

We've Got Issues 3

Transgenderism

Racial conflicts in America – Another terrorist attack in Nice France – A failed Coup attempt in Turkey – The republican convention begins tomorrow and violent protest are expected.

FOUR days ago a transgender woman named Shauna Smith who was born a male named Shawn Smith, was caught secretly videoing a teenage girl in an Idaho Target dressing room while she was trying on swimming suits. He admits to making videos and finding them sexually pleasing.

Remember it was Target stores that celebrated inclusivity and encouraged transgender people to use the bathrooms and dressing rooms of their choice.

“Talking to your Children about Transgender Issues”

Just in case you think that church is not the place to talk about such issues, I want you to know that I feel just the opposite. In fact, our God is the creator of all life and He has a lot to say about human sexuality in the Bible.

Besides this, they are talking this just about everywhere. In the media, in the political races, and just about everywhere our children live. On television and in our elementary schools...

- In a kindergarten class recently: An adult from a transgender-advocacy group reads aloud a book called *My Princess Boy*—about a boy who likes to wear dresses—to a kindergarten class.
- Another school last year sent out a notice to parents that an elementary-age student who went to school as a boy the previous year will now be returning as a girl.
- Last year in Louisville - A freshman high school student—who was born male but identified as female—had received permission from a principal, to use the girls' restroom and locker room, prompting concerns among students and parents about privacy issues. After polling the public and holding several public hearings, the school's decision-making council voted 8-1 to implement a policy fully supporting the transgender student.

What about Churches? Just last week in the state of Iowa the Iowa Civil Rights Commission sent out a brochure informing churches they we are now required to allow trans genders access to the bathroom in which they identify during any event when the public has access. They also warned that if anyone used the wrong pronoun (inconsistent with a person's presented gender) while on the church grounds when speaking to a trans gender it would be considered harassment.

“It doesn't take a law degree to see how the application of this law can be a threat to religious liberty,” Family Research Council (FRC) President Tony Perkins said in a statement. “I don't know about you, but most church services I have attended were open to the public.”

“If pastors don't stand up now, they may soon have to break the law in order to preach the Word,” the Family Policy Institute of Washington said in a statement.

The Iowa Civil Rights Commission announced Friday that it amended its “Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity Public Accommodations ” brochure, which now states that “Places of worship are generally exempt from the Iowa law’s prohibition of discrimination, unless the place of worship engages in non-religious activities that are open to the public. For example, the law may apply to an independent day care or polling place located on the premises of the place of worship.”

Note: I want the congregation to see why we have established a membership policy and why we have determined that all activities on the property must fit within our religious mission of: Winning the Lost; Making Disciples; Raising up the Next Generation of Leaders.

Transgenderism in America

The Big View of Transgender Activism

Transgender Directive: On May 13th President Obama and the DOE sent out his threatening transgender directive to public schools and colleges across the nation. Basically, he demanded schools that receive federal funding to open up their restrooms, locker rooms and showers to students who believe they are the opposite sex – or lose your federal funding.

The Danger is Real: did you know that on the very same day that news of this letter was released, we learned that an 8-year-old girl in Chicago was brutally attacked inside a woman’s restroom by a man. The youngster was choked and dragged unconscious into a stall before her mother, responding to the sound of screams, raced inside to investigate.

“This horrific story highlights the common sense concern that violent predators will exploit these kinds of opportunities in showers and bathrooms.

Desperate action of our Activist President: Our president and the Gay Rights activist care more about their agenda than the rights of parents and the protection of our children.

In a letter to one of our church members, Tennessee State Representative Susan Lynn has it right when she says we have a radical president who together with other activist are trying to get our liberal courts to define “sex” the way they see it.

Lynn goes on to say that in 2013 “the activist were successful at getting GID (Gender Identity Disorder) removed as a psycholological disorder and replaced instead with “Gender Dysphoria” which is a condition that describes the distress the individual feels over not being accepted by others as the same sex he or she perceives himself or herself to be”

She thinks the goal of this agenda is to identify these children as young as possible so that hormonal treatment from activist doctors can begin to feminize or masculinize these poor confused children. If a child makes it through puberty on hormone treatment they will be disfigured for life. They will not after develop as God intended them too be.

No one concerned about opening up bathrooms and showers to the opposite sex is questioning the worth and value of young people who struggle with their gender identity.

They should be protected from harm and harassment, and treated with the utmost compassion.

But this can and should be done without sacrificing commonsense policies that protect all children.

Normalizing Transgenderism Turns Order to Chaos

- 1) As Christians, our starting point for understanding human sexuality is scripture.
- 2) God brings order to creation through separation.
 - a) The separations at creation include (Genesis 1): heaven and earth, light and dark, day and night, morning and evening, clouds and seas, and water and dry land. There is a separation of the plants, the seasons and all the living creatures found in the seas, the land and the air.
 - i) BTW, the word often translated as "holy" in our English Bibles carries the sense of being "set apart" (separated) unto the Lord.

