

“DID GOD SAY ... ? SATAN’S ATTACK ON GENDER.”

Rev. Robert T. Woodyard

First Christian Reformed Church

February 2, 2020, 10:30 AM

Scripture Texts: Genesis 1:26-27

Introduction.

We are in the midst of a sermon series titled, “Did God Say ... ? Satan’s Attack on

We have been dealing with ways Satan has been spreading his vicious lies and hatred and death throughout the world and in our culture.

When Satan asks the question, “Did God really say ...?” you have to know that if you don’t know what God really said, the wrong answer is a death sentence. When Satan asked Eve that question he distorted what God said and she didn’t have the right response. The result was disastrous, death and destruction fell on the entire human race.

When we question what God said or distort what God said or twist His words, it will not and does not go well for us.

This is another way of saying that all of our problems, all of our issues in this world and in this culture of ours are religious problems, they are all spiritual problems. There is no separation between secular and sacred. Our battles are not with flesh and blood or about flesh and blood, but between the spiritual principalities and power.

Ephesians 6:12-13 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

The battle is spiritual to the core, between God and Satan. And the most important weapon is God’s Word and knowing what God said.

This morning we will focus on another one of Satan’s lies, a lie that strikes at the heart of our identity, at who we are, and how God has created us. Did God Say ...? Satan’s attack on gender.

Why would I pick this topic on Cadets Sunday? It occurred to me this is a very appropriate context. Our culture would say we shouldn't have Cadets or Gems, they should all be together. Or at least girls should be allowed in Cadets and boys should be allowed in Gems. So what we are celebrating here today is counter-cultural, it is revolutionary, we are part of the resistance.

Satan's attack on sexual identity, gender, male and female.

Satan hates God and has declared war on every aspect of God's creation. He has declared war on God's binary creation. Did God really say there are two sexes, two genders? Did God really say we are only either male or female?

In our culture today the lines are being blurred. Our culture is in full scale, open hatred against God and rebellion against His will and His decision. And as in all rebellion, idolatry is at the center. One of the chief idols of our day and age, of our culture is choice, complete autonomy to choose for ourselves what we want.

We demand to have the freedom and right to choose for ourselves who we are and what we are. So now we can no longer talk about sex as male and female, now we must talk about gender and gender is no longer about biological facts, it is now a social construct, a sliding scale, a continuum, and you get to choose.

Parents talk now days about raising their children gender neutral so they can decide for themselves and choose later whatever they want to be.

Gender is now made to include a confusing mix of orientations or self-selected identities. There are supposedly dozens of genders. Facebook recognizes 51 genders. There are more genders than there are flavors of Baskin Robins ice cream.

Our culture is redefining terms. Language controls culture. Change the language and you change the culture. The language about sex and gender had been changed, recoded.

We are now in Alice in Wonderland. "When I use a word," Humpty Dumpty said, in rather a scornful tone, "it means just what I choose it to mean—neither more nor less." "The question is," said Alice, "whether you can make words mean so many different things." "The question is," said Humpty Dumpty, "which is to be master—that's all."

Someone has screwed the lid off the word gender, dumped out the old meaning, put in some completely different meaning and screwed the lid back on. Don't be fool, don't be taken in by Satan's lies. The new meaning is made out of lies and confusion and subjective feelings.

“Professing to be wise, they became fools ... who exchanged the truth of God for a lie.” (Romans 1:22, 25)

The extreme form of this is transgenderism, having surgery or taking hormone drugs to change ones gender identity. This is the ultimate rebellion against God and God's order.

The notion of a sex change operation is a misnomer. It is biologically impossible to change your sex. No operation can change you from a man to a woman or a woman to a man. All it can do is make you a feminized man or a masculinized woman.

When people talk about transitioning from one gender to another, all they are doing is changing the exterior through surgery or hormone treatment. All 37 trillion cells in their body are still it's original sex. That's an unchangeable biological fact.

Boys can't become girls, girls can't become boys, no matter what their therapist or psychologist says. What we are is hard wired into our DNA in every cell of our body. We can become confused, but we can't become something we are not.

You can no more change your sex than you can change the laws of gravity.

Did God really say?

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

From the very beginning and all the way through Scripture it is clear God created two sexes, male and female, men and women, masculine and feminine. There are no other possibilities. There is no third sex, no Z chromosome, no alternate gender. It doesn't exist.

From the very beginning before there was culture, there was a human pair, a complementary pair. When God created us male and female, He called it good.

