

## Mankind, Humankind, and Gender Neutrality

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? Humankind ?  
? Mankind ?

The issue of gender-neutral language reemerged in the form of a publicized incident involving a college student at Northern Arizona University who was (mildly) penalized for the use of the term “mankind” in a paper she wrote for a class. Why was the score on her assignment lowered by one point out of fifty? The course’s professor had explicitly admonished students to use gender-neutral language such as “humankind” in place of the gender-specific “mankind” in their papers. The student (a woman), to test the instructor’s conviction about the point, deliberately used mankind in the assignment and discovered that the professor was serious.

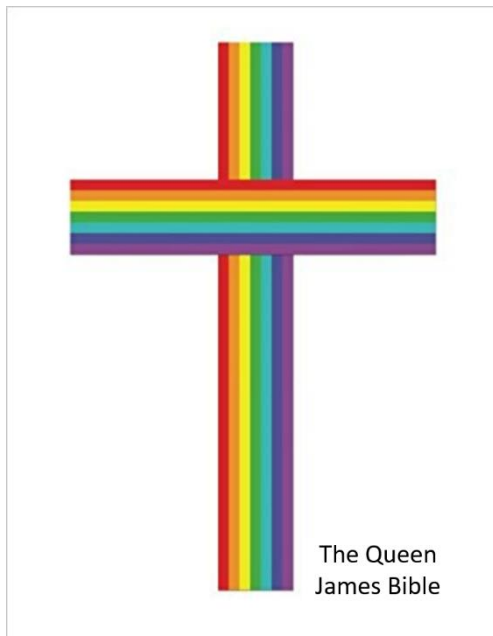
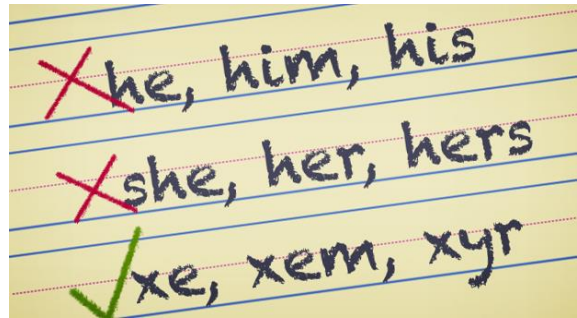
Today, there is an increasing number of people who are serious about gender neutrality. They are attempting to follow a politically correct, linguistic reformation on English pronouns in order to create a gender-neutral society. Some universities have actually banned phrases that include mankind and gentleman, opting for humankind and other gender neutral designations such as “they” and “them.”



The word “mankind” has become at the heart of one of the greatest semantic debates of our time in relation to a person’s sexual identity. Many today embrace the word “humankind” over “mankind” so that they don’t have to accept traditional genders and roles in marriage. There is a push in our society to move away from the use of traditional words (man, woman, he, she) that signify any specific gender, so people will not be offended who are changing their genders, not sure about their genders, and who want to

promote a gender-free society. Instead of stressing a mankind/man gender, it's more palatable to a gender-sensitive community to speak in the terms of "humankind."

It's also less offensive in today's world to use evolving, gender-free pronouns and neutral forms (xe, xem, xir, zie, ze, zim, zir, zis, hir) to try and cover-up or obliterate God's moral code regarding gender and the sexes. Our pagan society is fulfilling God's Word: "Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools" (Rom. 1:22). Some of the gender free words are laughable such as a gentleperson (instead of gentleman), personhole covers (instead of manhole covers) and even Frosty the Snowperson instead of Frosty the Snowman!



The "Queen James Bible," also known as the Gay Bible (a gay-friendly Bible translation), is a newer assault on Biblical orthodoxy and sexual purity. This is to be expected in a world of moral relativism. The editors of the Gay Bible have stated the following: "Most English Bible translations that actively condemn homosexuality have based themselves on the King James Version and have erroneously adapted its words to support their own agenda. We wanted to return to the clean source and start there." Of course, these altered descriptions of

pronouns, names, and Bibles make people feel better, who have adopted the philosophy that an individual can choose whether or not they want to be a man or a woman, or somewhere in between.

The gender-neutral ideology is fully accepted by the homosexual, lesbian, and bisexual community for it sends the message that there can be a “neutral” sexual behavior among the lives of people, instead of a fixed standard of sexual practice ordained by God and His moral code.

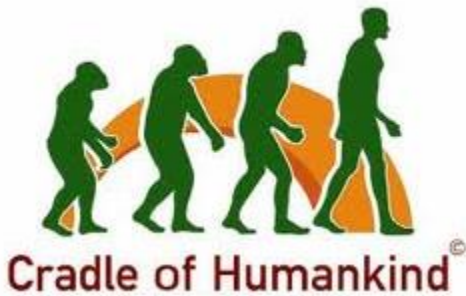


Why should Christians consider not using and accommodating the all-inclusive language that

supports the present-day gender movement? I think one reason is because we want to convey a clear message that we support God’s creative purpose for gender, marriage, and the sexes. Our society has traditionally used the expression “mankind” in its writings for a reason. It reflects the importance of God’s creative plan over the animal kingdom for “God created man in his own image” (Gen. 1:27). This Biblical term “man” (mankind in a generic sense) is made up of only male and female. God created mankind (a distinct creation from the animals) as male and female. God did not create Adam and Steve but Adam and Eve!

In addition, neither Adam nor Eve were created as androgynous (male and female joined together in the same body) or bisexual (attracted to the opposite sex). There is no basis for these bizarre ideas. How could Adam and Eve possess bisexual passions? There was no other male or female person alive other than themselves. This designation (“man”) is a reflection of God’s gender code which establishes one gender for the man and one gender for the woman. It marks a clear difference between “male and female” (Gen. 1:27) within the marriage relationship and society in general. The distinction also reflects the role of the sexes in that man was created to be a leader over the woman (1 Cor. 11:3, 9; 1 Tim. 2:12-13).

Some within the creation movement, with good intention, will use the expression “humankind” to distinguish between animal-kind and the evolutionary philosophy, while others use this new emerging term to distinguish between angels and humans. However, I find it quite unnecessary and a move in the wrong direction, since the Bible uses the term “man” or “mankind” to distinguish between animals (James 3:7; Rom. 1:23; 1 Cor. 15:39) and angels (Ps. 8:5; Heb. 2:6-7). We can stay with the Biblical description of “man” or “mankind” to mark the sharp distinction between animals and man.



The expressions of “mankind” or “man” speaks of being human – as opposed to the animal kingdom. There is simply no need to jettison these reliable terms and replace them with the words human or humankind. Evolutionists use the same terms (humans or humankind) and still believe that people are the result of the evolutionary process (man came from the animals). Evolutionists use such phrases as the “evolution of humankind”, the “origins of humankind” and the “cradle of humankind.” So, using the expression “humankind” to make the distinction between the animal and human kingdom does not seem to accurately oppose the evolutionary dogma. However, humankind does stress gender neutrality in our present day. This is why Christians should think twice before using this expression in their preaching and writing.

Although we might conclude that “humankind” is simply a synonym for “mankind” (even the 1823 Webster dictionary uses this word as a reference



to mankind), we must stop and think of how we might be identifying with and accommodating (Eph. 5:7) the present-day gender-free movement that wants to replace the traditional use of the word “mankind” with “humankind” and

the mad attempts of a godless society to create gender replacements and confusion. Sometimes we need to change our vocabulary with the times. In other words, when certain words are “hijacked” by godless people, who change their normal meaning, it would be wise to discontinue using them. One example would be the word “gay.” Not that long ago, a person could be termed as a “gay person” (meaning happy and carefree) or someone could be wearing “gay apparel” (festive, colorful, and bright apparel) and not be considered a homosexual or have any connotation with homosexuality. However, today’s immoral climate dictates otherwise.

The same comparison can be made to the word humankind. There may have been a sense of innocence attached to the word “humankind” back in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, but times have definitely changed. We are living in a 21<sup>st</sup> century of rapid spiritual erosion when “evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived” (2 Tim. 3:13). The Bible says we should seek to counteract culture shifts and paradigms which move away from Biblical axioms (Rom. 12:2) and “reprove the unfruitful works of darkness” wherever and whenever we can (Eph. 5:11). As Bible-believing Christians, we need to keep doing our best to counter paganism and unbelief, as our society spirals downward.

I’m not suggesting that a Christian who embraces the term “humankind” in writing and speech has compromised sound doctrine and committed apostasy. However, if we are vigilant in combating the pagan philosophies within our society (Jer. 10:2), it would be wise to stick to using only Scriptural terminology. By this, I don’t mean that we must choose to use an archaic English word over an updated English word, but to actually use the correct Biblical word! The noun “mankind” as it appears in the Bible is a word that accurately conveys the teaching about the human race. There is no reason to substitute another word, such as “humankind,” especially with the increased influence and emphasis of the gender free movement.

Why should we be careful about using gender neutral language? It's because many in our politically correct climate of today will impose the word "humankind" in the place of "mankind" (and the less popular word "womankind") in order to make a bold statement that rejects God's established gender code and creative order within the sexes. This has become increasingly apparent. And yet, many Christian writers have either knowingly or unknowingly bought into this political correctness of our "genderlessness," "gender neutral," gender-bending" and "gender choosing" society by replacing "mankind" with "humankind."



The new standard is to have no standards! What is happening today? Instead of accepting a person's God-given sexual identity (Lev. 18:22), many people are being pressured and preprogrammed by atheistic dogmas to discover their true sexual identity or gender through the depraved practices of homosexuality, lesbianism, transgenderism and cross dressing, which are all condemned in the Bible, since they do not correspond to God's unchanging, ethical, moral code (Rom. 1:18-32; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; Deut. 22:5). Of course, when one loses their true, God-given sexual identity, which is assigned to them at birth (Ps. 139:14-16), they have experienced God's judgment by "receiving in themselves that recompense of their error" (Rom. 1:27).



Their punishment fits their crime. They receive a judgment from God which results in a loss of their true sexual identity, as a man or woman, where they no longer possess a proper sense of their God-given sexual orientation, gender, and attraction (man to woman or woman to man). Instead, God turns

them over to homosexuality, bisexuality, and even bestiality (sex with animals) which is called “confusion” (Lev. 18:23). In other words, God gives people up to sexual perversion, a reprobate or depraved mind, and a life of gender confusion and deviant sexual practice (Rom. 1:24, 26-28). In this sense, the wrath of God is already being revealed from Heaven. Romans 1:18 declares: “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness.”

We witness the display of God’s wrath upon people everywhere, which occurs when people are given over to their debased lusts and no longer know their God-given sexual identity, or their true gender and sexual orientation. Instead, they experience gender confusion, unethical sexual attraction, and burning lusts toward the same sex (Rom. 1:27), which the Bible terms as “vile affections” (Rom. 1:26) or passion of disgrace, “strange flesh” (Jude 7), “that which is against nature” (God’s native disposition and natural inbred laws – Rom. 1:26), “that which is unseemly” (indecent and shameful – Rom. 1:27), and “those things which are not convenient” (fitting or proper – Rom. 1:28). Of course, there may be a slow erosion of one’s convictions and conscience (Titus 1:15) before reaching the place where God gives a person over to his passions, and they in essence become “past feeling” (Eph. 4:19).

Some make the bold claim that they are biologically wired to be a homosexual (“God made me this way”) while others decry such a notion, arguing that there is no biology in gender or sexual orientation, only personal choice and discovery. What saith the Scripture? The Bible teaches that every person is born with an innate, proper understanding about God and possesses a God-given moral code regarding gender and sexual orientation (Rom. 1:19; 2:12-15). However, at one point, people can make a confirmed choice to “change the natural use” of their bodies (Rom. 1:26) and end up



“leaving the natural use” of their bodies in exchange for sexual deviation from God’s natural, ordered, moral code. As a result, homosexual or transgender people lose their true, God-given sexual identity, by not knowing whether they are man or woman (a man trapped in a woman’s body or a woman trapped in a man’s body), or by fulfilling their sexual desires with same sex partners, sometimes within the framework of same-sex marriages (homosexuality and lesbianism). The loss of sexual identity is God’s righteous judgment upon those who choose to practice these vile forms of sexual deviation.



The context of Romans chapter one specifies that this is the way God eventually judges those who embrace debased sexual practices. He gives them up to their own vile affections (Rom. 1:24, 26-28). As a result, the transgender, bisexual, and homosexual community loses the wonderful gift and treasure that God gave to them – proper sexual identity. When a person pursues a homosexual or transgender identity, they reject their God-given identity. This judgment is a unique form of judgment on the minds and hearts of those who reject God-given sexual norms.

In his commentary on Romans 1:27, Ray Stedman comments on the judgment or penalty God sends upon homosexuals and by extension those who practice sexual perversion. He states: “Paul speaks of a ‘due penalty’ for this perversion. Anyone who has spent any time with those involved in this unfortunate condition know what this penalty is. It is a loss of their sense of identity, an uncertainty as to their role and place in life. It creates an almost unbearable tension as to who he is, and what he is, and what he or she is here for. We see this manifested in considerable degree in the Women’s Liberation Movement, as well as in dress styles and the emphasis on unisex in education.



This sexual confusion that abounds on every side is an attempt to mar and to defeat God's precise delineation when he made them male and female."

God's judgment upon those who are part of sexual confusion is rather obvious. For instance, transgender people feel like they are trapped inside a body that is the opposite of their perceived gender. As you can imagine, this leads to a tremendous amount of psychological and emotional distress. The prevalence of suicide attempts among transgender people is 41%. This figure came from a study done by the National Transgender Discrimination Survey (NTDS). The figure of 41% vastly exceeds the 4.6 percent of the overall U.S. population. Suicide attempts among trans men (46%) and trans women (42%) were slightly higher than the full sample (41%).

Bell and Weinberg reported evidence of widespread sexual compulsion among homosexual men. Sadly, 83% of the homosexual men surveyed estimated they had sex with 50 or more partners in their lifetime, 43% estimated they had sex with 500 or more partners; 28% with 1,000 or more partners (Bell and Weinberg p 308). Homosexual men are six times more likely to have attempted suicide than are heterosexual men (Study by Bell and Weinberg, "Homosexualities", Table 21.12). The life expectancy for gay and bisexual men is 8 to 20 years less than for men in general (Robert S. Hogg et al., "Modeling the Impact of HIV Disease on Mortality in Gay and Bisexual Men," *International Journal of Epidemiology* 26 (1997): 657).

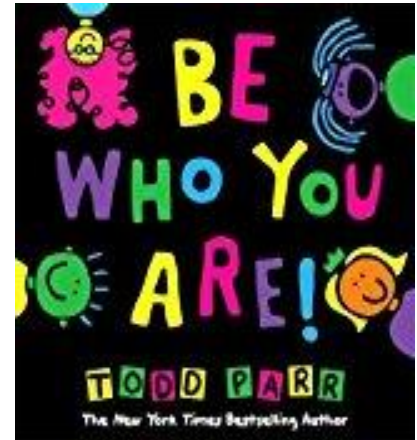
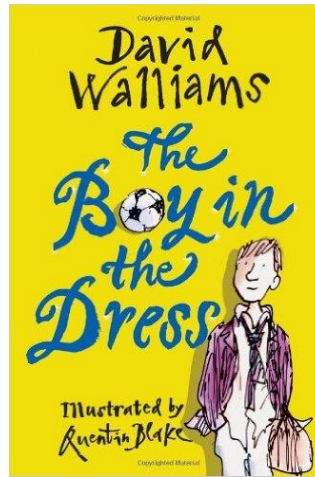
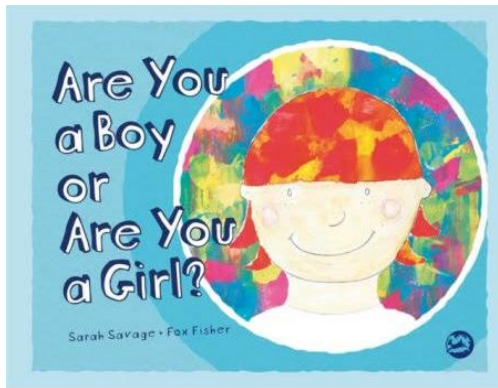
It's interesting that 73% of the psychiatrists in the American Psychiatric Association, who responded to a survey by Harold I. Lief, said that they thought homosexual men are less happy than others. 70% percent said they believed that the homosexuals' problems were due more to personal conflicts than to social stigmatization (Study by Harold I. Lief, *Sexual Survey Number 4: Current Thinking on Homosexuality, Medical Aspects of Human Sexuality 2* (1977), pp.110- 111).

Statistics also reveal that 90% of lesbians surveyed admit to being recipients of acts of verbal aggression from their partners and 31% reported experiencing physical abuse (Lettie L. Lockhart et al., "Letting out the Secret: Violence in Lesbian Relationships"). Lesbians are 3 times more likely to abuse alcohol and to suffer from other compulsive behaviors (Joanne Hall, "Lesbians Recovering from Alcoholic Problems"). These statistics reveal that transgender, bisexual, or homosexuals do experience God's judgment which is the loss of their true sexual identity. As a result, they cannot find true sexual fulfillment outside the parameters of God's moral code which is built into the sexes. Their life is one of searching, lack of true fulfillment, deep dissatisfaction, endless confusion, and results in destructive hedonistic practices.

The truth about transgender people and those who practice homosexuality is a sober reminder that we live in a fallen world (Rom. 3:23). The culture has lied to these people and medical professionals have also supported their gender-identity confusion. Homosexual and transgender people are beguiled by a false belief. For the most part, those who engage in these practices normally don't think that biology determines their gender or expression of sexual fulfillment. The culture promotes the same deception that people can create and choose their own gender and choice of sexual fulfillment.

The Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law, a sexual orientation law and public policy think tank, estimates that 9 million (about 3.8%) of Americans identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender (2011). This is a very small percentage within our nation. However, they are gaining ground within our society by pressuring politics, department stores, sports programs, TV, literature, schools, children's books, and all segments within our society to conform to their debased ideology and practices. The atheistic indoctrination is beginning to take place at alarming rates. Proponents of this demoralizing sexual view are now trying to get boys and girls to rethink their own gender and teaching them to be open to gender-neutrality and change. The "gender-

neutrality” philosophy is being openly propagated everywhere. Children have become a big target of this hedonistic dogma.



What should be our response to those whose consciences have become seared by sin, insensitive to God’s moral truth (1 Tim. 4:2) and who may be under God’s righteous judgment? First, Christians need to reengage the culture, not by accepting its standards, but declaring God’s creative standard for men and women regarding gender distinction and the sexes. Second, we must protect our children from this onslaught of anti-God rhetoric by teaching them that God chooses our gender, that He does not make mistakes, and they are either a girl or boy from the time of their conception (Eph. 6:4). Third, we should not directly or indirectly participate with those who are promoting gender-neutral language in our society (1 Thess. 5:22), who are seeking to appease their own consciences, while turning God’s moral codes upside down (Isa. 5:20). Fourth, we need to remember to always speak the truth to sinners in a spirit of love (Eph. 4:15). We need to be motivated by compassion for those who need the touch of God’s saving and transforming grace upon their hearts and lives.

Jesus taught that there was available forgiveness and healing to people who repented of their sins (Luke 7:37-38, 44-48) and afterward Jesus told them, “go, and sin no more” (John 8:11). This is God’s message to the GLBT

community. It's not a message of acceptance of homosexual, transgender, or bisexual sins, but a message of forgiveness, healing, and a new way of life. Jesus is a friend of sinners (Luke 7:34) and His friendship to every homosexual, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender individual is repeatedly evidenced, as Christ extends His mercy and forgiveness to every sinner who will repent of his sinful ways (Luke 24:47; 2 Pet. 3:9).

The challenge transgender people and homosexuals face is not with their bodies. That's why a physical solution will not be able to resolve their problem. Their only hope for lasting satisfaction and peace is not by engaging in same-sex attraction or mutilating perfectly healthy bodies, but a transformation of their broken souls. Only Jesus, the Great Physician, can accomplish this through salvation and the process of sanctification. The real question is this; where does a person turn for help and healing? God's Word repeatedly claims that God Himself is our Healer, sufficient to bind up our wounds and make us whole, through trusting in Him (Psalm 147:1-5; Isaiah 61:1 with Luke 14:8; Psalm 6:2; Isaiah 57:15-18; 41:4; Jer. 3:22; 17:14; 30:17), through growth in our Christian life (2 Pet. 3:18), through Christlikeness (2 Cor. 3:18), through fruitful living (John 15:1-3), through His divine aid or assistance (Phil. 4:13; 2 Peter 1:3), through an absolute standard for divine guidance (2 Tim. 3:16-17; Col. 3:16), and through experiencing God's love (Rom. 5:5).

Sadly, I see God's order and gender code being attacked, undermined, and abandoned in our present atheistic and God-defying society. Even in the area of public bathrooms and children toys! The pull today is to promote gender free thinking and ultimately a gender neutral society. There is an all-out attempt to rewrite the gender code to make transgender people feel more comfortable.



Many keep asking, “Why is there such a feverish push for gender-neutrality in our society today?” As previously discussed, it’s because many people have lost their true sexual identity given to them by the creative hand of God and are searching to find meaning, significance, and acceptance elsewhere in life. Therefore, those who are preaching “tolerance” are actually promoting “intolerance.” They are trying to force their way of life on society to give themselves a sense of acceptance and satisfaction as a transgender, bisexual, or homosexual individuals. However, they will not find true satisfaction outside the parameters of God’s moral code and salvation (John 4:14; 10:10). Life is an endless search for meaning and significance when people step outside the bounds of God’s purpose for the sexes. Scripture says they are “Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth” (2 Tim. 3:7). Only the light of transforming grace (Eph. 1:18; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; 2 Pet. 1:4-9) can free people from gender confusion and sexual delusion.



Once again, the Bible talks about God creating “man” (or mankind) out of which only two sexual identities would emerge - male and female (Gen. 1:27). The Creation account provides the bedrock for understanding gender throughout Scripture. We can easily observe the heterosexual pattern that God established in order to fulfill the creation mandate.

God created two (and only two) genders: “male and female created he them” (Genesis 1:27). Jesus taught in Matthew 19:4, “Have ye not read, that he which made *them* at the beginning made them male and female.” There is much modern-day speculation about numerous genders or gender fluidity (shifting between masculine and feminine or being somewhere in-between the two), or even a gender “continuum” which claims there are additional gender identities outside of the normal spectrum. Of course, all of this modern-day gender bender proliferation is completely foreign to the Bible and God’s unalterable moral code. Also, any attempt to translate the Bible into “gender-neutral language” is a form of apostasy (1 Tim. 4:1).



How far has our present society strayed from this gender-specific creative act of God? LGBTQ, GSM and DSG are abbreviations which create an umbrella of terms that people embrace today who claim to possess a non-normative (or queer) gender or sexuality. There are many different initialisms people prefer today. LGBTQ stands for Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender and Queer and/or Questioning. GSM represents Gender and Sexual Minorities while DSG stands for Diverse Sexualities and Genders. Then there is GNC (gender non-conforming), MSM (men who have sex with men), MAAB (Male-assigned at birth), FAAB (female-assigned at birth), UAAB (unassigned at birth), and TERF (trans-exclusionary radical feminists).

Other gender options floating around are similar to those previously stated and include the initials GLBT (gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender) or LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) and the acronym QUILTBAG - Queer or Questioning, Undecided Intersex Lesbian Transsexual, Bisexual Asexual [or Allied], and Gay (or Genderqueer). The transgender identity umbrella includes many different and sometimes overlapping categories, including transsexual, genderqueer, pansexual, androgyny, bigender, agender, third gender, and two-spirit, among others.

humankind  
mankind

Let's finish this study by returning to our original thoughts on gender-neutral language, specifically replacing "mankind" with "humankind." In light of the cultural, gender revolution that is

occurring in our world today, it would seem that Christians should refuse to use gender-neutral language, such as "humankind," and in this way lend no support this godless movement. Obviously, there are genuine Christians who use the term "humankind" but have no desire to embrace the anti-moral/gender-neutral lingo of today, nor are they attempting to cover up or eliminate God's moral code regarding the sexes. However, as a Christian, we

need to possess an “understanding of the times” (1 Chron. 12:32) and make the better choice of not replacing the Biblical and traditional use of “mankind” (Job 12:10, 1 Cor. 6:9) with “humankind” in the midst of a “crooked and perverse generation” (Phil. 2:15) that is abandoning God (Rom. 1:21), the Biblical roles for the family, and confusing the genders.

In conclusion, the expression of “humankind” may be regarded as an appropriate synonym for mankind, but it is widely used today in the proliferation of gender-neutral language. Therefore, Christians should reflect on the importance of refraining from the use of this word in their writing and speaking, since it is being used for evil purposes. Remember that we can be up-to-date with the times but not the spirit of the times (1 Cor. 2:12).

As Bible-believing Christians, we cannot remain isolated from the rising tide of homosexual social reconstruction and activism. We need to take a stand against it so that we might promote the righteousness of God and inform sinners of their need to repent. As God’s people, we must make wise choices, “understanding what the will of the Lord is” (Eph. 5:17) and be very careful that we do not follow the ever-swinging pendulum of worldly philosophies and ideas (1 Tim. 6:20). Beware of shifting and drifting! Hebrews 2:1 admonishes us: “Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let *them* slip.”