Engaging Culture with the Character of God 9 AM Bible Study, Jan – Mar 2024

Class Purpose Statement:

This class aims to equip people to consistently interpret culture through the lens of God's character so they can be ambassadors for God, influencing those around them with God's heart.

Week 5: Gender Identity Part 2

1. Information

Discuss your observations from last week's reading/study What do these passages reveal about God's character and humanity?

Passages: <u>Genesis 1-2; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Romans 12:1-3; Romans 6:11-23</u>. What do you observe about God's Character in these passages?

2. Understanding

- a. Characteristic of God: He is (keep in mind God's character from previous weeks Creator, sustainer, holy)
 - i. Specific/ Distinct
 - ii. Orderly

b. What does this mean for Humanity?

i. Our embodiment of male and female is spoken of as *sacred* in scripture

- ii. God's creation of humanity as different (male and female) is timeless
- iii. Whenever scripture speaks of crossing gender boundaries, it speaks negatively
- iv. The Bible speaks synonymously about sex and gender
- Where do we begin in sharing this message of hope within our culture?

3. Application - How do we engage culture with this hope?

- a. Lead with curiosity instead of critique
 - i. Question to ask:
- **b.** Clarity is compassion; ambiguity is not
 - i. Question to ask:
- c. Discover and challenge their sources
 - i. Question to ask:
- What should be our focus in these conversations?

4. Assignment: Read John 16:33, Psalm 119:67-72, Romans 5:1-5, 2 Corinthians 1:3-5. What do you observe about God's Character in these passages?

