

Transgenderism

Rob Willey 12-2-16; Harvest Bible Chapel-Davenport

Ps 139:13-16; From time to time there are cultural issues that are of such magnitude and concern, that they beg to be addressed from the pulpit; And transgenderism is the latest A topic making headlines these days b/c of celebrity sex changes, court battles, government edicts, and restroom usage

In fact, with Bruce Jenner's appearance on the cover of Vanity Fair last year, and the proliferation of sympathetic books and TV shows . . .

There's a societal push to normalize and even celebrate it; So respond we must

And just to be clear, my purpose is not to address every aspect of this; For instance, I'm not speaking to those who *struggle* with transgenderism; Not primarily Nor am I talking about the ways we can and should *help* them if they desire it Rather, I'm speaking to the *church*, and our culture at large; Those in Christ who want to live and think biblically, and those in society who want to lead a quiet & peaceable life And my purpose is to inform your thinking, solidify your convictions, fortify your courage, fuel your prayers, and encourage your response; That's my purpose

➤ So let's start with a definition – *Transgenderism is the expression of a feeling, that your gender does not correspond to your sex*

That the way you feel in your masculinity or femininity, does not jive with your anatomy; And instead of conforming your feelings to your *appearance* . . .

You try to conform your *appearance* to your feelings; That's transgenderism

And as such, it's wrong; That's the 1st thought I want to commend to you

Transgenderism is unbiblical and sinful

That's not to say that people who feel that way or act that way are beyond God's *love*

It's to say that such things are wrong in God's eyes, and apart from the redeeming blood of Jesus, they won't escape the final judgment

Just like people who continue in *any* kind of sin; Here's why; 8 reasons

1. It's contrary to God's design for humanity (Gen 1:27)

God said in **Gen 1:26** – *Let us make man in our image, after our likeness*; An early allusion to the Trinity and the characteristics thereof, that he gave us

V27 – *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.* Male and female

God made 2 genders, not 3, 4, or more; With distinct roles and unique characteristics, as the rest of Scripture describes and assumes*****

A design transgenderism *blurs*, and even tries to reverse; Making it unbiblical and sinful

2. It opposes God's design for you (Ps 139:13-16; 1 Cor 7:17)

Ps 139:13-16 ; After just saying to God – “You know me and you're with me” . . .

David says in v13 – *For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. [14] I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. [God's amazing design of his body was recognized/familiar] [15] My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth [a poetic way of referring to the womb]. [16] Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.*

It's David's confession on our behalf, that God designed us and made us; Uniquely and individually; *Fearfully and wonderfully* (14)

And based on **1 Cor 7:17**, we are to live accordingly; *Let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him.*

From the days that God wrote and ordained for us, to the gender he assigned to us, we are to live accordingly; Especially so, in light of **Is 45:9**

Woe to him who strives with him who formed him; As in pitied and judged is the person who opposes God's design for them; It's wrong

3. It's confusing, and God is not a God of confusion (1 Cor 14:33)

Which is stated explicitly in 1 Cor 14; And demonstrated *throughout* the Scriptures; In all *kinds* of situations; God is not a god of confusion

4. It makes provision to gratify the desires of your flesh (Rom 13:14)

Rom 13:14 says – *Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.* Which transgenderism is fundamentally about

It's about making provision for the flesh, and gratifying a person's desires*****

The end result of which is a *war against your soul*; That's how Peter says it (1 Pet 2:11)

Which explains why those who indulge in it, suffer so much

5. It exchanges God's glory for man's (Rom 1:22-23)

And that comes from Romans 1; After saying that there are some who reject God and become darkened in their heart, Paul says in v22 . . .

Claiming to be wise, they became fools, [23] and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

The 5th reason that transgenderism is unbiblical and sinful, is that it exchanges God's glory for *man's*; Claiming to be wise, people change *their* appearance . . .

