

FOURTH QUARTER STRATEGIES - Saturday August 15, 2015

Many in this new brave world appear to be going through an identity crisis. Let me explain just how I've come to that conclusion. Several weeks ago I came across a newspaper article that I found quite disturbing. I was amazed to see that the University of California admissions department has dramatically changed their admissions application to now give applicants a number of choices for gender-related questions. Applicants can now choose to classify themselves in one of six categories: "male, female, trans male/trans man, trans female/trans woman, gender queer/gender non-conforming and different identity." The question I believe we need to ask is, "Just how did we get to such a bizarre place in academia?"

If we go to the very beginning of the human race we'll be reminded that God created man in His image. Then He created woman, a helper, suitable for man and their main purpose was to simply procreate and carry on the human race. In Genesis, we find that all did not go well in the Garden of Eden. They were deceived and fell into sin which has been with man ever since. Sin comes in all shapes and sizes. Basically, I prefer to consider it as anything that we might do or not do that is not pleasing to our Heavenly Father. One of those sins is non-conformance to God's plan for man and woman, His most precious creation made in His image. Since the beginning of creation it's only been man and woman. There was no identity crisis!

This non-conformance is nothing new, but subtly over the past few decades we've been sold a bill of goods that such behavior is okay. After all, we all have a right to live our lives as we like, as long as we're not breaking the law, don't we? I'm not advocating that we belittle those who don't conform to the male/female identities that God created, but I do feel we've become overly sensitive in allowing deviant sexual behavior to run rampant in society today. For me, it's quite simple. God created man and God created woman as man's helper. The family consists of a man, a woman and oftentimes children whether through childbirth or adoption. That is God's desire and how we can best honor Him.

My wife and I adopted our little girl twenty-five years ago and she has been a wonderful blessing in our life. I know that God is pleased with us for being obedient when He confronted us with the adoption option in 1989. What is most important to me and I trust to you as well is knowing what is right and honorable and what is wrong and foolish in His eyes. All we really need to do is realize that we were wonderfully created by our Father in Heaven and accept His gift of life with all our blemishes. We all know whether we were created as a man or woman and no Board of Regents needs to offer more than two choices for our sexual identity on any application!

Here to serve,

Jim Langley, CLU

Passages to Ponder: Genesis 1:26-31; Matthew 19:4; Hebrews 4:12-13; 1 John 3:1-2

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Passages to Ponder: Genesis 1:26-31; Matthew 19:4; Hebrews 4:12-13; 1 John 3:1-2

Genesis 1:26-31 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁶ Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” ²⁷ So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸ Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

²⁹ And God said, “See, I have given you every herb *that* yields seed which *is* on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. ³⁰ Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which *there is* life, *I have given* every green herb for food”; and it was so. ³¹ Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed *it was* very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

Matthew 19:4 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁴ And He answered and said to them, “Have you not read that He who made^[a] *them* at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’

Footnotes:

- a. [Matthew 19:4](#) NU-Text reads *created*.

Hebrews 4:12-13 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹² For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. ¹³ And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things *are* naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we *must give* account.

1 John 3:1-2 New King James Version (NKJV)

³ Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. ² Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.