



## Broadcast Transcript

**Broadcast:** American Principles Project: Fighting for the Family – Part 2

**Guest(s):** Terry Schilling

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**Dr. James Dobson:** Welcome everyone to Family Talk. It's a ministry of the James Dobson Family Institute supported by listeners just like you. I'm Dr. James Dobson and I'm thrilled that you've joined us.

**Roger Marsh:** Well, welcome back to Family Talk. I'm Roger Marsh. Family Talk, of course, is the broadcast division of the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute. And later on in the broadcast today, I'll let you know about an exciting dollar for dollar matching grant that's in place right now during the month of May, where you can support the ministry of the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute financially.

Now, if you were with us on yesterday's broadcast, you heard an enlightening conversation about Christian citizenship featuring Gary Bauer and his special guest, Terry Schilling. Gary, of course, is the co-host of Family Talk. He's also the senior vice president of public policy here at the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute. Terry Schilling is the president of the American Principles Project, and on today's broadcast, Terry will dive into many of the issues facing marriages and families today.

Now, in the past, Terry has worked for several pro-family political leaders, including his own father. In 2010, he proudly managed the successful campaign for his father, Bobby Schilling's run for Congress. And as we heard Terry talk about big families yesterday, you may not know that Terry and his wife Katie are the parents of seven children. What a blessing indeed. So now let's join our own Gary Bauer and Terry Schilling of the American Principles Project for a conversation on how they are fighting for the family on Capitol Hill, right now on Family Talk.

**Terry Schilling:** We have a society now where we are all our own gods. We all have our own truth, we all have ultimate authority. We can do whatever we want. We can even change our biological makeup to become the opposite sex. That's how it's all going. And that's I think because we've destroyed the family, which has traditionally insulated people from bad cultural influences that really forced people into well forming the next generation, but we've also gotten God out of the equation, and that's led to disaster too.

Gary Bauer: I mean, that's really a good way to look at the battle that's raging in the country rather than looking at it as being essentially a battle between two political parties. It's a battle between two different ideas of what this place is all about. On one side, and Dr. Dobson and I wrote about this at length in our book, *Children at Risk*, on one side, there are people that believe that the definition of America is different strokes for different folks. If it feels good, do it. That's what it means to be an American. And on the other side are people like you and Dr. Dobson and myself and millions of others, I hope, that believe America is about ordered liberty under God. This is not the place where you get to do anything. The idea the founders had was you used your liberty to live virtuous lives because only a virtuous people could remain free.

Terry Schilling: That's right. And the founders were explicit in this and they explained it. They wrote extensively about this. When liberties get abused, chaos is created and disorder ensues. And then guess what happens? Those liberties get removed, all the liberties eventually get removed. And that's where we're at. We're about to lose all of our liberties because we've adopted a narcissistic self-centered mindset across the spectrum. And it is this mindset of us being our own gods and being the center of the universe. That's infiltrated everywhere, including so many churches. The gospel is now being spoken to us in terms of what it means to us individually. I saw a video the other day of a pastor, apparently Christian, it doesn't sound like a very Christian gospel, of a pastor talking about maybe God worships us.

Gary Bauer: Oh, my goodness.

Terry Schilling: Have you ever thought about maybe that's why he died on the cross, because he worship... Which is absolutely preposterous.

Gary Bauer: Did a lightning bolt not come down because that should have been a lightning bolt moment right there.

Terry Schilling: No, that's exactly right. I mean, we all know the example that Christ set on the cross for us, it goes back to Corinthians, right, where Paul writes about how Christianity is a stumbling block for the Jews because the Jews seek signs, the Greeks look for wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified. And what does that mean? Well, that means that we all have obligations. We all have duties. God made us for a specific purpose, and Christ embraced that painful and horrific death because that's why God created Him. We live by dying to ourselves and by living for God and doing His will. And that trips so many people up and it should, right? It is a tough thing to believe, but through God's grace, he gives us the ability to have faith.

I have friends who, it's funny when you have conversations with people that don't believe in God there's all different types of reasons they misunderstand the gospel. But in reality, I think there's a real problem with a lack of faith and the ability to even believe and think about the existence of God. And I think that that ultimately faith is a grace that we've been rejecting from God.

Gary Bauer:

Since we both live in this Washington, D.C. area, I know you've seen this and I've seen it in other places around the country, but you'll drive by a church and you'll see the LGBTQ flag flying outside the church. What in the world is going on in that congregation that they want to hang that flag outside of the church? It doesn't make any sense. Terry, the other thing that's so obvious is that if we believe the research, every year we are less Christian than we were the year before. Now I know Dr. Dobson's been encouraged and I have too, about some signs of revival, but so far you can't prove it statistically. We'll see what happens. And there've been some important revivals in America's past that led to wonderful things. But when you look at our country becoming less and less Christian, at the same time, we're becoming a worse and worse country. All of the problems get worse and worse, whether it's race relations, the breakdown of the family, the breakdown of reliable standards of right and wrong, the Debase culture, etc.