To resemble someone they weren't *created* to be; IOW they exchange the image of God in which they were *made*, for an image of someone else

6. It dishonors the body God gave you (Rom 1:24)

[24] *Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts* [referring to those who reject him] *to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves*

Transgenderism, just like homosexuality, dishonors the body God gave you

Which God *lets* people do, v25 – *because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.* You know what that is? Narcissism

And the 7th reason transgenderism is unbiblical and sinful

7. It's narcissistic, worshipping and serving yourself (Rom 1:25)

Doing what *you* want with your body and life instead of what God wants

And then 8th . . .

8. It's unnatural and dishonorable (Rom 1:26-27)

[26] *For this reason* [b/c of their narcissism and rejection of God] *God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature [Like becoming a man, or trying to, and indulging with another*

woman; It's unnatural]; [27] and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error [shameless acts like becoming a woman, and indulging with another man].

It doesn't just apply to homosexuality, but *any* kind of dishonorable passion; *Any* kind of unnatural behavior as God has designed you

So no matter how you look at it, transgenderism is unbiblical and sinful (**Summary**)

That's the first thing you need to settle, and solidify in your heart and mind

➤The 2nd is this . . .

Legitimizing gender preference is irrational and harmful

I'm talking about the cultural push, and the thinking behind it, to *normalize* a person's desire to be the opposite sex

Saying that it's perfectly *legitimate* to do so; Perfectly healthy

Choose whatever gender you want, or no gender at all; It's all good

And quite frankly, it's ludicrous; Flat-out irrational

B/c first of all . . .

• **It's a denial of reality**

Your sex is your gender, and your gender is your sex; Period

Just b/c our culture has separated those things in the last few years, and tried to make them independent of one another, doesn't make it true

You may not have a *sense* of your masculinity or femininity, but it doesn't change the fact that you are one or the other, male or female

And to say otherwise, to say that it's perfectly *legitimate* for a person to prefer and identify as a gender other than their anatomy, is a denial of reality

Take the example of **Paul Wolscht**; A 46 year old man who was married and had 6 kids a few years back; But after 2 suicide attempts, a struggle with depression . . .

And an introduction to the transgender community – he decided (**photo**) that he was really a 6 year old girl; Not a 46 year old girl, but a 6 year old; Kid you not

And he not only began to dress, talk, and act like one – but found an older couple who actually took him in as their “granddaughter;” You couldn't make these things up

It's like they're playing house; It's a denial of reality, and irrational to the core

But that's just the tip of the iceberg*****

It gets worse when you consider the claim that gender can be *fluid*

As in . . .

• **It can change**

From one day to the next if you so desire

Or, you can be both genders at the same time – bi-gender

Or gender-neutral – no gender at all; Or pan-gender – all genders at once; Or gender-queer – a combination of multiple genders, but not all, fixed *or* fluid; It's irrational

And not just b/c it can change, but b/c . . .

• **It's confusing**

Made worse by the fact that Facebook now offers 58 different gender options; 58; And 70 in the UK; No idea; And some people even object to that, b/c they say . . .

There's an *unlimited* number of genders; Many of which are yet un-named, un-labeled, or unidentified; It's confusing

Making it even *more* irrational to legitimize it as normal and healthy

And then there's the fact that . . .

• **It's arbitrary**

Totally self-determined, and based entirely on how you *feel*; No defining or observable characteristics necessary

And no need to worry about being questioned, examined, or scrutinized

If you say it, that settles it; That's what our government just said to every school district in the nation; In addition to their edict, that separate or *neutral* bathrooms are no good

Students should be able to self-identify, and use the restroom of their choice

Which makes laws and distinctions that are dependent on physical features, completely meaningless; Like restroom labels

If your gender is no longer tied to your anatomy and biology, and people can self-identify as any gender they want, *any time* they want . . .

Then signs on public restrooms are completely meaningless

And make no mistake, that's not where it stops; This kind of irrational thinking has implications for the military, our court system, the workplace, women's rights . . .

Child protections, education, sports, churches, and the list goes on and on and on

The likes of which we can't even imagine, let alone anticipate; It's irrational

And not just b/c it's arbitrary, or fluid, or confusing, but b/c . . .

• **It's inconsistent**

Think about it; What would prevent Paul, the man who identifies as a 6 year old girl, from enrolling in 1st grade? And using the girls bathroom with the other 1st graders?

