

“My Identity is From God”

Many today are confused about their “identity”—whether they are male or female, or a plumber or athlete or student or teen, etc. The “job” of the Catholic Church is to confer Christian identity upon each person—at Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation and, later marriage and /or priesthood, often sacramentally leaving an “indelible mark” upon the individual’s soul. We are, then, always: *a Child of God!*

One time at a drug treatment center with “drunks” and “junkies” (as they call themselves) in a listening audience, a reformed junkie, Brian, said, in witness: “You are a child of God! This is the most important identity you have and no one can give it to you or take it away!”

Here is the “Process of Identification as a Child of God, in the Catholic-Christian-Biblical Tradition, the “ABC’s”:

Adoption: We are either children of the world or (become) children of God, as God adopts or “transfers” us from darkness to light (see; Eph.1; Gal 4: 4-7)...at Baptism

Baptism: We die and rise with Christ as His Children (Rm. 6:4ff)...

Children of God: This is the core of our IDENTITY (See below) : *I am a Child of God.* See: Jn 1:12-13.

Divinization: God breathes into us His Spirit (Jn. 20:22)—we are, thus, divinized, made “God-like”!.

Contemporary questions and Questing..

Homosexuality- LGBTQ= Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual-Transgender-Questing (for identity). The Catholic Church speaks more of “same-sex attractions” rather than a rigid, silo-like “identity” of homosexuality, thus enclosing a person.

As baptized Christians we are already Identified as God’s Child, not a homosexual Christian or a heterosexual person. . In the “official” language of our Catholic Church, we are “Children of God, not we hyphenised-Christians, like Democratic Catholics or Republican-Christians or

Three important points: Each person with same-sex attractions (or homosexuals): 1- we need give dignity and respect to any such individual (See; Catechism of the Catholic Church: #2358); 2-This is an “objectively disordered” inclination (see: CCC, # 2358); 3-All such individuals (like any other person) should seek and live chastity (CCC: #2359).

Transgender: Here, some people say their identity is “fluid” or “find-able”. While a male person may embrace some feminine characteristics, and a female individual may integrate masculine traits, and this is good, (even God our Father, is referred sometimes to in feminine ways, see: Isa. 63:15 & Jn. 3:3-8), and St. Paul speaks of birthing a child (Gal. 4:19), so each gender-sex remains male or female as this was “assigned” –given at birth (Gn. 1: 26ff).

Here The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches...# **2333** Everyone, man and woman, should acknowledge and accept his sexual *identity*. **2334** "In creating men 'male and female,' God gives man and woman an equal personal dignity "Man is a person, man and woman equally so, since both were created in the image and likeness of the personal God."

Catholics teach a “*Christian anthropology*”-based upon the Bible, meaning just what a man or a woman is, bestowed upon by God, and how that Grace of God transforms an individual into a life of genuine discipleship. Significantly, at the Youth Synod, concluding this week at the Vatican, issues like “LGBTQ”-and the language of such has been dropped, in favor of the Tradition of the Catholic Church, because this has always what the Church has taught. The clarity of Catholic teaching is the liberation of souls to Heaven, in compassion and,

significantly, many *African* bishops and cardinals have led the way in Rome to teach the Truth, which frees!
(Jn. 8:32)

We need avoid two extremes of identity (and personality development) here, and seek “the middle” (“*in media stat virtute= in the middle lies virtue*”). One extreme to avoid is a rigid “silo” where we are shut in male- or female-ness without any integration of other traits or the other gender than what we are. The other extreme to avoid is like being ever-porous water, where we are infinitely fluid and we make of ourselves wherever the “water” takes us, without attribution to our God-given-biological-birth-identity (Gn. 1:26). The “middle”- virtuous position of development and identification is like being a “baggie of water,” which is fungible, moveable within reason *and limits*, but still has a “set point” and parameters. So, here, in this “middle position” of identification and development, we are either male or female (the baggie lining), but also able to integrate other attributes (the water-y aspect) and develop and harmonize varied attributes that help us be male or female. The Catholic Church calls this *Complementarity*, where we “complement” or develop ourselves with varied traits (masculine or feminine) in God’s design and within our biological givenness. We all do this, *naturally*—which means, from nature! Jesus did -He was masculine—chasing out the money changers from the Temple (Jn.2:13-16) and also had an intimate male friend, the Beloved Disciple (Jn. 20:2). Kinda’ likewise, a mom both nourishes femininely her children, while also “troops” them to maturation forwardly. Even the famous (movie, remember?) “Rocky,” fought masculinely and yet also had a love, “Adrien”! Etc. (See excellent article, by Tony Reinke, Desiring God website.)

This is called: Life! Developing, maturation, *complementarity*. We are *Catholic-Christians*, taking our “cues” from God, His Bible and our Sacred Tradition—tie-tested and approved over two-thousand years. Once again, while we need give dignity and respect to any individual, who may think they are LGBTQ, we also *propose but do not impose* a genuine Biblical Catholic Christian anthropology to such souls to help them, as we are all in the “business” of seeking and embracing our identity! This is the job, then, of any Catholic-Christian to help souls “ID themselves” within a Biblical-Christian anthropology-framework.

How to Integrate: This is, obviously, a process, called “Life”....

A= Our Anthropos (humanity) is Appointed from Above –by God, not ourselves –“For none of us lives to himself alone, and none of us dies to himself alone. **8**If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord” –Rm. 14:7-8. We need accept this, sooner or later, while we...

B=*Build* our Identity with “borders”. This respects both “adventure”-questing but also the given sex-gender God gives us, =“borders”. This, actually is, and means, freedom, as we need not feel or be under pressure to create anything new or get confused and profused in endless questing which may depress a person needlessly.

C=*Confer* identity through actions, events. Many varied pursuits or jobs or hobbies may help bestow or confirm Identity to us ...Fr. Paul Wittauer celebrated his Jubilee-50th Priesthood celebration after great struggles, and this Jubilee Mass re-affirmed and restored his priestly-child-of-God identity! We all need find and embrace those activities which confer and confirm this identity within ourselves!

See excellent article on homosexuality, “Reflections of Sexual Identities” by Daniel Mattson, National Catholic Register, and author of “Why I Don’t Call Myself Gay: How I Reclaimed My Sexual Reality and Found Peace”

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