



 **From a Sacramental to
Mechanistic Worldview:**

**A Brief Look at Gender Theory
and How We Got There**

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We're going to try to do the impossible...

**To get a handle on gender theory and
the thinking behind transgenderism in
15 minutes.**

**How Western culture shifted
from a sacramental
understanding of the world
and human nature to a
mechanistic or scientific
understanding of the world
and human nature.**

**In a sacramental understanding of
the world and human nature**

invisible

spiritual

God

spirituality



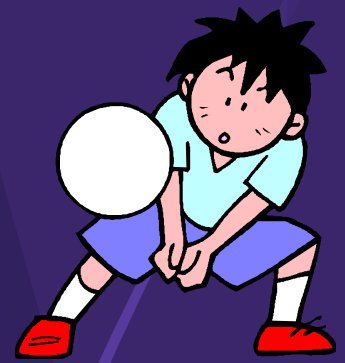
visible

material

body

sexuality

go together!



Through the material world, and especially the human body, we can come to know and encounter God.



THE BODY REVEALS GOD!



If we **only** imaged God through our immaterial, rational soul and the body was irrelevant



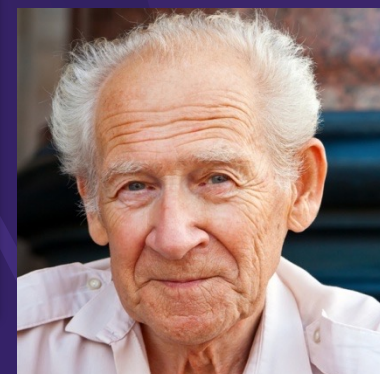
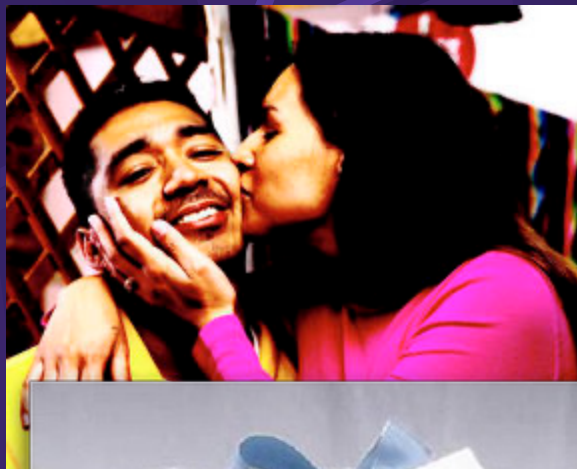
then we could wrap up this conference right now b/c the **body** wouldn't have an earthly or eternal meaning, but only a **function**.





In God's wise, beautiful, and sacramental design, my elbow has an irreplaceable function but no intrinsic meaning.

**But the human body in its totality
is different precisely because the
human body is **personal.****



**My body expresses my person – and my
person is created in the image and likeness
of the Trinitarian God.**



The body is **doubly sacramental!** It is a **visible sign** and expression of my **embodied personhood** and my embodied person is a **visible sign** and expression of the **invisible Trinitarian God.**





Our human identity is a **Sacramental Self** where body and spirit are intimately united and interrelated to form one substantial whole – my embodied person.





**We are a “personal unity of
spirit and body.”
(TOB A52:1)**

This is our *human nature*.

Beginning 500+ years ago...

invisible

spiritual

God

spirituality



visible

material

body

sexuality

**this sacramental understanding of
human nature and the world began to
be dismantled...**

and replaced by a mechanistic or mechanical view of the world.





Take a quick look at 5 key players who helped construct this mechanistic view of the world and the human person over the past 500+ years.

#1 – Rene Descartes



"I think, therefore I am."

- René Descartes

- **Descartes' "thinking" split the immaterial, thinking part of the human person from one's physical body.**
- **The physical body is merely matter occupying space.**
- **What really matters is not matter, but my "Thinking Self."**





identity

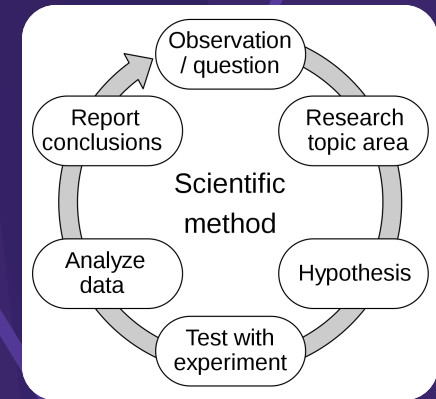
For Descartes, human identity is a **Thinking-Immaterial Self** with no intrinsic relationship to matter.

