

D. Sharon Pruitt Pink Sherbet Photography/Moment/Getty Images



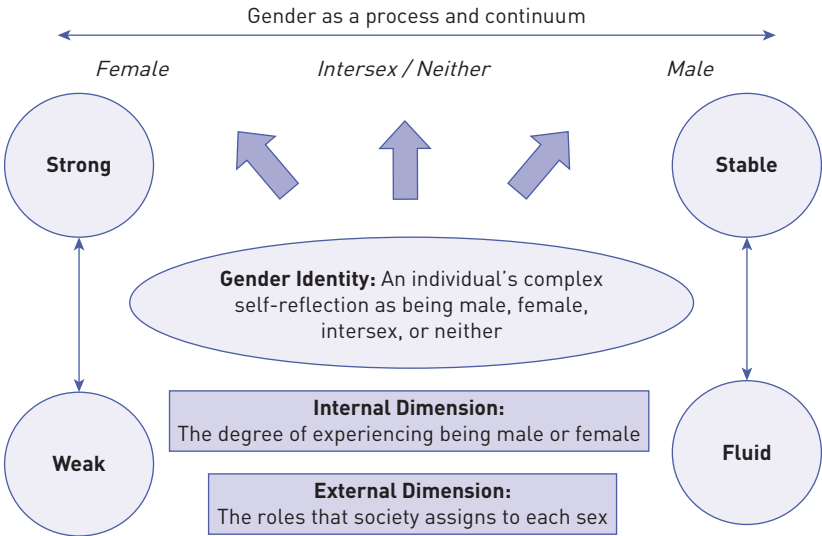
Photo 11.1 From birth, human beings are typically expected to match the behavior and other standards of the assigned sex. Why is it (or isn't it) important to maintain such standards in the 21st century?



TABLE 11.1 ● Traditional and Changing Sex Categories

Traditional Categories	New Categories	
Male, female	Three	Five
	Female, intersex, male	Female, “leaning” female, neither, “leaning” male, male

FIGURE 11.1 ● An Individual’s Gender Identity as a Process



CHECK AND APPLY YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. Define *sex* and *intersex* as categories.
2. What is an individual's gender identity and who (what) determines it?
3. What are gender roles?
4. Explain the term *gender nonconforming* and why you are personally gender-conforming or not. Can it be somewhere in the middle of the spectrum?

TABLE 11.2 ● A Comparative Summary of Gender Differences in Personality Traits

Dimensions	Women Compared to Men	Men Compared to Women
Extroversion	Higher scores	Lower scores
Agreeableness	Higher scores	Lower scores
Neuroticism	Higher scores	Lower scores
Conscientiousness	Lower scores	Higher scores
Openness	No differences	No differences
Neuroticism	Higher scores	Lower scores
Psychoticism	Lower scores	Higher scores

CHECK AND APPLY YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. Explain the natural dominance of the male paradigm.
2. What are the key differences between the traditional and evolving views of the sexes?
3. What is androcentrism?
4. Explain ambivalent prejudice.
5. What are the main assumptions of feminism?
6. Explain the variability hypothesis.
7. Explain the gender similarities hypothesis.

TABLE 11.3 ● Traditional Cultural and Legal Views of Sexual Orientation

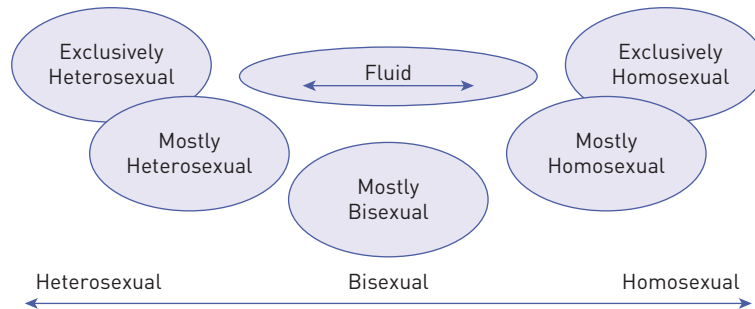
Sexual Orientation	Legal Status	Moral Status	Medical Status	Social View
Heterosexual	Legal	Acceptable within marriage	Normal	Normal
Nonheterosexual (homosexual or bisexual)	Illegal, criminal	Unacceptable	Abnormal	Prejudiced, discriminated against



© iStockphoto.com/Bastiaan Slabbers

Photo 11.2 Despite significant changes in attitudes, the LGBT community faces significant prejudice around the world. Homosexuality remains criminalized in many countries. What do you think motivates some people to maintain such strict views of gender or sexual orientation?

FIGURE 11.2 ● A Spectrum of the Individual Sexual Orientations



CHECK AND APPLY YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. Behavior considered normal, abnormal, illegal, or acceptable has changed throughout history. This probably means that some of today's definitions of *normal* and *abnormal* in our behavior may no longer be valid a few years from now. Which types of behavior (if any) that we consider abnormal (or pathological) today do you think future generations will consider acceptable or even normal? Explain your view.
2. Consider a woman wearing her brother's T-shirt for a workout and a man wearing his sister's leggings for the same workout. What kind of comments can they both expect behind their backs at the gym? How would you respond to these comments if you heard them?



© iStockphoto.com/Robert Carner

Photo 11.3 Many people still have stereotypical expectations about "male" and "female" professions. Name some of these stereotypes. What can be done to reduce them?

Visual Review