If we legitimize his desire to be a girl when he's a man, and his desire to be 6 when he's 46, why not legitimize his desire to be a 1st grader . . .

When he's already graduated from High School?

And the next year, identifying as a 13 year old, and playing girls basketball?

If your gender is no longer determined by your anatomy, why should your grade be determined by your years? Or your ethnicity by your lineage?

Like when Rachel Dolezal was fired from the NAACP last year, for being a white woman who claimed to be black? It's inconsistent

And for that matter, why should your Social Security benefits be determined by your age? Or your height by your inches? Or your weight by your pounds?

In which case, life insurance companies would have a hard time refusing coverage for an overweight 50 year old, who feels like a teenager and thinks they're thin

If *gender* isn't tied to facts, then how can you legitimately draw the line on anything else? You can't; Not if you're consistent; Making it all the more irrational

And last here . . .

• **It's special pleading**

Arguing for something on the basis of special criteria, that don't apply across the board

This is where you get into some of the more technical and nuanced arguments for transgenderism

Like the rare cases of babies born with ambiguous genitalia or chromosomal disorders

The thinking goes like this: Because *some* people are born with intersex conditions, and their gender is not easily determined by their biological makeup . . .

Therefore the gender of *all* people is ambiguous and isn't determined by their sexual anatomy; That's one of the arguments; And it's special pleading; B/c . . .

1. Exceptions never prove a rule or generalization; Except that sometimes there are exceptions to rules
If exceptions *did* prove rules, all rules would be meaningless and there wouldn't be any
For instance, as a general rule, driving in a car is safe. Rare occurrences of accidents don't disprove that; Nor do they prove that *all* driving is hazardous
It's special pleading
2. Saying that dual chromosomes in a few, shows that gender is ambiguous for *all*, is like saying that albinism in a few, lacking skin pigmentation . . .
Shows that *race* is ambiguous for all
Or, that rare disease shows that *health* is ambiguous for all; When nothing could be further from the truth

Rare deformities or disorders, like dual chromosomes, do not negate the norm
Nor do they contradict the conclusions demonstrated by the overwhelming majority – that our gender is determined by our sex at birth
To say otherwise is special pleading

3. Ambiguous genitalia is extremely rare, and dual chromosomes even more so
From what I can gather, the frequency ranges from .018% to .06% of the population (see below); *Whatever* the numbers are . . .
They don't disprove the fact that the vast majority of the population is clearly born male or female, as determined and shown by their anatomy and chromosomes

➤The point is this: disorders or deformities do not show that gender is ambiguous or separate from a person's anatomy and biology
Nor do they indicate a mistake on God's part

Rather, they show that we live in a fallen world, and that sometimes God allows or ordains its ill-effects to adversely affect us for reasons we often can't discern
But that doesn't change the fact that he works all things together for good for those who love him and are called according to his purpose (Rom 8:28)
And, that he uses hardship to reveal his glory in ways we might not otherwise have seen

So once again, legitimizing gender preference, is irrational (Summary)

➤But the worst part, is that it's **harmful**; Especially to our young people
The American College of Pediatricians, a socially conservative association of healthcare professionals, **says this**:
Conditioning children into believing a lifetime of chemical and surgical impersonation of the opposite sex is normal and healthful is child abuse. Endorsing gender

discordance [gender preference] as normal via public education and legal policies will confuse children and parents, leading more children to present to "gender clinics" where they will be given puberty-blocking drugs. This, in turn, virtually ensures that they will "choose" a lifetime of carcinogenic and otherwise toxic cross-sex hormones, and likely consider unnecessary surgical mutilation of their healthy body parts as young adults.

Legitimizing gender preference is harmful to the core, and child abuse

(<https://blogs.thegospelcoalition.org/justintaylor/2016/03/18/8-points-from-the-american-college-of-pediatricians-on-gender-identity-and-children/>)

And according to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of the American Psychiatric Association, the *standard* in the industry . . .

