

What Does The Bible Say About Transgender?

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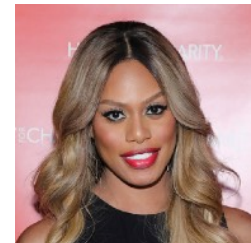
Good morning CrossWinds! If you are a visitor, my name is Kurt. I am one of the pastors. We are in a series called “What Does The Bible Say?” Today we are looking at what the Bible says about transgender. This is a big topic. Let me give you a brief overview of what we are going to cover. First, we are going to look at the state of the transgender movement in America. Second, we will look at what the Bible says about transgender life. Third, we will examine some of the science we hear used to justify transgender desires. Lastly, I will give you a few pastoral thoughts about how we can reach people with Jesus in the transgender movement. Let’s jump in.

What is the modern transgender movement?

While the transgender movement has its roots in the sexual revolution of the 1960s and 70s, it has only picked up speed in the last ten years as the media and our government have made it a regular part of our daily lives.

The transgender movement is encouraged by Hollywood.

In 2014, the Netflix show Orange Is The New Black, featured Laverne Cox playing the role of a transgender prisoner. What made Laverne Cox’s role in the mini-series significant is that he didn’t just play that role in the Netflix mini-series, but Laverne Cox is a transgender man in real life.



For his/her role in that series, he/she became the first openly transgender person to be featured on the cover of TIME magazine. Cox was then named woman of the year by Glamour Magazine in 2014. When the Chicago Sun-Times published

an article pointing out that Laverne Cox was named woman of the year, but Laverne Cox was not a woman but was, in fact, a biological man, activists protested the newspaper, forcing them to retract the column and apologize for the story.

A year later, in April 2015, Bruce Jenner — an Olympic Decathlete — came out as transgender in an ABC Barbara Walters special. Jenner said his famous line, “Call me Caitlyn.” From that point forward, Bruce Jenner was no more. Bruce Jenner was now a woman named Caitlyn. That



year, Jenner was given the Author Ashe award by ESPN for courage. Jenner was also named woman of the year by Glamour magazine. For those of you who are counting, that was the second year in a row that a biological man was named woman of the year by Glamour magazine.

From that point forward, articles on transgender people became much more prominent in our culture.

Let's fast forward to 2022. President Biden appointed a transgender man as the Assistant Secretary of Health in his administration. This man/woman is Rachel Levine. It should come as no surprise that this year Levine was named woman of the year by USA Today, in spite of the fact that Rachel Levine is actually a man.



It is obvious that the media wants us to see transgender people as the heroes of our culture. They are the ones we should admire.

The transgender movement is being codified into law by our government.

While Hollywood is trying to mainstream transgender ideology, the federal government has gotten on the bandwagon and is trying to mandate it. In 2016, the Obama administration's Department of Education mandated that all public schools allow access to sex-specific facilities based on the gender people identify with, not their biological gender. The government has mandated that in school, children are to be allowed to use the bathrooms and showers not based on their biological sex but based on the psychological sex they believe themselves to be. That is the law.

In New York City, you can be fined up to a quarter of a million dollars for intentionally “misgendering” someone and using pronouns and a name based on a person’s biological sex instead of the sex they psychologically believe themselves to be.

In October 2017, the governor of California signed a new law that can send healthcare workers to jail for failing to use a person’s chosen pronouns if they claim to identify with a different gender other than their biological gender.

The National Education Association, which is the nation’s largest teacher’s union, worked with LGBTQ activists to create a document called Schools in Transition. This document, written by LGBTQ activists and endorsed by the NEA, is intended to guide schools on how to handle transgender students. The guidelines in this document say a biological man who claims to be a woman is to be given full access to the woman’s locker room and showers. Other students and parents are to be given no advanced warning of a transgender student’s

presence in a woman's bathroom facility. If a biological woman expresses concerns that a biological male, who identifies as a woman, is using the women's locker and shower facilities with her, that woman is to be told the transgender man is a real woman and should be treated like one. If a biological woman continues to feel her privacy is violated by that man's presence, she is to use a separate private bathroom for her comfort, but in no case should the transgender man, who claims to be a woman, be restricted from full access to women bathroom and shower facilities.

If you think that doesn't happen, you only need to look at the July 27, 2022, FoxNews article where University of Kentucky swimmer Riley Gaines talks not just about the difficulty of competing against Lia Thomas, who until recently was a full biological male, but of being forced to have Lia Thomas with male parts, using the women's locker room and showers facilities with the rest of the women at NCAA nationals.¹

That same Schools in Transition document written by the NEA and LGBTQ activists also says that any concerns about athletic advantages of formerly full biological men competing in women's sports are unfounded and grounds for sex discrimination.

I begin with this data to give you an idea of the current state of transgender beliefs in our culture. These beliefs are being pushed by Hollywood and powerful LGBTQ activists. They are being codified into law by our government.

¹ <https://www.foxnews.com/media/former-ncaa-swimmer-riley-gaines-forced-compete-lia-thomas-details-extreme-discomfort-locker-room>

It is becoming harder and more costly, even criminal, to resist. As a church, we can not ignore what is happening in our culture. We can not put our heads in the sand. We have to know how to address these issues for the sake of our children, and so we can better reach these people who are far from God and desperately in need of the forgiveness and life-changing power of Jesus.

Let's begin our study by understanding how many people struggle with transgender sexual desires.