So it seems to me that it's clear that not only does America need to turn back to Christ, but in addition to that, those of us who are Christians need to be in the public square because none of the problems facing America can be solved without the active involvement of men and women of faith.

Terry Schilling:

That's exactly right, Gary. I think this is a great opportunity to talk about a major fallacy that I hear repeated all the time, which is politics is downstream of culture. And in some areas what they're really trying to say is politics is impacted by the media and by Hollywood and by the broader culture. And in order to have an effect in politics, we have to take over these institutions or at least compete in those institutions. And I don't reject that, but I do treat it as a half-truth. And why it's a half-truth is because it treats politics as a massive playing field, and it's a battlefield. It is an active place where we have to engage and we have to get involved. And if we're going to treat politics as if it's downstream of culture, well then we might as well just stop voting, right? We might as well just stop voting and not show up. We might as well not talk to our family and friends. We might as well just start organizing in our churches. And then I don't know where we go from there.

But politics is in many ways, not just part of the culture, but it's upstream of culture. The law is a teacher. What the law is says, what's legally allowed in society, what's legally acceptable in society, it's a bare minimum. And if your laws are saying that you can give sex change procedures to minors, then what can't we do? If your laws are saying that you can't protect children from pornography, then what can you protect them from? It's only a matter of time. If pornographers have a right to deliver pornography even to children, then what's stopping them from actually abusing children? What's stopping them from starting child brothels eventually down the road Because that's where this all leads.

If you listen to the tenants of the LGBT movement, and by the way, the progressives, the LGBT movement, the abortion rights movement, they've taken over essentially every major institution in a very serious way, in a way that it's

almost impossible to take them back. Good luck taking over Hollywood. Good luck taking over... It took progressives over a hundred years to secure as much power in American society, and it went unchecked by our government and not just unchecked. A lot of this was funded and subsidized by our federal government. The transgender movement, that didn't explode until Obamacare was interpreted to not allow for discrimination on the basis of gender identity. How that plays out in healthcare is if you're a health insurance provider and you cover mastectomies for cancer victims, well, now you have to cover mastectomies for poor little 14-year-old girls that want to identify as non-binary, whatever the heck that means, or as a male.

Politics is not downstream from culture, it's impacted by other aspects. But at the end of the day, I think politics is a driving force in our culture. When Donald Trump says something on TV or on Truth Social or on Twitter, people start talking about it. They're talking about the nightly news. So politics is a way to actually impact all the other aspects of culture and to get debates among the American people. And by the way, if we are able to win elections, we can then change the laws, restrict these institutions. The transgender industry is the better word for it.

Gary Bauer: Yes, it is an industry.

Terry Schilling: We just did a report on it. It's 4.5 billion a year annually right now. That money's getting reinvested into campaigns and elections. That money's getting reinvested into PR campaigns. That money's being reinvested by going after textbook companies that the schools use to teach children about biology. That is all being used to change hearts and minds. So you can say that politics isn't part of the culture, but it is. And that's why we need to make this stuff illegal. You shouldn't be able to talk to kids about gender identity. You shouldn't be able to talk to children about sexual orientation. It's inappropriate. And we need to update our laws to better protect our children and ensure that parents have the ability to protect their children from this stuff.

Gary Bauer: That is a great point. We saw in recent years, it appeared to be spontaneous eruption of a parental rights movement. It's like somehow the signal went out to parents, what is... Now that I think about it was probably during Covid that parents began to look over the shoulders of their children on the computers and going, "What did the teacher just say?" So we saw this, I thought it was wonderful, this out pouring of parents in the school board meetings, and they brought with them actual copies of books that were in the school library or in their kids' classroom, and they would try to read segments of those books. And the school board members would say, "No, you can't say those words here in a public meeting like that." And the parents going, "What? Wait a minute. These words are being said in my nine-year-old kid's classroom."

One of the things that just has infuriated me is I've heard President Biden and a number of other people in his administration say that the parents who have objected to adults talking to their little kids about these questions refer to those

parents as book burners or book banners. No, the books are available anywhere you want them. Nobody's banning the book. The only thing that's happening is a parent has said, you don't have a right to talk to my child about these sensitive matters.

Terry Schilling: Gary. They're doing way worse than that. They're not just calling us censors. They're not just saying we want to ban books or burn them. The Department of Justice under the Biden administration is investigating these parents as potential domestic terrorists. If I could have one message for your audience, it would be to wake up. If you don't take back power, you are going to be classified as domestic terrorists. We're either going to win this fight and protect our kids and get this stuff out of our schools or we're going to lose. And that means that your children will not know what gender they are. Your grandchildren won't know what gender they are.