“As many as 98% of gender confused boys and 88% of gender confused girls eventually accept their biological sex after naturally passing through puberty.” (see blog above)

Which means that *legitimizing* their confusion, and even encouraging it, is on par with the *worst* of history's medical experiments; Harmful and shameful in every sense****

➤And it's not just limited to teenagers

According to a 30 year study done in Sweden, which by the way, is among the most accepting and affirming countries in the world when it comes to transgenderism . . .

“Rates of suicide [and I quote] are twenty times greater among adults who use cross-sex hormones and undergo sex reassignment surgery.” 20 times

What compassionate and reasonable person would subject people to such risks?

Only someone who's clouded in their judgment, and irrational to the core

And then 3rd . . .

Accommodating transgenderism is unwise and unthinkable

And that's the issue, isn't it? That we *cater* to the wishes of transgenders; By opening up our restrooms, locker rooms, dorm rooms, and everything else

Which not only violates our *conscience*, regarding purity and modesty

And threatens our *privacy* among those of the opposite sex

But worst of all, undermines the *safety* of women and children; Giving predators and voyeurs a free pass to peep, prey, and pursue

• **Consider the stats**

On the one hand, somewhere between .005% and .3% of the population identifies as transgender (**.005% – .3%**)

The first number is based on professional *diagnoses*, and the 2nd includes a wide *spectrum* of respondents; From those who say . . .

They have transgender *thoughts* from time to time, to those who have had *surgery*
Either way, .005% or .3%, it's a miniscule number

On the other hand, studies indicate that somewhere between 7.7% and 22.7% of men, are voyeuristic (**7.7% – 22.7%**); Peeping Toms

The first number coming from *another* study in Sweden, that also concluded it occurs up to 150 times more frequently than police reports indicate . . .

And the 2nd, from a study that was done pre-internet; Which means the number is probably higher, b/c viewing pornography is the leading *indicator* of voyeurism

(<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Voyeurism>)

➤What the number is, I don't know; But even using the most *conservative* estimates . . .

It's *unthinkable* to subject our women and children to such people, and undermine their safety; Which opening our restrooms does . . .

By allowing anyone to self-identify as the opposite sex, any time they want, in order to gain access; It's unwise, and foolish*****

And even more so, when you consider that 1 in 5 women have *already* been sexually abused in our society; And for them, the mere *presence* of a biological man . . .

In a private setting, causes severe emotional and mental distress

Making it absolutely *unthinkable* to accommodate *any* percentage of transgender people, let alone a miniscule one; It's like the brains have left our country

➤ And please, please don't say this is far-fetched

Referring to the risks of accommodating transgender men, by allowing them in women's restrooms

• **Consider the reports**

Like the women's locker room at Parks Department swimming pool in New York City's Upper West Side; In March of this year a sign was posted . . .

Saying that everyone has the right to use the locker room consistent with their "gender identity or gender expression"

And lo and behold, shortly thereafter, the girl's swim team became concerned when they began to see a "bearded individual" in their changing room

What are we doing?

I'll tell you what we're doing; We're failing to honor God; Which makes our thinking futile, and our foolish hearts darkened; Rom 1:21

And . . .

• **Don't be fooled**

Don't be fooled and don't be intimidated, by the claim that this is a civil rights issue

The card that *proponents* play when they want to stifle dissent and silence discussion

It's not; And to say otherwise, to say that this is just like the plight of blacks in the 60's or women's suffrage in the 20's, is offensive

Especially to those who *suffered* under such discrimination

Not only that, but to say that this is a civil rights issue, is faulty thinking; Here's why:

Nobody has the right to use the bathroom of their choice

In the 1960's and before, black people in the South were prevented from using bathrooms and schools that the majority of the culture was using

That was a violation of their civil rights

It was *not* a violation to limit their choice of bathroom to that of their *gender*, because *everybody* was limited in that respect

Nor was it a violation to limit their *school* attendance to the one in their *district*, because *everybody* was constrained by that guideline

Or to say it more generally, it's not a violation of a transgender's civil rights, to prevent them from using a bathroom of their choice, because nobody has that right

All of us are limited in our choice of bathrooms, to the one that coincides with our biological gender

So it's not a Civil Rights issue, b/c it's not something that all civilians have the fundamental right to do

Unless you want to say that everybody has the right to choose their bathroom

Don't be fooled

➤ And don't be fooled by the assertion that bathroom segregation contrary to a person's gender choice, is discriminatory; B/c not all segregation is discrimination

It's not a violation of someone's civil rights, or unfairly discriminatory, to separate or segregate people in order to . . .

