



American College of Pediatricians Research on Gender Identity



It is difficult to know how to discuss all of the thoughts and questions society is raising about gender identity. We must be comfortable in knowing what we believe and why.

God is the standard. God created people and knows what is best. In the beginning, He created male and female and joined them together to love Him and one another and to raise families who love Him and one another (Genesis 1:27-28). To illustrate that God is the standard, ask your children to find and bring you a stick. Ask, *Is this stick crooked?* Sometimes it is easy to tell if a stick is crooked (it is very curved), but sometimes it is harder to tell (it looks almost straight). Ask each one to compare their stick to the ruler. When you measure your stick with the ruler (a good straight standard), you can see that it is crooked. God is the standard by which we measure everything we believe. While we want to respect all people (and teach our children to respect all people), not all ideas are right or even good. We compare everything we hear or read to what God said in His Word, the Bible.

Even though God is the standard, it is sometimes valuable to read what professionals say about an issue. (They are not always in line with the Bible and should not be accepted, but often doctors who understand the physical aspects can offer helpful thoughts.) The American College of Pediatricians released an important statement (below) about gender identity urging all to reject policies that condition children to accept as normal a life of chemical and surgical impersonation of the opposite sex. Facts—not ideology—determine reality.

1. Human sexuality is an objective biological binary trait: “XY” and “XX” are genetic markers of health—not genetic markers of a disorder.
2. No one is born with a gender. Everyone is born with a biological sex. Gender (an awareness and sense of oneself as male or female) is a sociological and psychological concept, not an objective biological one.
3. A person’s belief that he or she is something they are not is, at best, a sign of confused thinking.





4. Puberty is not a disease and puberty-blocking hormones can be dangerous.
5. According to the DSM-V, as many as 98% of gender-confused boys and 88% of gender-confused girls eventually accept their biological sex after naturally passing through puberty.
6. Children who use puberty blockers to impersonate the opposite sex will require cross-sex hormones in late adolescence. Cross-sex hormones (testosterone and estrogen) are associated with dangerous health risks including but not limited to high blood pressure, blood clots, stroke, and cancer.
7. Rates of suicide are twenty times greater among adults who use cross-sex hormones and undergo sex reassignment surgery, even in Sweden which is among the most LGBTQ-affirming countries.
8. Conditioning children into believing that a lifetime of chemical and surgical impersonation of the opposite sex is normal and healthful is child abuse.

To read the full report, go to <https://www.acped.org/the-college-speaks/position-statements/gender-ideology-harms-children>.