How many people are transgender?

Estimates vary. In 1999, one group of researchers in Sweden estimated that the prevalence of male to female transexuals was 1 in every 12,000 to 40,000. A European study estimates it at 1 in every 50,000. A UCLA study, which is a more liberal study, estimates that the transgender population represents 0.6 percent of the US population.² This is not a large group, but it is a vocal group. Every one of them needs to hear about Jesus.

How does the modern transgender movement think and speak?

If we are going to be good missionaries and reach these people with Jesus, we must learn their language and how they think. This doesn't mean we agree with them, but if we need to understand them if we are going to talk to them about Jesus. Here are some of the basics we need to know.

- 1. The movement believes a person's sex and gender can be different.** This was first taught by Harry Benjamin in the 1960s. He is the founder of the modern transgender movement in America. He taught that sex is a biological

² Branch, J. A. (2019). *Affirming God's Image: Addressing the Transgender Question with Science and Scripture*. Lexham Press. Pg. 21.

trait while gender is a psychological trait. He claimed a person could be one sex below the belt but a completely different gender above the belt. That is the way the modern transgender movement sees things. Just because you are a biological man does mean you are a psychological man.

2. **Gender Dysphoria.** This is the medical term used by the APA for people who experience a difference between their biological sex and the sex they consider themselves to be in their minds. They say they are a woman trapped in a man's body or a man trapped in a woman's body. They are experiencing gender dysphoria.
3. **Cisgender.** This word is used by transgender activists to refer to people that are not transgender. Cisgender means there is a match between one's biological gender and the gender one considers themselves to be in their mind. This term was created by transgender activists because before this word, the terms were, "Are you normal or abnormal gender association?" This language frames those who are transgender as abnormal. Transgender activists didn't like constantly being called abnormal, so they created the term cisgender. That way, you could ask if a person was cisgender or transgender, and the language framed both options in a neutral way. This helped remove some of the stigmatization that came with transgender life.
4. **Gender Binary.** This is another term used by transgender activists. It was created to be a derogatory way of referring to people who believe the human race only has two genders, male and female. Most transgender people are taught to think of gender on a spectrum. You can have all different kinds of

genders or no gender at all. Gender is something you make up in your mind. This is why Facebook now offers you 71 different types of genders.

5. **Gender Fluid.** This is a person who alternates between a man and a woman. They may be a man during the work week, but they are a woman on the weekend. They change genders based on how they feel.
6. **Genderists and Transphobia.** These are terms invented by transgender activists to describe anyone who is not transgender affirming. If you do not affirm transgender beliefs and ideology, they call you a genderist, which means you a gender racist. If you do not agree with transgender beliefs and lifestyles, you are considered guilty of transphobia, which is an irrational fear of transgender people. The standard talking point of the transgender movement is that people who do not agree with transgender ideology are guilty of creating hatred in our society, and those who do not agree with the transgender ideology and lifestyle are responsible for so many transgender people attempting to commit suicide because they do not feel loved and accepted in society. Between 31 to 50 percent of those who struggle with transgender feelings will attempt suicide at least one time in their life.³ The blame for this astronomically high suicide rate is placed squarely on people in society who do not endorse a transgender lifestyle but instead hold to Judeo-Christian sexual values.

By controlling the language in the discussion, transgender activists are trying to make the transgender lifestyle a normal part of our culture. Anybody who

³ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5178031/>

does not accept the transgender lifestyle is considered ignorant, uneducated, a gender racist, and a purveyor of hatred in society.

These are strong words from transgender activists. The transgender lifestyle was not always considered a normal and healthy thing. A little history will help.

What does the medical community think of gender dysphoria?

The American Psychological Association uses a book called the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM). The first edition of the book was published in 1952. At that time, homosexuality, transvestitism, and transgenderism were considered sexual deviancies. Heterosexual marriage was considered normal.

In the 1960s and 70s, we had the sexual revolution. In the 1970s, after intense lobbying from radical gay groups, homosexuality was removed as a mental disorder from the DSM manual in its second edition, which was published in 1974. Then, in 2013, after continual pressure from the LGBTQ community, gender identity disorders were removed from the DSM manual. This way, those struggling with transgender desires would no longer be considered sick but instead be celebrated and embraced as a normal part of society.

Notice what happened to make this change in the medical community. Was any new scientific data brought to the table? Were studies done that revealed homosexuality and transgender to be healthy normal forms of sexual expression? Absolutely not. There was no new scientific evidence brought to the table. The medical community caved to the lobbying pressure of the LGBTQ

community. That is what removed both homosexuality and gender identity disorders from the list of sexual deviancies in the medical community.

The change has been so radical in the last 9 years that today if a psychologist tries to help a child struggling with a gender identity disorder by trying to help them bring their perceived mental sex back into alignment with their biological sex, they can lose their license to practice medicine. They are allowed to give that child puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones to bring their body into line with the gender they believe themselves to be.

What does the Bible say about transgender?

Allyson Robinson was the first transgender Baptist pastor in America. He was born Daniel Robinson and graduated from West Point. He pastored Baptist churches in Texas. He married and had four children. But while attending Baylor University from 2004 to 2007, he decided to become a woman. As Robinson admits, to become a woman, I had to reject a large portion of the Bible.

Let's see what the Bible says about transgenderism.

God created us with a body and soul that are unified.

