

Ponderosa Bible Church  
Sermon Based Small Group  
Monday, January 17, 2022



# Biblical Gender and Sexuality

**For the Leader:** *The person leading the small group really needs to watch the Sermon titled “Biblical Gender and Sexuality” on the Ponderosa Bible Church YouTube channel in order to have a full discussion for this small group.*

- *This guide is NOT MEANT to be studied in preparation for the small group you are leading but only to be looked over. This is a guide that is meant to compliment the Study Guide that is given out in the Sunday Morning bulletin. The only work that needs to be done beforehand is to listen to the Sunday Morning message and to use your Study Guide while listening to it. The study guide and the leader guide are your materials for the sermon based small group.*

## “Digging Deeper” Fellowship time:

**For the leader:** *The purpose of these questions is to foster relationship building and to deepen the fellowship of the group.*

**Fellowship time suggestion:** This week email or text everyone in your small group one time and remind them where the meeting is and what time you guys are getting together. For our fellowship time we are going to do something a little different. We are going to play a game named “two truths and a lie.” Nobody will need to repent after playing this game, we are just trying to get to know one another better! (: For those who have never played each person in your small group goes around in a circle, introduces themselves, and then tells two true facts about themselves, and one false one. Then everyone in the group needs to guess which fact is not true of the person. Once it is figured out, then the group moves on to the next person in the group! Fellowship time should only take half an hour.

## Sermon Based Study Questions:

**For the leader:** *A few things to remember while leading this study: (1) You are not TEACHING, you are facilitating! There will be small group leaders who have led a small group that will teach, but that is not the primary purpose of this leader guide, the primary purpose is to help you facilitate. Your job as a small group leader is to facilitate a discussion, not teach a lesson. The pastor has already taught the lesson, now you are trying to start a discussion on what was taught. You are putting a magnifying glass to the teaching and teasing out the details. (2) As a small group leader you want to bring out personal application of the Sunday message (which means you should have listened to it). Ask questions during the discussion, “How does this apply to you? What did you learn? How does this change your views on Christianity?” Etc. Personal application is the goal of the Sermon based small group. (3) It is not the goal of this outline to get through the whole guide, the goal is to foster conversation. While progressing through this guide is a desired outcome, don’t consider getting to the end as “success.” Success as defined by the “sermon based small group” is defined as equal parts fellowship and a deepening study of the Sunday Sermon. (4) Not every sub-point under a question needs to be asked, these are suggestions for you to consider while you are talking about the question from the study guide. If you asked the study guide question and had a good discussion about it then you may not even need to discuss the sub-points. These points exist to help you agitate a discussion.*

**This week's text:**

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

(1) What is the basis for the idea of “fluidity in genders?”

**\*\*Ask ONE of the following UNLESS you think it will make for a better discussion to ask both\*\***

A. Had you ever heard of this concept before?

**-or-**

B. What was your notion of what a gender was before this message?

• **For the leader:** *I am pretty aware of this idea of “fluidity of genders” because I was made aware of it in Bible College 20 years ago. Back then the LGBTQ+ movement was pretty small and a minority. But they were pushing to get laws passed to legitimize their ideas. Now they have got “mainstream.” I went to confirm how many genders they believe their are, and as of right now their are 72 genders! They range from “cisgender,” which means you are believe that you are the sex you were born as, to “omnigender,” which is a person that believes they possess all gender experiences.*

*The reason why they believe their are a variety of genders is because they changed the definition of what a gender is. In America, for the last 200 years, a person's gender was their sex. Now the American schools teach that a gender is*

*“Is how they identify internally and how they express this externally. People may use clothing, appearances, and behaviors to express the gender that they identify with.” So literally, how one feels...is their gender! This is why there are 72 genders, and I will not be surprised when this list expands. If you want more information you can check it out on: <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/types-of-gender-identity#gender-as-a-spectrum>*

**(2) What is ignored that allows men and women to believe they are something different from what they are born?**

**\*\*Ask ONE of the following UNLESS you think it will make for a better discussion to ask both\*\***

A. Why do you believe that people are so insistent as to ignore the obvious in order to believe what they want?

**-or-**

B. Where do you believe this type of thinking will lead?

• **For the leader:** *I make these leaders guides 3 days before the actual teaching, so some of this is guesswork for me, but knowing Pastor Joe, he will say one of three things, and maybe all: (1) Common Sense, (2) The sex they were born, (3) The Bible. And truthfully, all of these answers are correct. The Bible shows us in Romans 1:24-29:*

Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, 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. For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice.

