



Gender & Sexuality + Our Faith

Resources gathered from Gender & Sexuality Justice Ministries Love is Louder Tool Kit Series. To learn more visit ucc.org/loveislouder



Did You Know?

Gender & Sexuality are two separate things.



Sexuality refers to who we are attracted to and **Gender** refers to a personal sense of how we understand who we are.

Gender Identity is how a person makes sense of their own gender, whether this within the binary of male or female or beyond the spectrum of gender's expansiveness - such as Transgender, Non-Binary, or Gender nonconforming identities.

Gender Roles are societal expectations for how we're supposed to behave based on gender.

Gender Expression is how we demonstrate gender to the world.

Sexuality has to do with who we are attracted to - not gender expression, identity or anatomical sex.

Here are some common sexual identities:

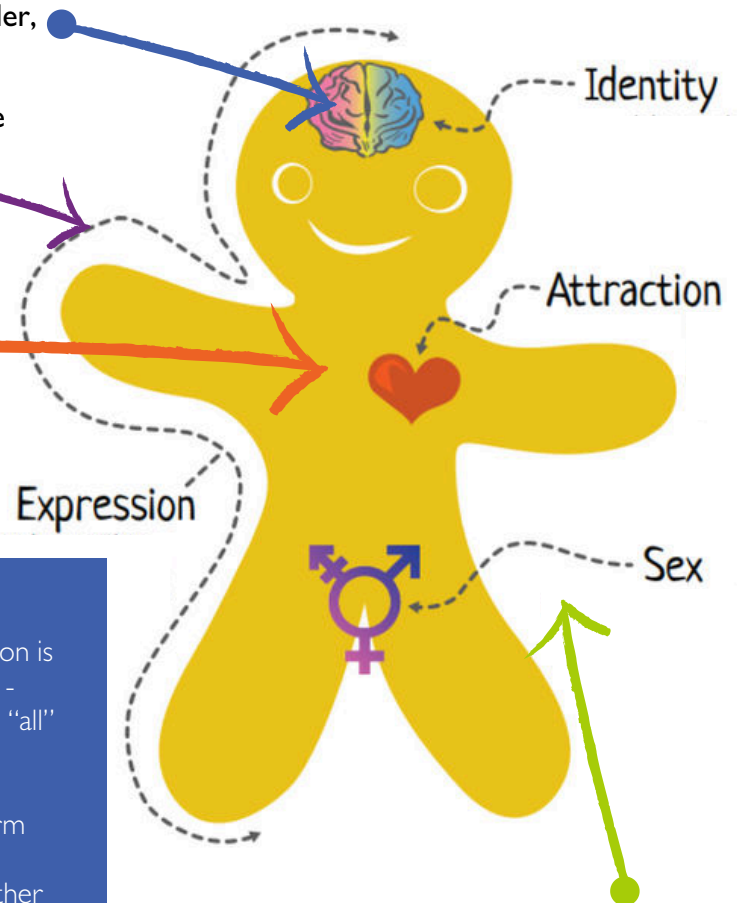
Lesbian: As a woman, having a sexual and emotional attraction toward other women.

Bisexual: A person who is attracted to two genders. Often, but not limited to, being attracted to the same gender and other genders. Sometimes shortened to "bi."

Gay: A homosexual person. Often used to describe a male, but it's an identifier for many others.

Pansexual: A sexual orientation where a person is attracted to people of all - "pan" is a prefix meaning "all" - genders and sexualities.

Queer: An umbrella term describing anyone who identifies as something other than cisgender - also utilized within this umbrella term as a person who is sexually attracted to the same sex or gender or beyond.



Gender Binary is the idea that sex and gender only have two options - male and female.



LOVE IS LOUDER
Love Your Neighbor **OUT LOUD**

Gender & Sexuality + Our Faith

Resources gathered from Gender & Sexuality Justice Ministries Love is Louder Tool Kit Series. To learn more visit ucc.org/loveislouder

“In the beginning God created...”

Creation Lives in the both/and & Beyond

A few things to note before we reading the translation of Genesis 1:27:

In section two, we learned that Adam in Hebrew translates to Adamah which means groundling - **a both/and** - genderless being. Adamah, when applying gender-neutral pronouns, would be they/them. This is important when taking a look at Genesis 1:27 (NRSV) to lean into the text and see how creation lives beyond the binary.

Genesis 1:27 in your Bible is indented. This is because it is in the format of Hebrew poetry. The authors of the Bible indent in the form of poetry to slow down the reader to indicate what is being shared has significant importance.

- God says, “let’s make humankind in our image.” God when translated from biblical Hebrew is plural, which is an invitation to pause and reflect on how vast and mysterious the divine is. *It’s worth asking ourselves what does this plurality; this fluidity of the Creator mean for us?*
- Genesis 1:27 has the word Adamah repeated 3x, which we learned = a genderless being or they/them.
- Humankind also = a both/and. The biblical Hebrew word used for humankind is Adamah once again.

Now, let’s read Genesis 1:27 with above information:

“So, **God** created **Humankind** in his **image**
In the **image** of God he created **them**
Male and female
he created **them**”

Original Verse Sourced from New Revised Standard Version

A gender-inclusive and biblically accurate Hebrew translation of this verse shows us that **God** (plural/expansive) says “let’s make **humankind** in our (plural/expansive) **image**.”

God created beings (both/and; expansive) in community - **human community** - as a reflection of **God** in the world (image; Imago Dei).

This **human community** is comprised of **male, female and beyond**. And embraces all of our human complexity of which **God** created in their **image**.

Male and Female in verse 27 represents the diversity of our gendered and non-gendered selves that make up the **human community**.