

**Galatians 3:26-28 (NRSV)**

For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

- No longer male AND female (not “no longer male OR female” like the other examples).
- How do you see this as being different? What does this mean to you?

**1 John 4:7-13 (NIV)**

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed God’s love among us: God sent God’s one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that God loved us and sent the Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and God’s love is made complete in us. We know that we live in God and God in us, because God has given us God’s Spirit.

- No one has ever seen God, so maybe God is not the white-haired, white-bearded, white male we’ve all been told about in the past! So if God is Spirit, or is not male, why do we so often give God a male gender?

**Genesis 1: 26-27 (NRSV)**

Then God said, ‘Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.’ So God created humankind in his image,  
in the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.

- So this says that humankind was created in God’s image – male AND female. So again – why do we give God an assigned gender of “male”?
- If God made male AND female in God’s image, that means God is both, therefore is it really THAT strange if people who were identified as one gender at birth self-identify as the other?

**John 3:16**

For God so loved the world that God gave God’s only Son so that whosoever believes in Christ shall not die but have eternal life.

- We know Jesus was a guy, right? Well, if he was, isn’t it sad that in order to be born as a human, God had to choose a gender? God had no restrictions before, but now had to be restricted so God could experience human life in order to bring Salvation to us all. How does that make you feel?

**Proverbs 8**

Does not wisdom call,  
and does not understanding raise her voice?  
On the heights, beside the way,  
at the crossroads she takes her stand....*please find a Bible and read on to 9:1!*

- So who is Wisdom? And she's shown as being a female.
- *Wisdom is a character that was with God at the beginning of time. She appears in many Hebrew writings. When the early church was deciding on the Trinity, they took the character of "Wisdom" and changed her name to "Holy Spirit"*
- This is another example of the Trinity of God: God, Christ and Spirit/Wisdom not being exclusively male...

**Matthew 23:37**

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing."

- Jesus is speaking as if he is a mother to this city. Not a traditional masculine role. Even Jesus was unafraid to bring out what are often considered to be female emotions, and to refer to himself in a female role.

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**So...**if God is not exclusively male, and if God doesn't really have a gender as such, and if we are all created in God's image, then really, there's nothing strange about people who transcend or transgress gender if that is how God created them!

**God created us in God's own image – male and female.**

- Some people have physiological or biological differences where they embody aspects of the opposite gender they were outwardly perceived as being born as.
- With some people, this is a biological difference in the brain – that is not a psychological difference, but biological (male and female brains are not the same)
- Some girls like sports such as football, and some guys like to do things such as cook: in a psychological test these are considered "opposite gender" activities, therefore, as each of us explores who we are, we can quite naturally be drawn to opposite-gender activities, showing that pretty much everyone has the ability to transcend the gender they were given at birth.

**Useful Resources (Transgender, Bible and others):**

Melchert, Charles F. Wise Teaching: Biblical Wisdom and Educational Ministry. Harrisburg, PA: Trinity Press, 1998. – *this gives wonderful insight as to "Wisdom"- another excellent read!*

Meyerowitz, Joanne. How Sex Changed. Cambridge, MA: Harvard U. 2002. – *A remarkable book on transgender history and medical history – an excellent read!*

Toscano, Peterson: [www.petersontoscano.com](http://www.petersontoscano.com) – *an AMAZING one-man show on Transgressing Gender in the Bible. Peterson allowed me to use examples from his show for the "Transcending Gender in the Bible" Bible study series I am developing.*

Transfaith Online: [www.transfaith-online.org](http://www.transfaith-online.org) – a great resource for those in the transgender and intersex communities and their allies.