Therefore, it is not a stretch for us to recognize that these separations represent a consecrated and holy ordering, which at its essence reflects a setting apart unto the Creator God of the Universe.
 - ii) In Genesis 1:26, the first Humans are created separate from the animals. But we are also told that there is a separation of mankind into two sexes—male and female very different and complementary.

The union of male and female producing a new life does in some way reflect the image of God.
 - b) Satan will do everything he can to destroy the image of God and one way he does it as by distorting the glory of being created wholly male and/or wholly female.

TRAINING OUR CHILDREN

Grace and Truth

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Gender identity disorder is real and it is tough for adults to understand. So when our children encounter gender-confusing messages, what do we say?

How do we help them develop a biblical, Christian perspective on this issue?

- 1) Speak Truth-filled Wisdom into Your Children.
 - a) Keep it Simple

- i) First of all, psychiatrists have very little concrete understanding as to what causes gender confusion and if the experts are confused then you and I should feel pressured to be able to explain it all.
- ii) You are an authority in the home and your kids are looking to you for guidance.
- iii) Five simple truths:
 - (1) God made humans male and female.
 - (2) Individuals are born either male or female.
 - (3) Some people get hurt and confused, and they don't like the way God made them.
 - (4) As a result, some people wish they were the opposite sex.
 - (5) Nobody can really change from one sex to the other.

Note: what about birth defects? There is a birth defect that can cause someone to be born with both sets of sex chromosomes. However, these instances are extremely rare and in puberty one of the sets of chromosomes often becomes dominant which causes the characteristics of the other sex to recede.

b) Keep it Biblical

Five Biblical Truths for Gender Confused People (SLIDE)

- i) God made us in His image – male and female.
(Genesis 1:27, 5:2; Matthew 19:4; Mark 10:6.)
- ii) Sin entered the world and spoiled everything, including how we see ourselves.
(Matthew 15:19; Romans 3:23, 5:12-13.)
- iii) Some people get really hurt and confused as they grow up.
(Romans 1:19-31; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11.)
- iv) God loves us and sent us Son to save us. (from our hurt and confusion)
(John 1:1-14, 29; 1 Timothy 1:15; 1 John 2:2.)
- v) God can bring healing and truth to those who are hurt.
(2 Corinthians 5:17; 1 Peter 2:24)

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come

1 Peter 2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

God wants us to live in truth about how He created us and who we are. **We know God is powerful to save and transform lives – including the gender-confused.** Tell your children this truth.

2) Speak Grace-filled Wisdom into Your Children.

a) Keep it Kind

- i) God has a deep love for sexually and relationally broken men and women – including those struggling with gender identity issues.
 - (1) This topic can provoke some to laughter or mockery. In the past, seeing a grown man dressed up like a woman was a joke. The things we are dealing with now is no joke.
 - (2) There are many people who hate themselves and in their minds if they could be someone else they might find peace.

This is a deception that Satan will exploit more and more in these last days.

- ii) Our children and our friends are watching us for cues about on how to respond to gender identity disorder. Pray for God's heart and for the ability to convey this to your children.

iii) **Tone and attitude are as important as your words:**

Galatians 4:5,6 Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. **6** Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

- (1) God loves all of us and He loves men who wish they were women, as well as women who think they are men.
- (2) We may disagree with someone's beliefs and choices; however, we can still be kind and loving.
- (3) We can pray for those who are gender-confused.

b) Keep it Affirming

When children see a transgender person on the news or on the street, they may feel curious, alarmed, confused or afraid. So, when they ask questions about it, they're not just asking for details about transgenderism. They're also asking for comfort and affirmation.

- i) Words of Affirmation:
 - (1) I'm so glad God made you a girl!
 - (2) I'm happy you're my child and that you're a boy.
 - (3) What's good about being a girl?
 - (4) What's good about being a boy?
- ii) **Ask the Lord for wisdom and creativity for how best to affirm your sons in their masculinity and your daughters in their femininity.**

c) Keep an Open Dialogue

As I mentioned at the beginning of my talk. Transgender issues are here to stay.

There are eager medical activist that can't wait to begin hormone treatments some confused little kids. And, there are parents who think its modern and cool and they are treating their kids gender confusion as if it's a gift. They are telling children there is nothing wrong with them except they are in the wrong body.

When children ask questions, use the occasion to connect with them. Find out *what* they are learning, *where* they learned it and *what* they are thinking. Ask questions, such as:

Where did you see that? Where did you hear that word? Why do you think God made both boys and girls? What do you think "transgender" means?

Here are a couple of more resources from Focus on the Family:

- * *Equipping Parents to Respond to Gender-Confusing Messages in Schools*
- * *Empowering Parents: A How-to Guide for Protecting Your Child's Innocence and Your Family's Values in Public Schools*

Some notes were compiled from Focus on the Family – Thriving Family Resources and Jeff Johnson