Protect them or others from unfair advantages – like in sports

Or to protect people in general from voyeurs or indecent exposure – like in restrooms

Or to prevent businesses from being fleeced – like with life insurance rates

Charging healthy men less for life insurance than overweight or unhealthy men, is right and fair

Just like charging biological men according to men's rates, instead of women's rates, even though they might self-identify as a woman

IOW some rights trump others; Public safety trumps personal liberty; Fairness trumps choice; Privacy trumps preference

All segregation is not discrimination; Don't be fooled

➤ And last here, don't be fooled by the assertion that biological bathroom use is unfair
Unfair discrimination, involves denying someone a fundamental need or right, based on something they didn't choose or can't change

Like denying women the right to vote b/c they're female; Or preventing black people from sitting in certain seats b/c they're black

IOW discrimination or segregation based on biological sex, skin color, or disability – things people can't change about themselves – is wrong; And unfair to the core

But denying bathroom access, or anything else, to someone on the basis of their gender *choice*, isn't; It's not wrong *or* unfair

So don't be fooled; The right to privacy and the right to safety for the vast majority, take precedent over a person's desire to use the bathroom of their choice

It's common sense

And to say or do otherwise, or accommodate it in any way, is both unwise and unthinkable

➤ But the cultural winds continue to blow; Stronger and stronger; And we need to do some things (**Summary**); Disillusionment need not rule the day . . .

Despair need not rule our hearts, and dysfunction need not rule our country

God is still on the throne, still in control, and still at work

But we need to do some things, starting with prayer; We need to . . .

• **Pray** – The Apostle Paul said in **1 Tim 2:1-2** . . .

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, [2] for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. That's the goal

And if we hope to retain some *semblance* of that in our country, we need to pray for those in charge; From superintendents and school boards, to senators/representatives

- **Talk** – We need to talk about this with our friends, our family, our co-workers, anybody; Silence is not an option, and will be construed as agreement
- **Advocate** – Instead of being passive, we need to be proactive; Writing letters to editors, speaking at school board meetings, meeting with lawmakers; You name it; B/c . . .
When people cannot muster the courage to speak the truth, error will triumph. (George)
- **Prepare** – Chances are, we will be increasingly marginalized; Especially so as we hold the line on these things in our *church*
Which means we need to prepare for lawsuits that put a strain on our finances, and we need to prepare for the withdrawal of tax exemptions for our tithes
I'm not saying it's going to happen any time soon, I'm just saying it's a matter of when, not if; And we need to prepare for it
Including the preparation of our kids/grandkids who will probably bear the brunt of it
- **Protect** – We need to do whatever it takes to protect our kids and daughters and wives from the spiritual, emotional, and physical risks of all this
- **Love** – We need to graciously love those who are caught up in transgenderism, just like we do with anyone else; Opposing any and all mistreatment . . .
While speaking the truth in love, sharing the gospel, and walking alongside them

We need to do some things; B/c transgenderism is unbiblical and sinful; Legitimizing it is irrational and harmful; And accommodating it is unwise and unthinkable

Prayer – Lord, help us to stand firm; Solidifying our convictions, fortifying our courage, and fueling our prayers; Work in ways we can't, and give us strength for all the rest
For your glory, God; And the peaceable lives you'd have us lead

➤ For additional research, here are some websites and resources:

Statistics and Overview – http://dsdfamilies.org/mednote/sex_assignment.php

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intersex>

Ambiguous Genitalia – <https://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/003269.htm>

Intersex – <https://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/001669.htm>

Safe Bathrooms – <http://www.adflegal.org/safe-bathrooms?sourcecode=05hn0003#poll>

Blog – <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/how-to-make-your-gender-disappear>

A Pathogenic Meme – <http://www.thepublicdiscourse.com/2015/06/15145/>

A Stern Critique – <http://www.thepublicdiscourse.com/2015/02/14305/>