourself."

"My Way " (Second Chorus), Written by Paul Anka

*If not himself, then he has naught
To say the things he truly feels
And not the words of one who kneels
The record shows I took the blows
And did it my way."*

(Tina Sinatra: "He (her dad) always thought that song was self-serving and self-indulgent. He didn't like it. That song stuck and he couldn't get it off his shoe. He did not love that song.")

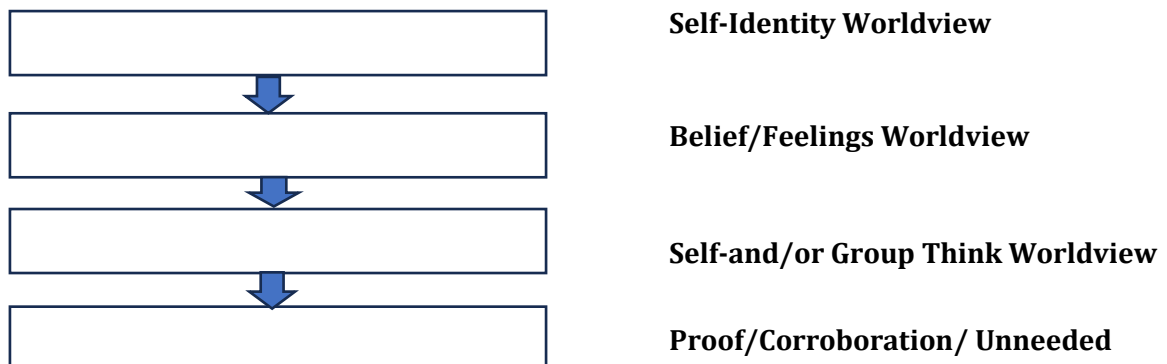
"Let It Go", song and lyrics by Indira Menzel (last verse)

*It's funny how some distance,
makes everything seem small.
And the fears that once controlled me, can't get to me at all
It's time to see what I can do,
to test the limits and break through.
No right, no wrong, no rules for me.
I'm free!*

"Invictus" (last stanza), William Ernest Henley, 1875

*It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments the scroll,
I am the master of my fate:
I am the captain of my soul.*

The Man's worldview: Stuck in the Sand or Standing on the Rock



Postmodernity: the postmodern worldview is one of distrust and unbelief toward universal truths, absolute knowledge, and grand narratives, emphasizing that all perspectives are shaped by culture and context. In this worldview there is no ultimate right or wrong, no absolute truths. You are the final arbiter of “your truth”.

“Life has no meaning a priori. It is up to you to give it a meaning, and value is nothing but the meaning that you choose.” Jean Paul Sartre, 1905-1980

Shifting- sand Identity worldview: And everyone did what was right in their own eyes. **Judges 17:6**

Solid Rock Identity worldview: You shall walk after the Lord your God and fear him and keep his commandments and obey his voice, and you shall serve him and hold fast to him. **Deuteronomy 13:4**

The Postmodern Transsexual Movement

“It’s easier to fight the whole world than to fight yourself every day. Because when I look back on my journey, on all the difficulties, all the highs and lows, I would do it all over again in a heartbeat.”

Lia (William) Thomas, Transitioning man, College Swimmer, University of Pennsylvania

Genesis 1:27 “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”

Matthew 19:4 He (Jesus) answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female.”

- The Apostle Paul recognized only two genders: 1 Cor. 11:3; 1 Tim.2:11-12; Galatians 3:28 and more...

The further society as a whole and people individually turn from the Creator God’s definition of gender to their own emotional and “feelings” driven definition of gender, the more the ability to reason and be rational is darkened.

Romans 1:23-26 Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, ²⁵ because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. ²⁶ For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions.

Healthline Website - LGBTQIA+ Health

68 Terms That Describe Gender Identity and Expression by Mere Abrams and Sian Ferguson
<https://www.healthline.com/health/different-genders> (full article)

Gender is a spectrum, and there are dozens of ways to describe your individual gender identity. Man, woman, cisgender, and transgender are just a few options. However, these terms can also be confusing. Read on to learn 68 terms about gender identity and expression and what they mean.

Gender vs. Sex

Many people use the terms “gender” and “sex” interchangeably. However, gender and sex actually refer to two separate things. Gender is an identity — your personal sense of who you are. The term can also refer to socially constructed categories that relate to what it means to be a man or a woman. Sex refers to biological and physiological characteristics. Your genitals, hormones, and chromosomes all relate to your sex.

Although many are taught that there are only two sexes — male and female — that isn't true. Some people are intersex or have a difference of sexual development (DSD).

Many people grew up with a simplistic idea of gender and sex: that there are two sexes, male and female, that “match” with two genders, man and woman. In reality, neither gender nor sex is binary.

The categories used for sex and gender are socially constructed. This doesn't mean that sex and gender aren't real, but that the way people conceptualize them isn't set into the fabric of the universe — it can, and does, change.

What Gender Identity Is

Your gender identity is your personal sense of self. It's how you, as an individual, conceptualize your own gender.

Gender expression, on the other hand, is how you express your gender identity. Many do this through clothing, behavior, gesticulations — anything people might associate with gender. Your gender expression might match what society expects of your gender, or it might subvert it.

Gender presentation is often used interchangeably with “gender expression” in the sense that it's how you present your gender (whether you intend to or not) externally.

Somebody might “present” as one gender when they actually identify with another. For example, a transgender woman might present as masculine, or a nonbinary person might present as feminine. The outside world might assume that they're one gender, even when they're not.

That's why it's important not to make assumptions about someone's gender based on how they look.

❖ **The Law of Non-Contradiction. A biblical and transgender ideology cannot both be true.**

Proverbs 14:12 *There is a way that seems right to man, but its end is the way of death.*

Matthew 7:13-14 *“Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. ¹⁴ For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.*

Isaiah 53:6 *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way;*

The Only Identity Worldview that Works. Now...and Forever!

Matthew 22:35-40 *But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. ³⁵ And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” ³⁷ And he said to him, “**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.** ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: **You shall love your neighbor as yourself.** ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”*

❖ Loving God creates a God centered love for self, resulting in a self-denying love for others.

As Ken Boa put it: Spirit led obedience of God creates the ability to love God completely, love ourselves correctly, and love others compassionately.

Philippians 1:21a *For to me to live is Christ...*

This obedience facilitates a living and breathing, working and walking Identity in Christ that's more than words on a ... it's meaning in the mind and heart! This is where Biblical Christianity becomes more than words on a page, they become the experience of our lives!

Galatians 2:20 *I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me._*

As we put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness; As we stand firm in the truth (Eph.6:9), are steadfast, immovable always abounding in the work of the Lord, confident our labor in the Lord is not in vain (1 Cor 15:58); as we destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ (2 Cor 10:5); as we prepare our minds for action (1 Peter 1:13); receive with meekness the word implanted (James 1:20b) as we don't let the sun go down on our anger nor give the devil an opportunity (Eph.4:26-27), as we through these Biblical directives walk out in the power of God's Spirit who we are, we begin to ever increasingly grow in faith to believe that we are in fact, new creatures in Christ, sanctified, holy, secure and beloved. And that nothing nor anyone can separate us EVER from our being united with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.