

Sexual Identity

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Sexual identity first shows up in the Bible at the moment of the creation of human beings: “So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them” (Gn 1:27). Scripture presents sexual identity as a fundamental quality of the image of God in the human race which gives humans the capacity to relate to one another, multiply, exercise dominion, and play complementary roles as stewards of God’s creation (Gn 1:27–31). Sexual differentiation is not exclusive to human beings, as it appears all throughout creation, yet God seems to be uniquely involved in the formation, care, and value of all human beings and their sexuality from the moment of conception. Psalm 139 bears witness to this divine care: “For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.... Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book...” (vv. 13, 16).

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