#2 – Sir Francis Bacon



KNOWLEDGE IS POWER: SIR FRANCIS BACON & THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD

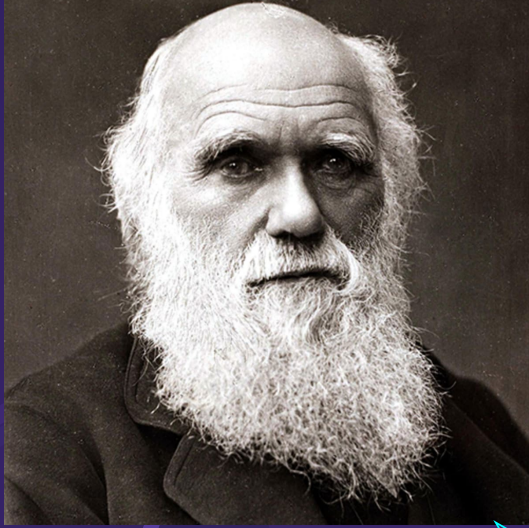
- **“Father” of the scientific experimental method of investigating the world.**
- **Nature should be studied so as to unlock its mathematical secrets and physical laws so we can exercise **power over nature**, to manipulate and change it for the **“betterment of mankind.”****



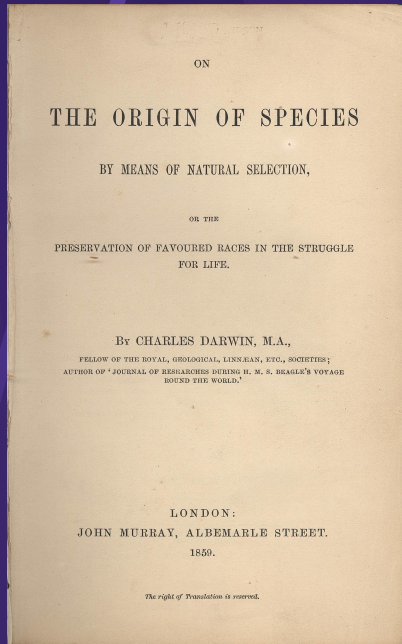


For Bacon, human identity is a **Powerful Self** that exercises mastery and dominion over nature.

#3 - Charles Darwin



➤ Darwin's goal was to establish an “origin of the species” **based only in physical matter** and its **arbitrary** processes.

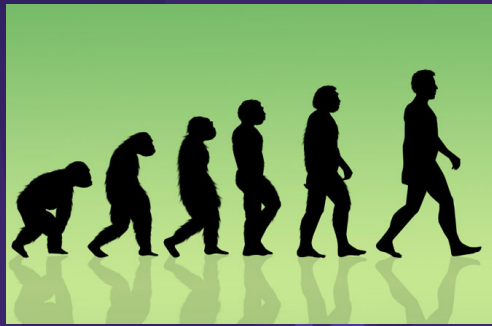


➤ Darwin sought to **delete God** from the mechanistic worldview as the **Watchmaker** who made the mechanical world and then stepped back to let it run on its own.





- Instead, he wanted to enshrine the evolution of matter as the result of **random** processes.
- There is **no** wise and intentional design behind the physical world as we encounter it.
- It evolved one way, but **it easily could have evolved another way.**
- There is **no built-in end or purpose** toward which the world and human existence are journeying.



➤ For Darwin, human identity is an **Evolving Self** with no specific end or purpose. The shape and function of our evolving matter is **arbitrary**.

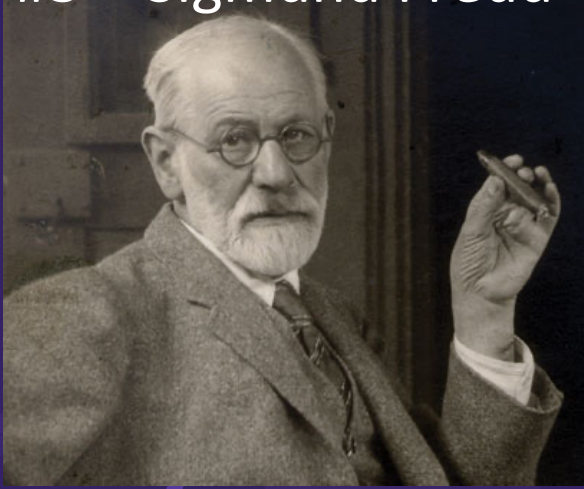
#4 – David Hume



- Replaced the primacy of the intellect with the **primacy of feeling**.
- My **interior world** of emotions and feelings characterizes and **defines who I am**.
- Instead of an Immaterial Thinking Self, human identity is now a **Feeling Self**.