Things have gotten so bad in this country that there's a, you've probably heard about this, but it's called childless by choice, and that is a dual income no children. These are people that, it's not like they're unable to have children. They are purposely not having children. They are self-centered, they don't even care about having their own flesh and blood created. And all of this stuff ends in death. And I think that we need to brand these movements, these perverse movements that want to destroy the innocence of children. Sexuality is a beautiful thing, but what they're teaching kids in school and encouraging them and instructing them to do destroys sexuality, makes it ugly and makes it unappealing. And you have nations that have gone further down the sexual revolution than we have, they aren't reproducing anymore.

Gary Bauer: I still see these articles about, oh, the population explosion and what it's doing to the planet. In fact, most of Europe right now is on a trajectory that in another 50 years, there will be no Frenchmen in France. No Germans in Germany. I mean, literally, as you just said, we're doing the exact opposite of the biblical injunction of be fruitful and multiply.

Terry Schilling: That was God's first commandment to us. And look, I've done a lot of research and I've talked to a lot of people. You remember Jeff Bell got rest, his soul. He educated me about the history of birth control in the United States, artificial birth control. And look, there are a lot of reasons and exceptions for this, and I'm not judging anyone, but he said that they had to go through the courts on birth control because the American people were too Christian, that they viewed new babies and death as things that were in God's hands solely. So you can't go on artificial contraception because that's telling God no. God's the author of life. He creates each one of us with a purpose in mind. And that's so true. My mom, I'm the oldest of 10 kids and I've just had my seven-

Gary Bauer: Excuse me, what was that again?

Terry Schilling: I'm the oldest of 10. I'm learning though. We always got the question, are you Catholic or Mormon? But now when I joke about that, I'm hearing more when I

meet someone that has one to nine kids, "Well, I'm Orthodox Presbyterian," "I'm Southern Baptist." So there's a new... And then you ask them why... That's weird. It's usually Catholics and Mormons that are like that. And they say, "Well, I just don't want to tell God no. I think he should be in charge." So there are signs of hope and optimism because I'm meeting in the line of my work and protecting and preserving the American family, you meet a lot of big families, And I'm hearing this mantra more and more.

And so the other message I would tell your audience is, encourage your children to be open to life. Have as many kids as God gives you. If you get pregnant, God made that baby. Regardless of the situations it was conceived, God willed that new human being into being and don't tell Him no. So if you're scared about having a baby and God sends you one, you got the resources, you have what it takes. If you're that incapable of raising another kid, He's not going to send you a baby. God knows you better than anyone and He's not going to send you a new baby that you can't take care of.

Gary Bauer:

Yeah, absolutely. We really have covered a lot of subjects. So glad that we've had this time together. I want to get back to this concept of Christian citizenship. I've noticed recently individual cases that have come public of an individual who got way out of their area of comfort because they said, "I just felt God laid it on my heart to do something." And one of the people I was thinking about is the tragic case of this father that lost a son at Abbey Gate in Afghanistan. That father was at the State of the Union address earlier this year, and he was upset that President Biden was not saying anything about what happened there. And I saw an interview later that the father said, "I just felt the Holy Spirit lay on my heart that I needed to say something." So he stood up in the gallery and he shouted out, "Abbey Gate, what about my son?" And he was arrested and taken away and he got out of jail and so forth.

But I thought, wow, what an amazing thing. I bring it up because we both know Riley Gaines, great swimmer that attended the University of Kentucky. You gave her an award recently at your annual dinner. I think you've talked to her about the fact that she was on her way to having a completely planned life. She planned on graduating from the University of Kentucky, and I think going to dental school,

Share with our listeners why she became one of the leaders in resisting this transgender ideology.

Terry Schilling:

Well, first thing I'll say is anytime you meet someone that has stood up or getting ready to stand up to this transgender industry that's just infringing on so many people's rights and their own peace in their own betterment, please encourage them. Please thank them for doing it because it's lonely a lot of times, and there's a lot of risks, there's a lot of downside and there's not a lot of guarantee that you're going to be successful.

But what happened to Riley, she became a real hero because she was one of the first and only women that began speaking out against this whole transgender sports movement. She was an amazing division one swimmer for the University of Kentucky. Went to the National Championship for the NCAA and tied with a biological... I am sorry. She tied with a male.

Gary Bauer: Right. Exactly.

Terry Schilling: Again, stop saying biological male. It's redundant, it's stupid.

Gary Bauer: There's only one kind of male. It's the one that was born male.

Terry Schilling: Right. There are male and female and infinite personalities. That's the reality. And she tied, and when it came time to get the pictures and be on the podiums, they gave Leah Thomas, the male, an award and took his pictures. And so this was a photo op. This was a PR effort from the NCAA to virtue signal that they are all about diversity, equity, and inclusion. And Riley started speaking up about it. She's got a ton of fame because she's a really well-spoken person. She's smart. She knows what she's talking about, and she is the face of the victim. And has brought so much attention. This women's sports fight would not be that far along without her support and help.