God created us as a body and a soul. Jesus describes this.

And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Matthew 10:28 (ESV)

While the Bible says we have a body and a soul, our body and soul are not disconnected, but they are woven together at all points. God created our bodies and souls as a unit. The Bible never speaks of God putting the wrong soul in the wrong body. That is completely foreign to the Bible's way of thinking.

In history, there were times when people believed in a strong separation of the body and the soul. Every time that belief rose in history, it was recognized as heresy. This happened in the early church with Gnosticism. Gnostics considered the body and soul separated so you could have sex with prostitutes, but that was ok because that was just your body. It didn't connect with your soul. The early church clearly rejected that teaching. The body and soul are connected together. Plato also taught the body was bad and to be discarded, but the spirit was good. That teaching was also rejected in church history. The Bible teaches God made both the body and the soul of every person, and they are connected together as a unit. God didn't make a mistake when he put the body and soul together.

As evidence of this, we see that in the resurrection, it will be our self-same body that is resurrected from the dead and reunited with our soul. It is our self-same body that is transformed into our resurrection body. Nobody gets a completely different body in the resurrection. Nobody gets a different gender in their resurrection body. It was the same body Jesus died in that was resurrected from the grave. That is why the tomb was empty.

Even if we don't like our body, God put us in the body he wanted us to have for a reason. God gave us the body he wanted us to have and the gender he wants us to have for a reason. God gave us the body he wanted us to have and the gender he wanted us to be to accomplish the work he has given us to do.

When I was in junior high, I remember not liking my body. Did anyone else have those awkward junior high years? I wanted to be smarter. I wanted to be stronger. I thought I was too skinny. I wanted to be more athletic. Did anybody

else have those thoughts about your body when you were in junior high? At that time, as I was praying about not liking the body God gave me. I can still remember what God taught me.

God doesn't make mistakes. God made me. God made me just the way he wanted me to be to accomplish the work God gave me to do. God gave me the gifts I need, the mind I need, the gender I need, and the body I need to accomplish the work he wants me to do in this life. The same is true for each of us.

I wish I could communicate that truth to those struggling with transgender feelings. I wish I could tell those men who think they are a woman trapped in a man's body that God didn't make a mistake. Don't believe the lie that you are the wrong soul trapped in the wrong body. God made you the way he wants you to be to accomplish the work he has given you to do, and that includes your gender. Trust God. He didn't make a mistake when he made you.

God only made two genders, male and female.

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. Genesis 1:27 (ESV)

God made a male Adam, and a female version of Adam called Eve. Adam and Eve's sexuality was not an accident of nature. The male and female genders are not evolutionary accidents or something made up by our society. God didn't just create two genders, but the gender God gave us plays a role in determining God's plan and purpose for our life. For example, I clearly know it is not God's will for me to be a mother because God didn't give me a uterus. For me to think I

should be a mother or pretend to be a mother is clearly outside of God's will for my life. My gender has intentionally limited me.

When we get to Genesis 2, with the creation of Eve and the creation of marriage, we see that God's will for a wife in marriage is tied to her gender. The Bible says it was not good for man to be alone, so God created a helpmate for him and from him. In marriage, a wife's role, which is given to her by her gender, is to be her husband's helpmate. It is not to undermine him, berate him, and belittle him.

In Ephesians 5, Paul further expands on how a husband's job in marriage is also given to him based on his gender. A husband's job in marriage is to lay down his life for his wife just as Christ laid down his life for his bride, which is the church. Just as Jesus gave his life to make himself a pure and spotless bride in the church, a husband is to lay his life down in love for his wife every day. That role is given to a husband based on his gender. The idea that there are more than two genders, is completely foreign to the Bible. The idea that people can switch their gender or take on a gender that is different from the biological one they are born with is completely foreign to the Bible.

Sin gives us sinful desires.

While every human being was created in God's image, the image of God in us was damaged by the fall in Genesis 3. In a real garden, a real Adam, and a real Eve, were tempted by a real Satan. They fell into sin, and sin ruined everything.

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— Romans 5:12 (ESV)

Because of the fall, sin came into the world. Death came into the world when sin came into the world. Sin doesn't just cause physical death. Sin corrupts and twists our thinking. Sin gives us sinful perverted desires and thought life. We see this in Adam and Eve's two sons, where Cain murders his brother Abel because of the sinful desires in his heart. Sin corrupts our thinking. Sin is especially corruptive to our sexual desires.

...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. For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; 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. Romans 1:25–27 (ESV)

When people worship the creation rather than the creator, one of the results of that sin is that men and women will find themselves filled with a sexual passion for the same gender, not the opposite gender. As part of those corrupted sinful sexual desires, men and women don't just find themselves attracted to the wrong gender, but sin also gives people the desires to become the wrong gender.

Sin is the source of all the problems in the world. It is the source of all the sexual corruption in the world.

The Bible tells us gender-appropriate distinctions must be maintained.

"A woman shall not wear a man's garment, nor shall a man put on a woman's cloak, for whoever does these things is an abomination to the LORD your God. Deuteronomy 22:5 (ESV)

In the Old Testament, cross-dressing to appear as the opposite sex was strictly forbidden. In other words, every person should dress in gender-appropriate clothing that clearly identifies them by their birth gender and not portray themselves to others as a different gender. To dress like the opposite

gender was especially offensive. It was considered an abomination to God. That means cross-dressing or conducting yourself like you are a different gender is rejecting the most basic form of God's will for your life when you reject the limitations of your God-given gender. Just as all sin is rebellion against God's will and the limitations God has put in place, a man that dresses like a woman and conducts himself as a woman is rebelling against the limitation God has put on their life by creating that person as a man. God desires men to look like men and women to look like women. God desires men and women to embrace the gender he gave them. It is sin to rebel against the limitations of the gender that God made you to be.