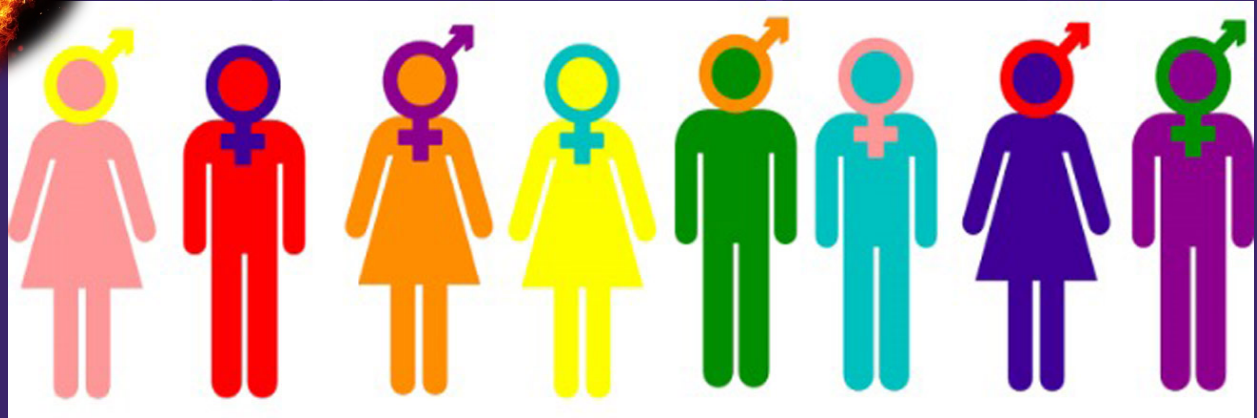


#5 – Sigmund Freud



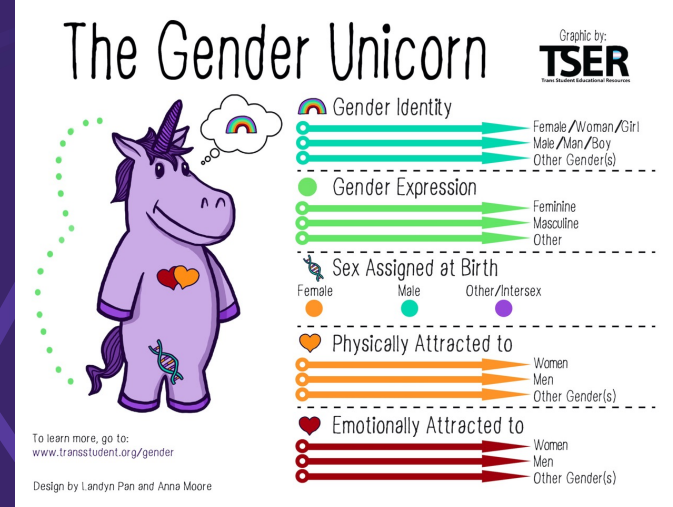
- **The motivation for all human and animal behavior is libido, or sexual desire.**
- **For Freud, human identity is a **Sexual Self.****

DESIRE



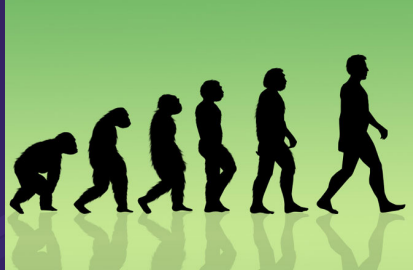
This brief overview sheds light on gender ideology as a **theory of human identity that is fluid, multi-sexual, and unrelated to the given matter of the body, built upon **2 foundation stones...****





- **1) A mechanistic view of nature and human existence in which matter and the material world are arbitrary arrangements of individual parts that can be investigated, manipulated, and changed for our own advantage through science and technology.**





- 2) human identity as an **Immaterial-Powerful-Feeling-Evolving-Sexual Self** who must have the legal “right” to explore and **construct itself** in order to **make one’s own meaning** in the midst of an arbitrary and meaningless world that has no built-in purpose or goal.





**We can clearly see this Immaterial-
Powerful-Feeling-Evolving-Sexual Self
who is the Source of all meaning
articulated 30 years ago...**

- **US Supreme Court decision, “Casey vs. Planned Parenthood” (1992)**
- **“At the heart of liberty is the right to define one's own concept of existence, of meaning, of the universe, and of the mystery of human life.”**
- **To which we can now add the “right” to define one's own concept of marriage and gender.**



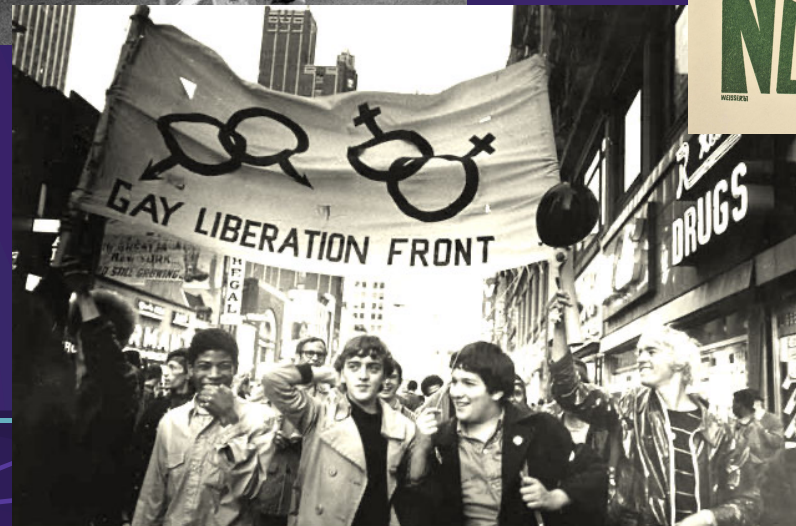
Summarize the often unspoken worldview and philosophical foundations of the LGBTQ+ anthropology:

- Human identity is constantly evolving (Darwin)
- based on one's **interior sense of self** or interior feelings (Descartes-Hume),
- where the “right” to **explore and express** one's Sexual Self (Freud) must not be restricted by any preconceived and **limiting categories** such as male or female or even marriage.
- This Self-Exploration and Self-Expression must be given the **absolute freedom, legal rights, and medical technology** to exercise power over nature (Bacon),
- including over one's “matter” and “material bodily parts” to **achieve the “betterment” of one's human condition**, including being trapped in the wrong body.

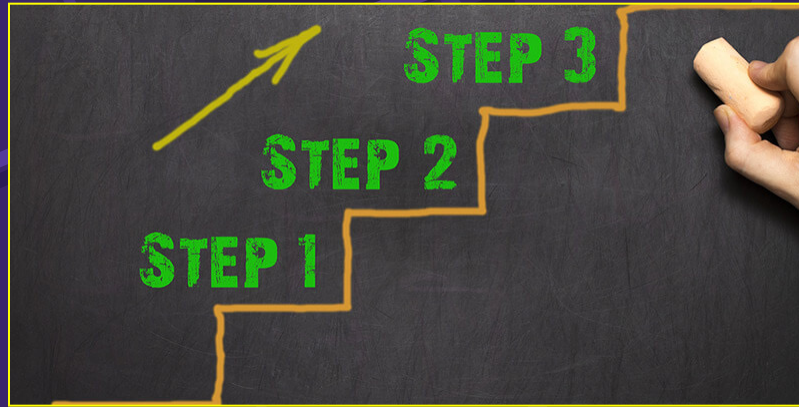


We now have an entire foundation for Western culture built on a faulty, fragmented and reductionistic anthropology and cosmology built up over hundreds of years.

Shift from the theoretical to the practical: How this faulty human anthropology achieved a cultural acceptance through the sexual revolution of the 60s and its aftermath...



What's common to all 3?



- 1) redefining the marital act through contraception;
- 2) redefining marriage by making it non-unitive and non-procreative;
- 3) redefining the human body by making it nongendered.

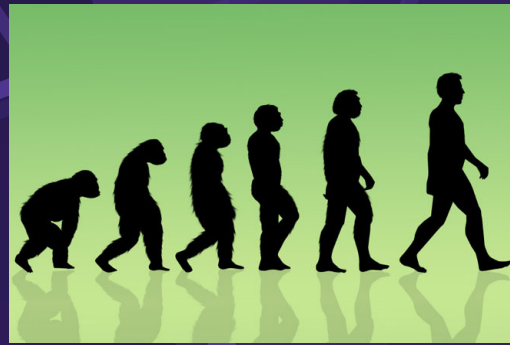
Eliminating the body's unitive and procreative *meanings*.



