



# Gender and Christianity

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# The Role of Christianity

- Christianity is the largest religion in the world, with 2.3 billion adherents, or 31.4% of the global population. Today, the [four largest branches of Christianity](#) are the [Catholic Church](#) (1.3 billion), [Protestantism](#) (920 million), the [Eastern Orthodox Church](#) (260 million) and [Oriental Orthodoxy](#) (86 million).
- Christianity and [Christian ethics](#) have played [a prominent role](#) in the development of [Western civilization](#), particularly around Europe during [late antiquity](#) and the [Middle Ages](#). Despite a [declining trend in membership](#) in the West, Christianity remains the dominant religion in the region, with more than 70% of the population identifying as Christian. Nonetheless, the religion is growing in Africa and Asia, the world's most populous continents.



# Source of Christian doctrine

- For thousands of years, Christianity has played a significant role in European and world social development. Significant influence, despite tangible secularization, remains today.
- The main source of Christian doctrine is the Bible (Scripture) and the so-called Tradition (church teachers' books, canonical documents, sermons, etc.). The Bible shows the creation of man in the image of God and in two stories: "And God said: We will create man in our image. And God created man in his image, as a man and woman created them "(Genesis 1: 26-27). Scripture does not mention transgenderness, nor transsexuality, but condemns homosexuality (Leviticus 18:22, 20:13, Rom. 1, 26-27).



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# Catholicism(1)

- Pope Benedict XVI publicly condemned gender theory, namely the idea of the possibility of gender self-determination, stating that it blurs the boundaries between man and woman and is a man's separation from God.
- Similar statements were also made by Pope Francis : "Gender theory is not a solution to the problems of the relationship between man and woman, but represents" a step back ... God created man and woman so that they were similar to Him and complement each other ... The problems in their relationship were generated by the people themselves, who for centuries considered men and women as a confrontation ... We are created to listen to each other and to help each other.
- One can say that without mutual enrichment in these relations - in thoughts and deeds, in feelings and work, and also in faith, people will not even be able to fully understand what it means to be a man and a woman "



# Catholicism(2)

- The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in 2000 circulated among Catholic archbishops a confidential document that denied the gender identity of transgender people and argued that the transgender transition did not change the gender of the church in the eyes of the church [2].
- Since the 1970's, the Catholic Church has formulated a fairly clear position on the issue of homosexuality in a number of official statements and doctrinal documents. For example, in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (published in 1992) this issue is devoted to the section "Virtue and Homosexuality » (§§ 2357-2359). Here, first of all, it is stated that both the Scriptures and the Church Tradition qualify homosexual acts as a severe form of fornication and declare them "definitely unlawful", which are contrary to the natural law. In accordance with the divine plan, sexual intimacy is due to two goals: the continuation of the family and the complementarity of two individuals of different sex. In a homosexual act, none of these goals can be achieved. Therefore, such an act contradicts the natural order of things established by God.



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# Some remarks

- In this case, the Catechism states that "a fairly significant number of men and women have an innate tendency toward homosexuality. These people have not made a conscious choice in favor of homosexuality; for most of them, this state is a difficult test. " In this case, the psychological origin of homosexuality "remains largely unclear".
- Based on clear indications of both Scripture and Tradition, the Catholic Church considers homosexual behavior to be unequivocally sinful, but it is not homosexual attraction that qualifies as a sin. From the point of view of the Catholic Church, "people who are inclined to homosexuality are called to chastity. Thanks to the virtues of self-control that cultivate internal freedom, sometimes with the help of unselfish friendship, prayer and grace of the sacraments, these people can and must gradually and decisively approach Christian perfection. "



# Orthodoxy

- Orthodoxy also offers its arguments in favor of equality between men and women, insisting that men and women "are equally , created of God's image and human dignity" and, like all Christians, are equal in "access to salvation." But "the fundamental equality of the dignity of the articles does not override their natural difference and does not mean the identity of their vocations, both in the family and in society."
- The Orthodox view is the division of human nature into a woman's and a man's, and, accordingly, the need to follow a certain scheme of the presence of each sex in society: "The Church ... sees the appointment of women not in the mere imitation of a man and not in competition with him, but in the development of all the gifts to her from the Lord abilities, including those inherent only in her being "[6]. However, the existence of a certain "female nature" does not contradict, in accordance with the vision of the Russian Orthodox Church, the equality of women and men in the law.



# Protestantism

- In 2014, the Southern Baptist Convention adopted a resolution stating that God created two separate sexes: male and female - and that the gender identity of man is determined by his "biological sex" rather than self-perception. The resolution condemns the transgender transition, but at the same time urges believers to love their transgenic neighbors and condemns discrimination against them . In 2015, the First Baptist Church in Greenville (North Carolina) adopted the principles of non-discrimination, which allows priestly ordinations of open homosexual and transgender people .
- Some Protestant churches recognize and accept transgenderness and admit transgender people to clergy. Transgender people are ordained priests in the Church of England , the United Methodist Church and the Lutheran Church . The General Synod of the United Church of Christ in 2003 called for the full inclusion of transgender people in the church . The US Episcopal Church in 2012 approved the inclusion of gender identity and gender expressions in their non-discrimination principles .



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# Conclusions and thanks

- Thus, Christianity has a wide range of views on gender issues. But clearly reject the social theory of gender.
- Thank you for attention!



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