Some of you may not accept this because it is found in the Old Testament. You think we are a New Testament people. There are many things in the Old Testament we don't follow.

The problem is that we see the same thing in the New Testament.

...but every wife who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head, since it is the same as if her head were shaven. For if a wife will not cover her head, then she should cut her hair short. But since it is disgraceful for a wife to cut off her hair or shave her head, let her cover her head. For a man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God, but woman is the glory of man. 1 Corinthians 11:4–7 (ESV)

I recognize this is a difficult passage. I don't want to get bogged down in the cultural details of hair length and head coverings in first-century Corinth. For the moment, I simply want us to notice what is painfully obvious from this difficult text. In church, men should look like men, and women should look like women. It is disgraceful for a man to look and act like a woman in the church. It is disgraceful for a woman to look and act like a man in the church. While the way

men and women look and act has changed since the first century, the principles of men looking and acting like men and women looking and acting like women in the church still apply.

The Bible views any mutilation of the genitals with great negativity.

“No one whose testicles are crushed or whose male organ is cut off shall enter the assembly of the LORD. Deuteronomy 23:1 (ESV)

In this text, it doesn't matter if a guy's stuff was removed by their choice or without their consent. In God's house, men are to be full men. They are not to be missing their manhood. For a man to lose his manhood is offensive to God.

In the ancient world, sometimes men were castrated against their will. For example, when a king conquered another country, it was common for the king to take the best and brightest young men from that country and have them serve in his court. He typically castrated them when he did this. That way, they were safe around his many wives. Most likely, Daniel was castrated against his will as a young man to serve in Nebuchadnezzar's court.

In the ancient world, some men castrated themselves willingly. In the worship of the goddess Ishtar in Egypt during the Old Testament times and in the worship of Cybele in Rome during the New Testament times, sometimes men chose to castrate themselves so they could serve as priests of those deities. Those priests were feminized men who had castrated themselves. They dressed in women's clothing and lived an early form of transgender life.

The Bible is clear. It doesn't matter if it was forced on you or chosen by you; if you are a guy and you are missing your stuff, you were not to go into the

temple of God. Any kind of destruction of a man's manhood is viewed by God with great negativity.

The Bible forbids both masculine and feminine forms of homosexuality.

Most transgender people do not just have a desire to dress like the opposite sex plus have hormonal and surgical interventions to appear as the opposite sex. They also have a desire to play the role of the opposite sex in sexual intercourse. That is a form of homosexual behavior, which is clearly condemned in the Bible.

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality...will inherit the kingdom of God. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 (ESV)

If you have an ESV, like many other good translations, there is a footnote for this verse. The phrase "nor men who practice homosexuality" is translating not just one but two different Greek words for homosexuality. One of those Greek words refers to a homosexual man that plays the male role in a homosexual relationship. The other Greek word refers to a homosexual man who plays the woman's role in a homosexual relationship. When you study these things, you find that even in homosexual relationships, one person assumes the male role and the other assumes the female role. This verse clearly says that homosexuals who play either of these roles will not inherit the kingdom of God. Any biological man that is playing a woman's role in a sexual relationship with another man will not inherit the kingdom of God. That is exactly what those who are transgender

do. A man feminizes himself through hormones and surgery so he can play the woman's role in a sexual encounter with another man.

Are people born transgender?

The halftime show of the 2017 Super Bowl featured Lady Gaga. One of the songs she sang was her 2011 hit, "Born this way." This is a song about gender and sexuality. In one of the most popular lines of the song says, "no matter, gay, straight, bi, lesbian, transgendered life. I'm on the right track, baby; I was born to survive." The song then goes on to say our sexual orientation is just the way we are born. We are born that way. Is that true? Is sexual orientation just the way we were born? Is our sexual orientation just like our eye color or our hair color?

Are transgender desires just the way some people were born, or do people choose a different sexual orientation? Let's find some answers.

After a careful review of the research, I need to tell you that there is no evidence that gender dysphoria is an inherited trait like skin color and eye color. While there are some genetic factors that can be shown to make it more likely that a person will *choose* a transgender lifestyle, there is no evidence of any genetic factors that *cause* transgender desires. Let's look at some of the science.

Prenatal Hormone Theory

I think of it as hormones that, you know, went in the brain but not in the body, and that's all being transgender is. It's just that the sex of your body and the gender of the brain don't match up. — Chaz Bono⁴

⁴ "Chaz Bono: I Was Born a Man," Fox News, May 10, 2011, <http://www.foxnews.com/entertainment/2011/05/10/chaz-bono-born-man.html>

Chaz is articulating what is the most common claim of transgender activists. It is called the prenatal hormone theory. It says a sexual difference happened between a person's body and their mind in the womb that caused the body to develop according to one gender but the brain to develop in a manner consistent with the opposite gender. It is said that in the womb, opposite sex hormones washed over a baby's brain while it was developing, causing it to develop with a brain of the opposite sex. While that theory is treated like it is a scientific fact, many studies have proven that it isn't true. To give you a brief review. The prenatal hormone theory was disproven by studies done in Sweden in 2005, another in Australia in 2009, in Japan in 2009, and in Spain in 2014, and many others.⁵

Family Studies

If transgender desires are biologically rooted, we should see numerous people with transgender desires showing up in the same family because the children were all conceived by the genetic material given to them by the same mother and father. That is why brothers and sisters look alike. The problem is that when transgenderism shows up, it doesn't show up across a family. In 2010, a study of almost 1,000 transgenders found that only 12 in that group also had a sibling who was also struggling with transgender desires. That incredibly small number across such a large sample makes it highly unlikely that transgender desires are a genetically inherited trait.

⁵ Branch, J. A. (2019). *Affirming God's Image: Addressing the Transgender Question with Science and Scripture*. Lexham Press, pg. 58.

In addition, we need to remember that there is a strong correlation between sexual abuse of young children and that child struggling with transgender desires as a child or adults. When you find two children in the same family struggling with transgender desires, it is often because both children were exposed to the same sexual abuse while they were a child in that home.

Twin Studies

In an attempt to prove that transgender desires are genetic, a number of identical twin studies were done. If twins are genetically identical, and transgender desires are genetic, then when one identical twin struggles with transgender desires, that would mean the other identical twin would also struggle with those same transgender desires if transgender sexual orientation is passed down in a gene, like someone's eye color.

A 2012 study of 23 identical twins where at least one of those twins struggled with transgender orientation found that only nine of the other twins suffered from transgender orientation. At first, that sounds like a high number, but it is not. If gender dysphoria were genetic, all of the twins with gender dysphoria would have had the other genetically identical twin also experiencing gender dysphoria. It was just nine of 23, not 23 of 23. What this means is that there may be some kind of genetic contributing factor that makes transgender desires more likely, but genetics does not cause transgender desires. People are not born that way.

I would also remind you that those twins grew up in the same home with the same parents. If parents sexually abused one twin when that child was

young, it is likely the parents also sexually abused the other twin when they were young. This sexual and psychological abuse is a major contributing factor to adolescents and adults struggling with gender dysphoria.

What do we know about transgender desires in children?

Probably the most well-known transgender child in America is Jazz Jennings. He was born as a male in 2000. Jazz was diagnosed with gender identity disorder in 2004 at the age of four. Since then, he has adopted a female identity. Jazz was given hormone blockers to prevent puberty and then given sex reassignment surgery.

Children that struggle with gender dysphoria are not uncommon. If a young boy has no other friends to play with in the neighborhood that are not girls, it is not uncommon for him to gravitate to dolls even though he likes trucks. If a child is displaying uncertainty about their gender or they claim they wish they were a different gender, physicians are told to prescribe puberty blockers to suppress puberty in that child until the child decides the gender they would like to become. Doctors claim that if a child decides they do not want to transition to become the opposite sex, all a child needs to do is go off puberty blockers, and the process of puberty will resume without a problem. That is what transgender activists say, but it is not the truth.

Let's think this through. For example, take a male that experiences normal puberty during his teen years while he is growing. The testosterone in his body during puberty doesn't just develop his secondary sexual characteristics. Testosterone in a teenage male in their teen years makes the man taller, his bones thicker, and it actually changes the development of his brain. If a boy takes

puberty blockers while in his teen years, that boy can not resume puberty later and become the man he would have been once his body is done growing. He will not be as tall. His bones will not be as thick. His brain has already developed and it will not develop in the same way if testosterone is finally introduced into the body after the teen years. One study revealed that boys on puberty blockers in their teen years have a diminished ability to handle complex tasks in their adult years because their brains did not develop normally during puberty.⁶ Puberty blockers give your child diminished mental ability.

In addition, depending on what study you look at, between 75 to 90 percent of children who experience gender dysphoria will grow out of it if they are allowed to experience normal puberty.⁷ Almost all children given puberty blockers will continue to struggle with their gender identity disorder into adulthood if they are placed on puberty blockers.⁸

The claim of the transgender activists who say children that are unsure of their gender identity can be put on puberty blockers without consequence is simply not true. There is great damage to children when they are put on those drugs.

Is sex change surgery the answer for those who struggle with gender dysphoria?

The World Professional Association For Transgender Health, which is the leading organization guiding much of the world's beliefs about transgender life,

⁶ Paul W. Hruz, Lawrence S. Mayer, and Paul R. McHugh, "Growing Pains: Problems with Puberty Suppression in Treating Gender Dysphoria," *The New Atlantis* 52 (spring 2017): 24.

⁷ www.acpeds.org/normalizing-gender-dysphoria-is-dangerous-and-unethical

⁸ Branch, J. A. (2019). *Affirming God's Image: Addressing the Transgender Question with Science and Scripture*. Lexham Press. Pg. 91.

says that for some people, sex-change surgery is essential and medically necessary. The only way that some people with gender dysphoria can find relief is to physically change their body to bring it into line with the gender they believe themselves to be.

Is this true? Do those who struggle with transgender desires find relief through sex change surgery?

The first thing to know is that sex-change surgery is false advertising. There is no way to change one's sex. Our sex is genetically wired into every cell of our body as either XX chromosomes or XY chromosomes. No surgery can change the DNA in every one of our cells. Harry Benjamin, who was the pioneer of sex change surgery in America in 1966, said it this way.

“These person, in a strict scientific sense, are only fooling themselves. No change of sex is ever possible.” — Harry Benjamin (Transgender Pioneer)

All that sex-change surgery does is surgically transform a man to appear more like a woman or a woman to appear more like a man.

Transgender activists claim most transgenders do not regret their sex change surgery and are much happier after the surgery. Statistics say the opposite.

Thirty-one percent of Americans that commit suicide are transsexual.⁹

Thirty to fifty percent of transgender patients commit suicide either in the year before or the year after their sex change surgery.¹⁰

⁹ TGLynnsPlace.com, “Transgender Suicide,” downloaded on March 22, 2011 from <http://www.tglynnspplace.com/suicide.htm>

¹⁰ Meyer, Walt (2011-06-21). Paper Genders (Kindle Locations 271-272). Make Waves Publishing. Kindle Edition.

Up to 90 percent of those who undergo sex reassignment surgery can not be found for follow-up after the surgery. They either commit suicide, end up addicted to drugs and/or alcohol, or intentionally disappear.¹¹

The most robust research on sex change surgery strongly indicates that sex change surgery does not resolve the underlying psychological issues that people with gender dysphoria experience. Sex-change surgery does not bring the people these people hope for.¹²

John Hopkins was a pioneer in sex change surgery. After a few years, they stopped offering the surgery when they realized the sex change surgery did solve the mental problems those struggling with gender dysphoria were experiencing. While John Hopkins has resumed offering sex change surgery, that is not because the psychological results of the surgery have improved, but they only resumed offering it after intense political pressure. Sex reassignment surgery is not the answer.

Is sex change surgery medically ethical?

A long-standing principle in medicine is the “do no harm” principle. A doctor should not damage a patient or injure a healthy patient and their body. In gender reassignment surgery, intentional harm is done to a normal and healthy body. Transgender activists claim sex reassignment surgery is medically necessary for a person suffering from gender dysphoria. But when someone is

¹¹ Randi Ettner, Stan Monstrey, A. Evan Eyler, editors, *Principles of transgender medicine and surgery*, (The Haworth Press, 2007), Chapter 5: Surgery: general principles by Stan Monstrey, Griet De Cuypere, Randi Ettner, 96

¹² Branch, J. A. (2019). *Affirming God's Image: Addressing the Transgender Question with Science and Scripture*. Lexham Press. Pg. 105.

suffering from a psychological problem ends up mutilating their perfectly healthy body in hopes of solving their psychological issues, that is not the answer.

Think of it this way. Imagine a young man who came to a doctor as a healthy adult male in their twenties. They told the doctor they were a disabled veteran who lost their leg while serving in Iraq. It was painfully obvious to the doctor that there was nothing disabled about the person at all. They had both legs. After checking, the doctor learned the person had never served in the military. Also, they were too young to serve in the Iraq war. Clearly, the young man is delusional. If the patient then insisted the doctor amputate one of his good legs to help him bring his body in line with the delusional thinking of his mind, the doctor would refuse to amputate that man's perfectly healthy leg. The doctor would try to check that young man into a mental institution.

Today we have something similar going on in the transgender movement. Men go to doctors claiming to be a woman trapped in a man's body. Then they ask the doctor to amputate a perfectly healthy part of their body so their body will more accurately represent the delusional beliefs of their mind. Can you see the silliness in all of this?

With any other delusional belief, a doctor would lose their license if they removed a perfectly healthy part of someone's body to bring their body in line with the false beliefs of their mind. Today LGBTQ activists are trying to make it illegal for doctors NOT to perform that surgery.

The original Obama-Care medical plan mandated private insurance companies pay for all sex change surgeries, plus doctors would be required by

Obama-care to perform those sex change surgeries under penalty of the law. It didn't matter their personal belief about that issue. Thankfully a judge struck that part of Obama-care down before it went into effect.¹³

The APA says it is impossible to diagnose gender dysphoria based on any objective criteria.¹⁴ There are no biological markers for gender dysphoria. It comes completely from one's feelings about themselves. In other words, sex-change surgery is performed on a person based on what they think will be good for them when there is no physical evidence that sex-change surgery is good for them.

Are feelings a reliable guide to tell us the truth?

The Bible warns us not to trust our feelings when it comes to determining what is true.

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? Jeremiah 17:9 (ESV)

Since our hearts and feeling can deceive us about what is right and true, the Bible tells us not to trust our hearts when making ethical decisions. The Bible warns us that just because we feel something is a good choice doesn't mean it is a good choice. We need an objective source of the truth to tell us the truth. That is why God gave us the Bible. It sits outside of us and objectively tells us the truth when our hearts can so easily deceive us into believing something that isn't true. Let me give you an example.

¹³ <https://books.apple.com/us/book/when-harry-became-sally/id1418912430>

¹⁴ Cohen-Kettenis and Steensma, "Gender Dysphoria," 398.

What we allow ourselves to think about will quickly become what we convince ourselves is good and true. Advertisers know that if they can just get you thinking about their product long enough, we will convince ourselves we need their product to be happy when in reality, we don't need their product at all. Our heart deceives us.

What we allow to dominate our thought life becomes a preview of our actual life. What we think about long enough today will become the actual choices we make tomorrow.

Earlier I told you that some people who struggle with transgender desires are that way because of childhood trauma. Not all people have their gender dysphoria rooted in sin done to them in their childhood. Some have their transgender desires rooted in sin done by them as adults.

Two summers ago, I finished preaching and went to the foyers. There, to my surprise, was one of Cindy's best friends from her twenties. She married shortly after Cindy and I did. She and her husband had three children, just like Cindy and I had three children. What was she doing showing up in our foyer without warning? We hadn't seen her for almost 30 years.

She came over to our house after church and told us her story. Years before, her husband began looking at weird websites. Following the pattern that Romans 1 warns us about, his addition to heterosexual porn led to homosexual porn and then to transgender porn. Eventually, his mind was consumed with sexual additions and the fantasy of becoming a woman. First, he started cross-dressing. Then he started taking cross-sex hormones. Finally, he told his wife he

was having sex-reassignment surgery. She told him she would stick with him through all of his confusion but if he chose to surgically change from a man to a woman, she was done. That is what happened. She divorced him. His wife and three sons left him. She visited us in the foyer that morning as she was on her way to a different part of the country to start a new life. She told us it all began with his fantasy life and what he allowed himself to watch on the Internet. His fantasy world and thought life spun out of control. The Bible reminds us of the importance of guarding our thought life and keeping our thoughts pleasing to Jesus

We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,... 2 Corinthians 10:5 (ESV)

How do transgender activists view the family?

Nicholas Teich, a transgender activist, said it this way.

“Parents are... some of the largest obstacles that stand in the way of transgender kids being able to be their true selves.”¹⁵ — Nicholas Teich, transgender activist

Transgender activists plan to circumvent parents to sexualize their children. How do they plan to accomplish this? One way is to shame parents who don't affirm a transgender identity for their child. The National Center for Transgender Equality produced a model transgenderism policy for school districts.¹⁶ The policy urges schools not to let parents know about their child's transgender identity at school if parents are not supportive of their child's transgender lifestyle. Schools are also encouraged to view parents, who do not

¹⁵ Nicholas M. Teich, “Why Jenner’s Interview Makes the Case for Supporting Transgender Youth Now,” *Huffington Post*, April 28, 2015, http://www.huffingtonpost.com/nicholas-m-teich/why-jenners-interview-mak_b_7157038.html.

¹⁶ GLSEN and the National Center for Transgender Identity, “Model District Policy on Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students,” February 2016, 8, <https://www.glsen.org/sites/default/files/Trans%20Model%20Policy.pdf>.

embrace modern sexually expansive gender categories, as enemies of the child and the school.

Another tactic is to use the law to declare parents who do not embrace a child's transgender identity as guilty of child abuse and then legally move to make the child a ward of the state. Something like this already happened in 2016 in Minnesota when Anamarie Calgaro's son was declared an emancipated minor at age 15, so he could undergo Cross-sex hormone therapy because his mother was opposed to it and would not give consent.¹⁷

What should I do if my son or daughter struggles with gender dysphoria?

- 1. Show unconditional love if your child when they are struggling with these difficult feelings.** Regardless of what your children struggle with, it may be gender dysphoria or a host of other challenges, love your child unconditionally no matter how difficult that becomes. Remember that all children are a gift from God (Psalm 127:3). Remember that Jesus loves children (Mark 10:13-16). Remember Jesus loved us when we were dead in our sin (Romans 5:8). Just as Jesus keeps loving us when we are struggling with sin, we are to keep loving our children when they are struggling with sin. This doesn't mean we affirm our child wanting to be a different gender. It means we go out of our way to love our children when they are struggling. If we push our children away if they are struggling with transgender desires, I guarantee you there are plenty of transgender activists who will try to pull them in.

¹⁷ Mary Emily O'Hara, "Minnesota Mom Sues Her Trans Child Over Gender Reassignment," *NBC News*, November 17, 2016, <https://www.nbcnews.com/feature/nbc-out/minnesota-mom-sues-her-trans-child-over-gender-reassignment-n685266>. The case is complicated by the parents' divorce.

2. **Teach what the Bible says about God's gift of gender to our children, especially when they are young.** People who reject the Bible and what the Bible says about our gender being given to us by God have lots of access to our children. They have that access to our children at an early age through social media and the Internet. If we don't teach our children that God doesn't make mistakes and that God made us just the way he wants us to be to accomplish the work he has given us to do, and this includes our gender, our kids will get a twisted and evil message about their gender from the Internet. We must take control of what our kids are seeing and believing. We need to teach our children the truth about the goodness of their gender before Satan deceives them with a lie.
3. **Expect strong criticism from modern culture for holding to biblical truth about gender and sexuality.** We will be called genderists and transphobic. Expect people will try to shame us into compliance. This is ok. That is the price we must pay to hold to biblical truth when we teach it to our children.
4. **Say a firm no to any form of puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, or gender reassignment surgery.** Remember that puberty blockers are not neutral. They impeded physical and mental development in a young adult. Eighty to ninety percent of children struggling with gender dysphoria will outgrow it after they go through puberty. Any form of puberty blockers or cross-sex hormones will have irreversible consequences on someone's life.

What should I do if a friend tells me they are experiencing feelings of gender dysphoria?

The first response should be to affirm our love for them. We must then listen to them. The first thing we need to do is listen to and understand people who are struggling with these desires. There is always a long story and many wounds behind what brought them to that conclusion. Thank them for being honest with us. We should ask them questions such as, “How did you come to the conclusion you are transgender?”