Gary Bauer: I think she may have said it at the speech that I heard at your dinner. She said that I thought to myself, "Well, I won't have to deal with this anymore. I'm graduating now." And then she said, but "God laid on my heart, they are erasing women. You can't just walk away." So it's changed her entire life and she gets a lot of death threats. There's a lot of bad things that happen, but what an example of Christian citizenship and who knows how many children she will end up and has already saved from this gender dysphoria, this delusion that a little kid might have that they're trapped in the wrong body.

Terry Schilling: That's exactly right. And the Holy Spirit is so wonderful because he comes to us at key moments as long as we're open to him and speaking his truth. But that's exactly right. Riley has been such a champion. She's made a major impact, and it's because she's answered the call. She obviously felt that this was an important fight to get engaged in, and she was willing to risk all the slings and arrows that were going to be thrown at her and the slurs. I mean, they held her hostage at one of these colleges.

Gary Bauer: Oh, yeah. San Francisco, I think some-

Terry Schilling: Yeah.

Gary Bauer: Yes. Terrible.

Terry Schilling: And there's no consequences. Those kids should all be in jail. They should be kicked out of their school for doing that. That's insane. The thing is, a lot of

these fights that we're dealing with, they're not new. They're just new in terms of the power that they have. Ronald Reagan had to shut down student protests quite a bit in California as the governor.

Gary Bauer: Absolutely. And he was condemned as an extremist for doing so.

Terry Schilling: But in the same way, one of the reasons why I respect Dr. James Dobson so much is that he really is the OG. When this transgender issue... That's original gangster. I realize your audience isn't as young. But I brought this issue up to my mom, the issue of transgenderism, and she said, "Well, Dr. Dobson's been fighting on this since the '80s." But they didn't call him transgenders. They called him transsexuals. And that's exactly right. He's been a real mentor and an inspiration for me in terms of speaking truth to power and doing what God wants you to do, regardless of how much is up against you. But he's one of the people I bring up in terms of rebuilding the Christian right and the influence we have in this country in politics because he had such an influence. I mean, people just respected him and they knew he was good. They knew he knew what he was talking about, and we need to bring that back.

Gary Bauer: We've talked about you a number of times, Dr. Dobson and I have, and one of the things he mentioned was that he really wanted me to encourage you because he's encouraged to see young men like you standing up at a time when so much of the culture is going in the opposite direction. Well, Terry, this has been fantastic. The time is just sped by. I'd like to ask you if you could lead us in prayer.

Terry Schilling: Absolutely, Gary. Dear Lord, we ask You to continue blessing America. Encourage everyone listening to get involved, get engaged. Do not lose hope. Do not despair. We are called as Christians to have eternal hope in God because we know that at the end of the day, He is in power. And Lord, we ask You to continue to protect our children, help parents protect their children even where it's tough, especially in states that are not protecting us and in areas where they're not being protected. But Lord, ultimately, we just want to thank You. We want to thank You for the life. Regardless of how difficult life can be, it's always worth living. And we want to thank you for our families and for the children you bless us with. And we just want to thank You for the ability to get Your Word out through such an important network. And we want to thank You for the opportunity to have been born in America and to live in America and to be part of this incredible system of government that we inherited.

And Lord, I pray that You empower us all, encourage us all, speak to us directly. Tell us what You need us to do, what You created us to do to help save this country. And Lord, please do not let us lose this great nation. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Gary Bauer: Amen. Thank you, Terry.



Roger Marsh:

Well, what a wonderful prayer indeed and a great way for us to conclude today's edition of Family Talk. You've been listening to Gary Bauer who said quite an informative conversation with Terry Schilling of the American Principles Project over the past couple of days. And if you missed any portion of this two-part conversation, head on over to our website at [drjamesdobson.org/familytalk](http://drjamesdobson.org/familytalk) to listen again.

Right now during the month of May, here at Family Talk, we've been blessed by some very special friends of the Ministry with a matching grant. And that means that every dollar we've received this month will be doubled automatically up to \$300,000. Each and every dollar you donate will go twice as far to help equip parents, educate kids, and strengthen marriages. So please consider making a gift today.

You can do so online when you go to [drjamesdobson.org](http://drjamesdobson.org) to give securely on our homepage. You can also make a donation using the JDFI app or by calling us at 877-732-6825. That's 877-732-6825. Please know how much we appreciate your faithful financial support and your prayer cover as well. It means a lot to Dr. Dobson, and all of us here at Family Talk.

Well, I'm Roger Marsh. Hope you have a blessed rest of your day, and be sure to join us again tomorrow for another edition of Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk.

Announcer:

This has been a presentation of the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute.