

A FIELD GUIDE ON



**GENDER AND  
SEXUALITY**

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GENDER AND SEXUALITY**

*A Field Guide on Gender and Sexuality*

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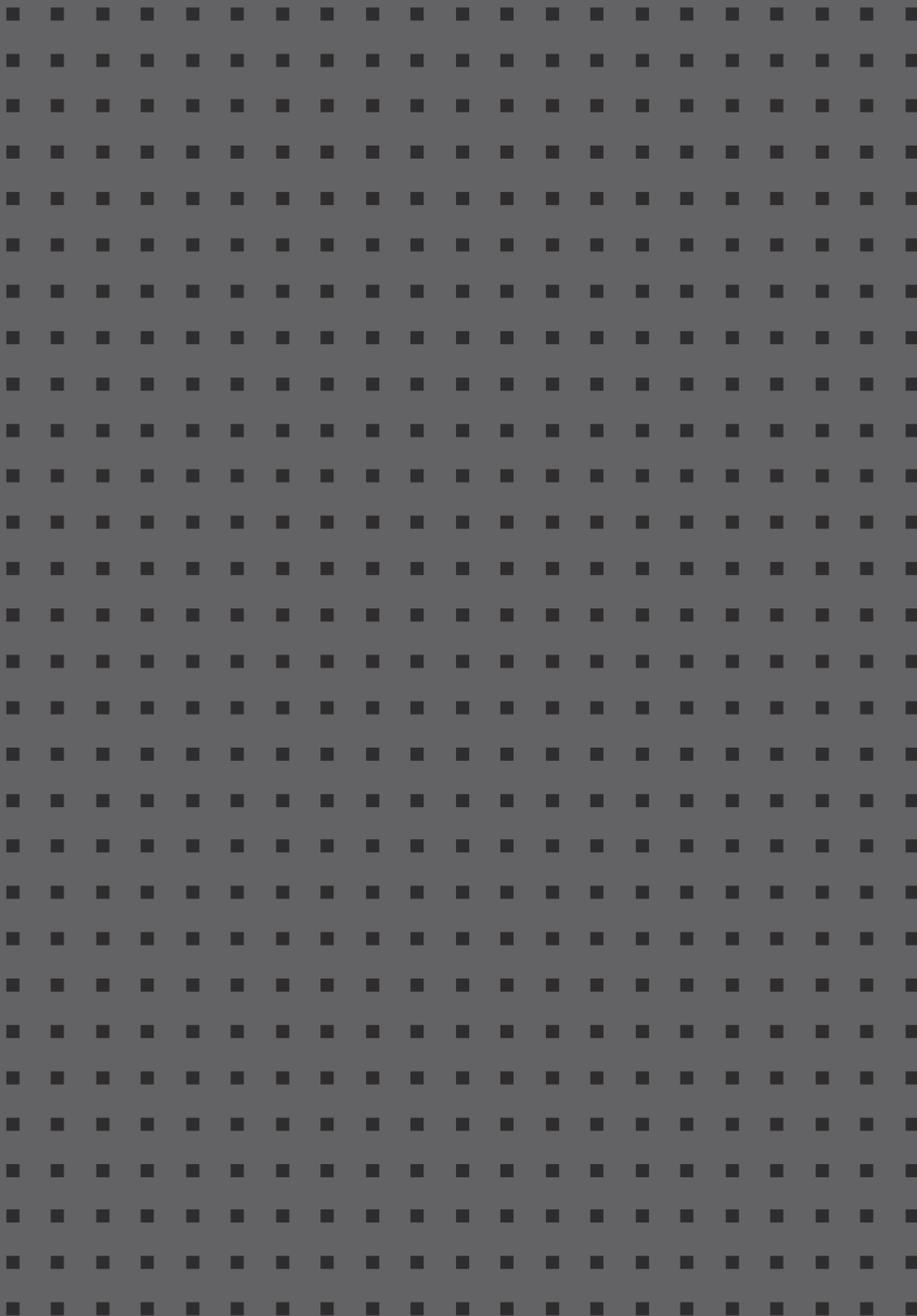
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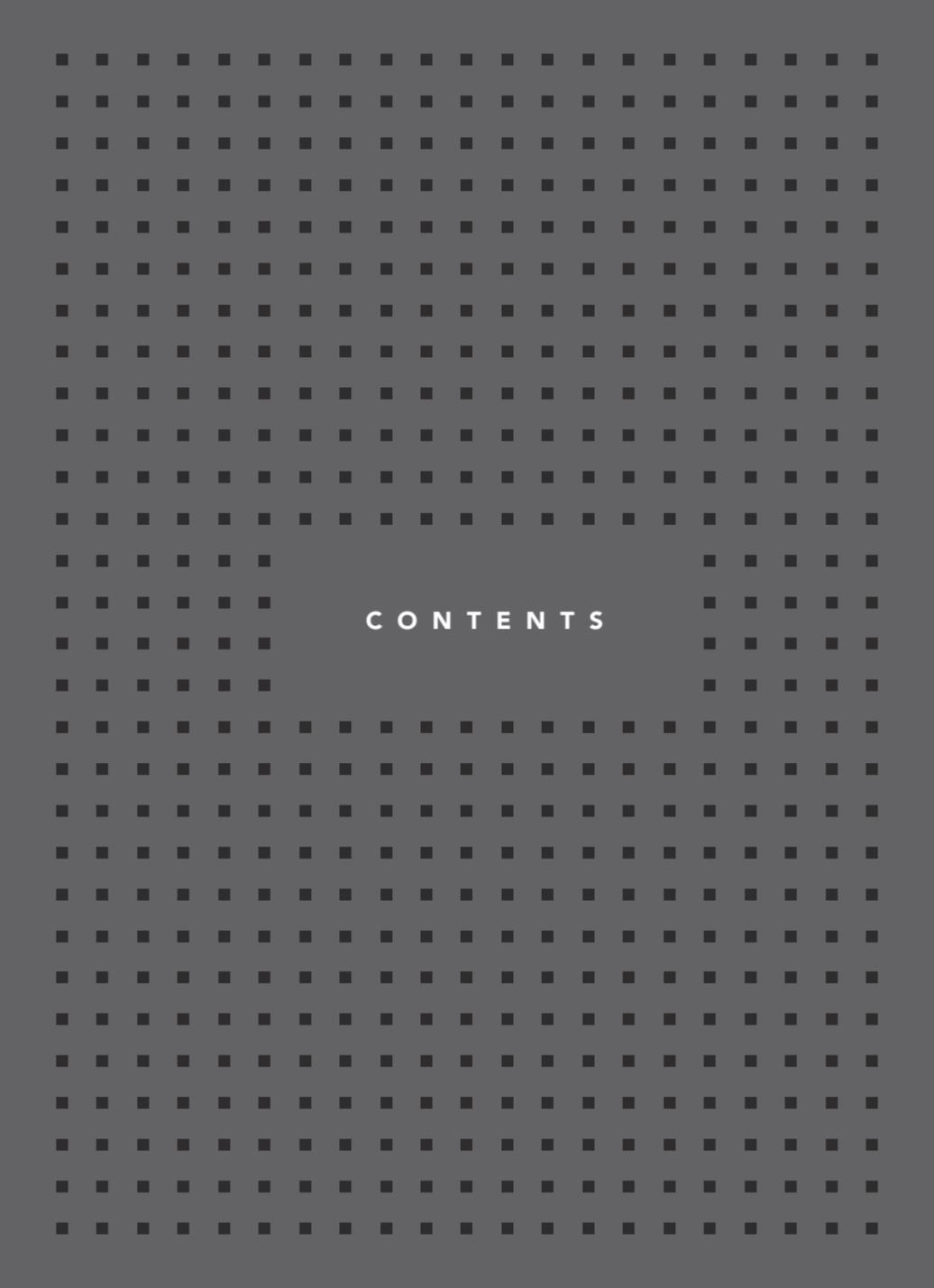
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C O N T E N T S



## I. BEING HUMAN

1. What does it mean to be made  
in the image of God? 5
2. What is sex for? 10
3. Do we create our own identities? 16
4. How do we know there are only  
two genders? What about people  
who are born with ambiguous bodies? 18
5. What should I think when someone  
claims to be a different gender  
than their biological sex? 20
6. Does gender reassignment  
or affirmation surgery actually  
make someone a different sex? 24
7. Is there a difference between one's  
sex and gender? 25

## **II. HOMOSEXUALITY AND TRANSGENDERISM**

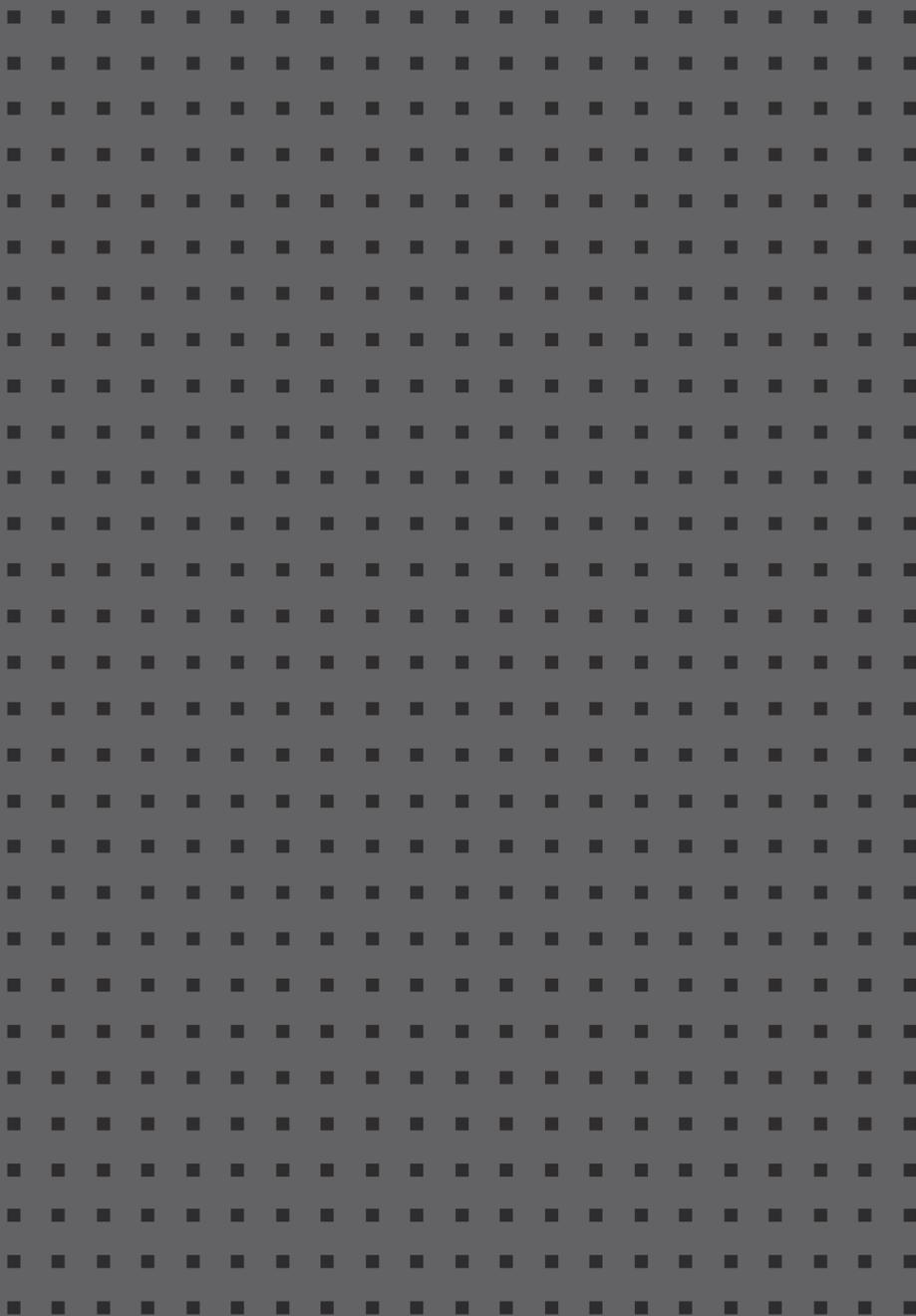
1. Is same-sex attraction a sin? 33
2. What's the difference between  
same-sex attraction and  
same-sex sexual behavior? 37
3. What's the difference between  
gender dysphoria and transgenderism? 39
4. Is it OK to call yourself a "gay Christian"? 44
5. Is homosexual sin worse than other sins? 45
6. Can Christians with same-sex attraction  
expect their desires to change as they  
grow in sanctification? 49
7. What does repentance look like for  
a transgender person? 54

### **III. EVENTS AND ASSOCIATIONS**

1. Can I attend a gay wedding? 61
2. Can I attend the wedding of non-Christians?  
A Christian to a non-Christian? Cohabiting  
people? Someone who's had an  
unbiblical divorce? 65
3. Isn't it more loving to attend a wedding  
even if we disagree with the  
participants' lifestyle? 68
4. Is it OK to use people's preferred  
pronouns? 71
5. How do we know whether something  
is a matter of conscience or a clear  
teaching of Scripture? 73
6. Can I be friends with homosexual  
and transgender people? 77
7. When should a Christian disassociate  
from someone? 82

#### **IV. THE GOSPEL AND LOVE**

1. I've sinned sexually. Is there hope for me? 93
2. What is true "compassion"? 96
3. How can I love family members and friends who identify as LGBTQ without compromising my Christian faith? 101
4. How should I respond if people call me judgmental or bigoted? 104
5. How can Christians serve brothers and sisters in Christ who experience same-sex attraction? 108
6. How can I share the gospel with people who identify as LGBTQ? 114
7. I feel pressure to affirm or participate in the LGBTQ lifestyle. What should I do? 118



I.

BEING  
HUMAN





**THE WORLD** is confused about sex, gender, and identity. Christians have a solid foundation for understanding these subjects, however, because the Bible tells us that we were created by God in His image (Gen. 1:26). Based on Scripture, this section answers questions related to what it means to be human.

BEING HUMAN

# QUESTIONS ANSWERED

## **What does it mean to be made in the image of God?**

To be made in the image of God means that human beings reflect the glory, character, and rule of God in a way that other creatures do not. Therefore, we as human beings have a greater dignity than other creatures. Scripture first mentions human beings in Genesis 1, explaining that God created mankind in His image, both males and females (v. 27). The wider historical context of Genesis and the specific commands given in Genesis 1:26–28 give us the

most important information for understanding what it means to be God's image bearers.

The first readers of the book of Genesis were familiar with images of the king that were used in the surrounding pagan empires. These were statues and other physical depictions of the king, who was often considered to be a god himself as well as an image of the pagan gods. These statues were set up throughout the empire to call attention to the king and to remind people of who was really in charge (e.g., Dan. 3:1–7). In light of this context, that human beings are physical images of the one true God indicates that part of what it means to bear God's image is to show creation that God is King and is to be served. Furthermore, that Scripture views all people as God's image bearers and not just the king, as in the pagan empires, shows that all people have an inherent worth and dignity because all people reflect God. Sin has marred this image, so we do not reflect God as we ought, but the image has not been lost entirely.

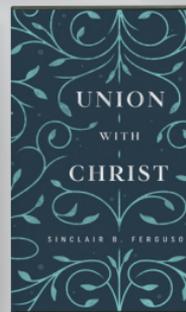
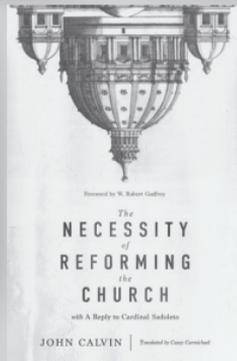
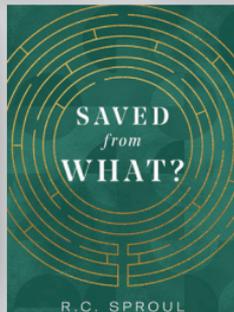
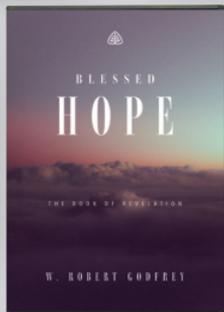
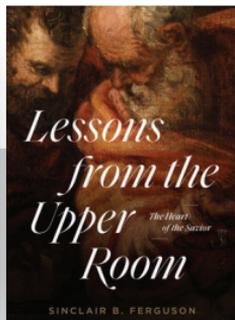
Looking to Genesis 1:26–28, we see that when God created males and females in His image, He also gave

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SO GOD  
CREATED MAN  
IN HIS OWN IMAGE,  
IN THE IMAGE  
OF GOD  
HE CREATED HIM;  
MALE AND FEMALE  
HE CREATED THEM.

GENESIS 1:27

We want to see men and women  
around the world connect the deep truths  
of the Christian faith to everyday life.



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