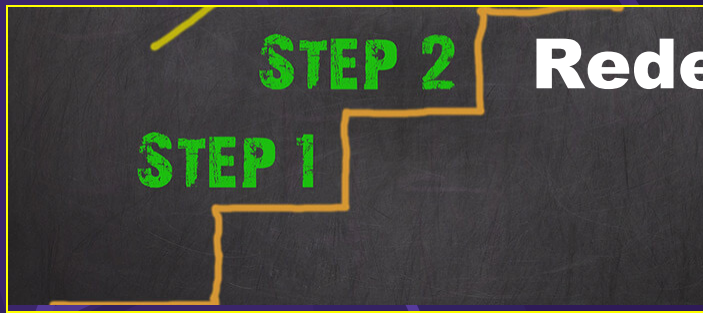
STEP 1

Normalizing Contraception

- By normalizing contraception, the procreative purpose of the sexual act was silenced, allowing **sexual pleasure** to be **pursued for its own sake**.
- Eliminating the procreative meaning eventually resulted in the unitive meaning also slipping away and **pleasurable sexual activity** became the **defining feature** of “sex” so that **pleasurable sexual activity** with the same sex, with oneself, or with multiple partners began to achieve a kind of cultural acceptance.



- By redefining the marital act as a non-procreative and non-unitive “pleasure-producing activity” – unrelated to generating new life or even to a union in one-flesh – **“sexual activity” entered the mechanistic-evolutionary paradigm.**
- Sex was stripped of its dual-significance and became an arbitrary or “free-floating” **pleasure-producing activity** without any built-in parameters, context, or meaning.
- Sexual activity now meant **whatever one wanted it to mean** in that moment and circumstance.



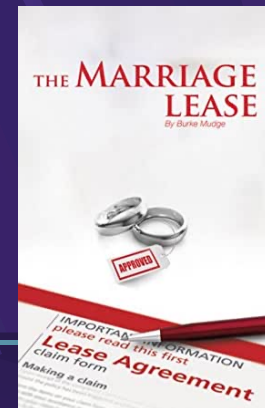
Redefining marriage

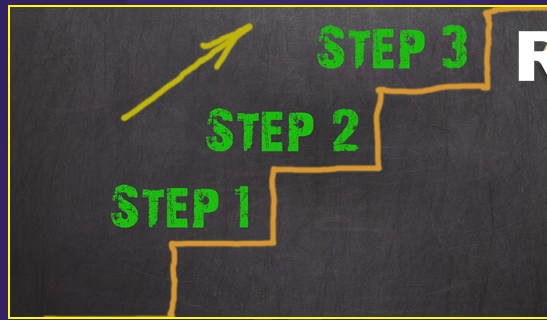
- Since sexual activity no longer possessed an intrinsic procreative or unitive meaning, then defining marriage and conjugal love according to the **binary framework of man and woman** became **irrational** – an embarrassing and unenlightened relic of the past.
- Marriage was recast legally as an **emotional bond between any two individuals**, thus removing the natural limitations that had defined it.

STEP 2 Redefining marriage

STEP 1

- Why should marriage be between only a man and women or between only two individuals?
- Why should this contractual union be permanent and exclusive?
- And why should the State invest in marriage other than to adjudicate its contractual aspects?
- **Marriage** has entered the **mechanistic-evolutionary paradigm.**





Redefining the human body as non-gendered raw material

- If romantic love, marriage, and pleasure-producing sexual activity **only require two bodies** of whatever kind, then ***being male or female has no meaning*** because the body has no meaning.
- The **body only has a function** facilitated by its individual parts that enable the expression of my **Immaterial-Powerful-Feeling-Evolving-Sexual** (maybe) **Self** at that moment.
- The **body** has entered the **mechanistic-evolutionary paradigm**.

The real conflict we face is
a conflict over **MEANING.**





- **Does the world, does the human body, does male and female, does romantic love, does the conjugal embrace have a built-in meaning or are they only functional so that I can inject my own meaning into them?**

NO!





- **These realities are drenched with objective meaning.**
- **The shape and purpose of our embodiment as male or female is not arbitrary.**
- **We are structured and created for a unitive love that is life-giving.**

Why?



- Because the **human body** is a **visible, sacramental sign** of the **inner life of the Trinity** and **Christ's love for the Church**, both of which **ARE a unitive love that is life-giving.**
- **Cancel or delete the shape and purpose of the human body as M/F and marriage as a unitive love that is life-giving and you've deleted the primary way God intends us to know His love through a one-flesh union that is life-giving.**

What's our goal?



To ransom human nature from this faulty anthropology and a false account of human identity *and* rebuild a sacramental understanding of the world and of human nature where...

invisible

spiritual

God

spirituality

visible

material

body

sexuality



go together!



ACCOMPLISHED!

Ask Me A Question



It's Free



THE FOCUSING QUESTION:

What is the meaning and purpose of human embodiment?



Why did God create us male and female?