

MALE AND FEMALE HE CREATED THEM

From creation, the Bible consistently distinguishes males from females. At the beginning, "God said, 'Let us make humanity (Hebrew: 'adam) in Our image, according to Our likeness. . .', and God created humanity ('adam) in His image, in the image of God He created him, male (zakar) and female (neqevah) He created them. And God said, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. . .'" (Genesis 1:26a, 27-28a).

The terms used here are the equivalents of the English "male" and "female", according to biological gender. There is no hint that anything other than biological gender matters or is approved.

TERMS:

'*Adam* typically means either "humanity/human" or the person Adam.

Zakar always means "male", and never includes females. The origin of the word is unknown (and probably unrelated to the word "remember" in Hebrew which is spelled the same), but other Semitic languages have cognates which mean "male". It is also used to determine which animals get sacrificed (and animals were frequently better off to be female!). [NIDOTTE 1:1106-1108]

Neqavah [neqabah] means "female", and with its other uses clearly has the idea of female genitalia, for it is used elsewhere of a hole in something or a tunnel. [NIDOTTE 1:1106-1108]

'*Ish* can imply male or person. In Psalm 1:1, "blessed is the man ('ish) who" implies "those who" or "the person who" delights in Yahweh's Holy Word. However, it frequently distinguishes a man from a woman ('ishah). Geber means man.

'*Ishah* only applies to women, and never to men. Both of those terms can mean "husband" and "wife" respectively.

SOME IMPLICATIONS:

1. As noted above, God created people male and female, not "pick your gender".
2. The prohibition of homosexual activity in Leviticus 18:22 says "And you [masc.] shall not have intercourse with a male (*zakar*) as one has intercourse with a woman—it is an abomination." Similarly, "And a man ('*ish*) who has intercourse with a male (*zakar*) as one has intercourse with a woman ('*ishah*), it is an abomination. . ." (Lev 18:13a). There is no question of love, commitment, or the ages of those involved. Rather, it describes the act. People in Old Testament times would have just understood this masculine prohibition to apply to women with women as well. However, in Romans 1:26-27, writing to a culture which might not have understood that the law applied to men and women, Paul makes it clear that the prohibition applies equally to women as to men.
3. Deuteronomy 22:5 prohibits a man (*geber*) from wearing a woman's ('*ishah*) clothing, and vice-versa, saying that it is an abomination. This applies to those who wish others to view them as the opposite of their birth gender.

The bottom line is this: If you are following society's current "pick-your-gender" trends, don't say that you got it from the Bible, don't say that the Bible supports it, and don't be

surprised or shocked when Bible-believing Christians won't use non-biological pronouns for people.

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