*According to the scripture, what we are seeing in our country right now, is the result of God's wrath against our nation deliberately ignoring Him. Because of this God gives people over to their own will and they become confused and ignore even the obvious in order to have what they want. So, If I were to give a trite answer to this question of what needs to be ignored for people to believe what they want about their gender, the answer would be "God." But we will see what Pastor Joe says. (:*

(3) What do you think causes people to believe they are not the gender that they were born?

**\*\*Ask ONE of the following UNLESS you think it will make for a better discussion to ask both\*\***

A. Do you have people in your life that identify as a gender they weren't born? What do you believe causes them to identify this way?

**-or-**

B. Is this something that is hard for you to understand? Why?

• **For the leader:** *When I was in Bible College in the early 2000's, one of the things that I learned was that in most situations, homosexuals and lesbians, as well as transgenders, identified the way they did as a result of sexual, physical, or emotional abuse. Indeed, even today, those who identify as a gender other than what they are, that I encounter, are usually troubled mentally or emotionally. However, today when I minister to the LGBTQ+ community, the first thing they do is defend themselves by saying, "this is not a product of abuse, it is who I am!" They desperately want to hold onto their identity because they realize that what they identify as is because of their abuse. Their abuser shaped who they are and they do not want to admit it.*

*So, I could be wrong, but in the past the statistics clearly stated that 9 out of 10 people who were part of the LGBTQ+ community were abused. The problem is now there is the "bandwagon syndrome." The younger generation is hopping on board because the LGBTQ+ movement is being touted as a revolution and the younger generation wants to fight for a cause. This means that a lot of people are identifying as different genders in order to "be part of the club." This makes the cause harder to identify.*

(4) Why does it matter if someone wants to "love" someone of their own sex?

**\*\*Ask ONE of the following UNLESS you think it will make for a better discussion to ask both\*\***

A. Do you see this as a problem? Why or why not?

-or-

B. What is your understanding of what the Bible teaches about this?

• **For the leader:** *There are two problems with this, but I am unsure what Pastor Joe will say. The first is that this isn't "love." True love is not a feeling, it is a God-honoring decision (Though, there are feelings involved). If someone's expression of love violates scripture, then it is not love. Interesting fact, 85% of all homosexual and lesbian relationships are not monogamous, and most have somewhere around 20 to 30 partners in their lifetime (Though homosexuals often have about 200). The reason this is, is because this is not true love. At most, it is infatuation.*

*The second reason this is a problem is because it violates scripture. The Bible speaks against homosexual unions, starting in Deuteronomy and ending in revelation. In order to be a Christian, and be in a same-sex relationship, you have to ignore scripture from the opening of the Bible, to its closing.*

(5) What is one thing Christians need to do in dealing with people who have different views on gender and sexuality?

**\*\*Ask ONE of the following UNLESS you think it will make for a better discussion to ask both\*\***

A. Have you encountered anyone whose view is different from the Bible?  
How did you treat them?

**-or-**

B. Have you responded badly in the past and wished you could do it differently now? How did you respond?

• **For the leader:** *I have a family I am ministering to weekly, and the biggest thing I do is treat them with love and respect. We have not broached the subject of gender identity seriously yet, but they know I am a Pastor and where I stand. Recently I even got one of their daughters to come to the youth group. She was completely uncomfortable, but she came anyway because she loves me! This is how we need to respond to these things. Most of those who choose to believe these lies are unbelievers, they need Christ. We do not compromise our message, but we do love and respect them, if for no other reason than God loves them and wants them to be saved.*

**PLEASE READ, VERY IMPORTANT!!!** How you close your meeting is very important so even if you do not get through all the questions and even if you stick on one point for far longer than you anticipated, please decide how you plan on ending your meeting before it has even started. It would even be good to choose a talking point to end the meeting on about ten minutes before it ends. Also decide who is going to pray to close out the meeting. Ending a meeting in an abrupt manner leads to a very awkward meeting. So have your last talking point ready to go along with someone chosen to pray in order to close the meeting smoothly.