I am sure they will have a huge fear of rejection. We will need to express our love and understanding for them. It is only in the context of an ongoing friendship that we will be in a position to share with them what the Bible says about the subject and the goodness of their god-given biological gender.

How should the church respond to gender dysphoria?

- 1. Remember, there is a difference between someone who is experiencing feelings of gender dysphoria and someone that is embracing and celebrating a transgender identity.** Some people experience a real sense of gender dysphoria. It is a struggle in their life where they need help, support, and prayer. It is something completely different for someone to embrace a transgender identity and celebrate it than to have someone who is struggling with it. It is one thing for someone to say, I am a man, but I am struggling with the feelings of wanting to be a woman. Please pray for me, I need God’s help. It is something completely different to say, I am a man who is now a woman I demand you call me by the gender I desire. I demand that you celebrate and affirm my chosen gender. There is a huge difference between someone who

is struggling with sin and needs the support, prayer, and encouragement of the body compared to someone who celebrates their sin and expects it to be accepted and embraced by the body.

2. **While there is no evidence for a transgender gene, remember that there are many psychological and sociological factors that contribute to this struggle.** The prenatal hormone theory has no scientific basis. Gender dysphoria is not biological like someone's hair color or skin color. What is real is that some people do struggle with the desire to be a different sex. Most people who struggle with gender dysphoria, especially from the time they were young children, have experienced real anxiety and sexual trauma early in life. They often want to be a different person or a different gender as a way to disassociate themselves from a painful or abusive childhood. For others, their gender dysphoria came about later in life and is the result of consistent impure thoughts and sexual practices.
3. **Those with gender dysphoria are searching for a new identity that only Jesus can give them.** Those with gender dysphoria are filled with shame. They are desperate to be loved. They are desperate for forgiveness. They desperately want to be a new person. What they are desperately searching for is exactly what Jesus came to offer. Jesus loves us unconditionally. Jesus completely forgives us for what we have done. Jesus doesn't ignore our sin, but he loved us so much he died in our place for our sin. Then Jesus removed the pain of our past and made us into a new people. When we read about transgender activists, it is easy to get angry at them, especially when we see

the way they are trying to sexualize children and change our culture. While it is right to be angry at sin, as the church, we must go out of our way not to hate those with transgender desires but to love them and introduce them to Jesus, the only one who can make them into the new person they long to become.

Conclusion — Laura's Story

Laura was a single woman in her forties. She had curves, shining blonde hair, and red lipstick. She was the center of attention for both men and women whenever she entered a room. One day, while meeting with her counselor, she smoothed her skirt and asked if he could help her find a church. She hadn't been to one in years, but recently she wanted to learn more about God and what he wanted out of her life.

That led to Laura trying different churches. Most rejected her when they learned about her story. One accepted her and helped her when she confessed her secrets. They even set up a special prayer team for her. Each week, a group of 30 people prayed for her. Others studied the Bible with her.

As you probably guessed, Laura was not a traditional woman. Laura was a surgical woman. Her birth name was Walt. Walt grew up distant from his parents. As a child, he spent much of his time at his grandmother's, where his grandmother made him dress up as a girl. Then his grandfather repeatedly sexually molested him. When he told his parents, they didn't believe him.

Walt was sexually traumatized as a child by his grandmother and grandfather. For years, he hid those feelings. He married and had four children. He worked for NASA on the Apollo program. He later worked for Toyota, creating

the Acura car line. All the guilt and sexual shame of his youth never went away. In mid-life, it all came to the surface. He eventually started cross-dressing and taking cross-sex hormones. He eventually divorced his wife, left his children, and had sex-change surgery.

The church that loved him and prayed for him was used by God to change him as he studied the Bible. Walt eventually confessed his sin, trusted in Jesus , and became a Christian. As much as he could, he transitioned back to his birth gender.



He was later diagnosed with dissociative disorder, which is the way he was trying to deal with the sexual trauma of his childhood. He was not transgender. His brain had a different personality to get away from the pain of his past.

As Walt grew in his faith, he eventually became the director of care ministries at a church in California. Today, he runs the website www.sexchangeregret.com. He is the author of many books that tell the other side of the transgender story, the story you don't hear about in the media. He tells people how Jesus is the only hope for forgiveness and new life that those who struggle with gender dysphoria are seeking.

My friends, the hope for Bruce Jenner, Rachel Levine, Lia Thomas, and those suffering from gender dysphoria is not to flood their system with cross-sex hormones and surgeries trying to fix the mistake they think God made at their

first birth. The solution is to have a new birth through Jesus. Jesus is the one who rescued Walt Heyer from all the sin, guilt, shame, and sexual confusion of his past. Jesus is the one who can rescue you if you are struggling with gender dysphoria today.

Some of the books I found helpful as I prepared this message are:

Anderson, Ryan T. (2019). *When Harry Became Sally: Responding to the Transgender Moment*. Encounter Books.

Branch, J. A. (2019). *Affirming God's Image: Addressing the Transgender Question with Science and Scripture*. Lexham Press.

Heyer, Walt (2009). *Perfected with Love: A Powerful and Inspiring True Story*.

Heyer, Walt (2011). *Paper Genders: Pulling the Mask Off the Transgender Phenomenon*. Making Waves Publishing.

Roberts, Vaughan (2017). *Talking Points: Transgender*. christianaudio.com.



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