God's Word is clear, He has assigned our sex at conception. We are created in the image of God, we are both equal and very different. We are not duplicates, we are not identical, we are not interchangeable, we are created to complement each other.

We are always boy or girl, man or woman. We never stop being what God made us to be. God has clearly and purposefully created a difference between the sexes and it honors God when we keep that distinction clear. We are created and called to live out our manhood and womanhood as He has given it to us.

God is the one who defines us and assigns to us our sex. We have no say in the matter, no choice. Because it is clearly a spiritual issue, it becomes an issue of rebellion against God and God's glory and God's authority when we resist or deny or rebel against what He has done.

That our world is confused about these things is no surprise. It is the effects of the fall and sin and the on-going destructive lies of the evil one. It is Satan's assault on God and on God's creation and God's image in mankind.

He is hell bent to destroy everything good in God's creation. And when God created us male and female, He called it good.

We live in a bent and broken world. We are called to have compassion and love for those who are broken and confused, for those living in open rebellion with their Creator.

Hope and help for people confused about who they are can't be found in denying who they are but in conforming to God's will and plan and purpose. Our ways are never better than God's ways.

Hope is found in the Gospel of Jesus. But what has Satan done with the Gospel.

II Corinthians 4:4 In their case 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.

And to add to that, the god of this age has blinded men and women from seeing the image of God in themselves, the image of God that is male and female.

And Satan isn't stopping with the confusion, he is doubling down in his attack on Christians who want to help. To protect the lies, laws are being passed in some cities like Seattle and some states like California, and I think in all of Canada, that

counselors and therapist cannot give counsel or treatment to help people out of the absurdity.

Any help under the name reparative therapy or conversion therapy or orientation therapy that helps men and women to be the men and women God created them to be is being criminalized. They are out to criminalize counseling that condemns transgenderism or homosexuality and commends heterosexuality.

They are criminalizing any call to Biblical repentance, any call to hope for healing in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

This is the sign of a nation with a bad conscience, when you have to pass laws to coerce people to agree and affirm and approve your agenda.

Do you see Satan's hand behind this? Abortion has to be protected by laws that say girls don't need parental permission or even knowledge, abortions can be performed at any stage of pregnancy up to live birth.

So now the laws come to protect the lie of gender as a social construct, anyone can believe whatever they want and no one can change their mind about it.

Implications and application.

Have love and compassion for those who are broken, confused and lost. Pray for them, the Holy Spirit is the one who can change hearts. Repentance is the gift of the Holy Spirit by which we are all saved and delivered out of the bondage of all our sin.

We must all learn to repent of all the ways we sin and rebel against our assigned sex. You are thinking how do I sin or rebel against my sex? We sin far more than we ever realize. There are masculine sins and feminine sins. I sin against my sex when I don't want to make a decision, when I don't want to lead, when I want to be lazy, when I grumble and complain about what I have to do, or how hard something is, or when I shirk my responsibility, when I don't protect my wife, when I make her do something I should do, when I am not self-controlled or self-disciplined.

Our sex is God's gift to us, it is God's choice for us given at conception. So as with any gift, it is for us to accept and to learn to love it and to live it out in a God honoring way.

Embrace your identity, who you are, who you are created to be. You are a son or a daughter of God, made in His image.

Don't be like Professor Higgins in *My Fair Lady* and say, "why can't a woman be more like a man." Don't wish for sameness. Honor God and welcome and rejoice in His good gift of two sexes, affirm both, honor both, see in them the perfect wisdom of God in complementing us.

Help your kids, grandkids, nieces and nephews, understand who they are, made by God and in the image of God, that their gender is fixed and a gift from God. Help them to identify with who God has made them to be.

Model in your marriage the beauty of what it means to be male and female, masculine and feminine, complementing each other and completing each other.

Girls are not boys, and should not be treated like boys; and boys are not girls and should not be treated like girls. We should affirm and encourage masculine behavior in boys and we should affirm and encourage feminine behavior in girls.

Little boys play man. Little girls play woman. Boys like Tonka trucks and toy guns and girls like Barbies and their toy kitchens. Encourage it and discourage the opposite, effeminate boys and masculine or butch girls. We are created by God to be what we are and we are called by God to live in submission to what He has made us. Anything else is rebellion. A child's submission to the sex God made him/her depends upon our instruction and leadership.

We aren't raising humans, we are raising sons and daughters to the glory of the God who created them. That's a good reason for having Cadets and Gems, to help us raise our children according to how God has created and called them.

Has not God said, male and female I created them. And has not God said it is good. He who has ears to hear, let him hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.