



DON'T FOLLOW YOUR HEART:
A PARENTAL RESOURCE ON

TRANSGENDERISM

TRUTH & GRACE

A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE BY
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I. What Is Transgenderism—and Why Is it So Popular Now?

According to recent research cited by Candace Owens (via Bill Maher), the number of Americans who identify as LGBTQ+ is skyrocketing. These percentages are climbing so much that they are doubling with every generation: before 1946, less than 1%; baby boomers, 2.6%; Generation X, 4.2%; millennials, 10.5%; and Generation Z, 20.8%.

We need to zero in on the “T” part of the above acronym. It stands for “transgenderism.” Those drawn to transgenderism commonly experience what is called “gender dysphoria,” the feeling that your identity and your body don’t match. If you have such inclinations, you may well be a “transgender” person according to gender theorists and some health professionals. Your personal identity may differ from your body, it is argued, and so you need to “transition” to a different body through surgery, medicine, and other means.

There are many reasons why this ideology has become popular. A big reason for this popularity is that we live in an age when we are urged not to follow God, but to “follow our heart.” In such a mentality, we should not rebuke our natural feelings and desires, but should trust them, for they will lead us to the true self-conception that has perhaps long evaded us. All this, sadly, is a lie, and lies bring only destruction.

II. What Does the Bible Teach About Cross-Dressing and “Transgenderism”?

Christians have powerful truth to offer our confused world. In Scripture, God’s revealed Word, the body is not made for confusion. The body is not a curse; the body is a gift. The body is God’s revelation to us of His good will and wise creation order.

Bodies are not unimportant in God’s design. The body, to the contrary, is crucial to living as God desires. We see this in Genesis 2 as God makes the man and the woman. Given a masculine body, the first man must ‘work and watch over’ the garden, a divine commission that gets our attention in a hurry (2:15). In these terms, the man is made to work. The man is also made to protect and to lead (2:24). He is the one who leaves father

and mother to start a family; his is the one who holds fast to his wife, not the other way around. The woman, for her part, is given a feminine body. She can bear and nurture life by God's design (and the man cannot). The woman is given the identity of helper by God (2:18, 20). While under the man's headship (Ephesians 5:22-33), the woman has distinct abilities, inclinations, and strengths that she brings to marriage and the family.

Sadly, when Adam and Eve eat the forbidden fruit in Genesis 3, they use their bodies and their very lives to dishonor God. Their sin is common in our time. Though formed a man or woman for His glory, some around us reject the idea that sex has a certain meaning and purpose. Given a distinct identity by God, they reject God-designed "nature" and creation order (Romans 1:26), and argue that we all must find our own identity. In this fallen mindset, anything other than affirmation of our own self-driven path shockingly amounts to hatred.

Tragically, these effects play out all around us today. Children grow up with little sense of the meaning of manhood and womanhood. Young men wear the clothes and adopt the hairstyles of young women; young women wear the clothes and adopt the hairstyles of young men. Gender androgyny now represents the vanguard of modern culture, while holding to any hard-and-fast understanding of maleness and femaleness seems increasingly ancient and discredited. Rebellion abounds, especially among the rising generation, and children are left unsafe and unprotected from gender ideologues. The doctrine of demons has taken hold in our culture like a shadow falls across the plains.

Back to the Bible: unlike our depraved culture, Scripture is abundantly clear on the sinfulness of not honoring God's design of our sex. The clearest indication of this in the Old Testament comes in Deuteronomy 22. It was wrong, God's Word teaches, to do what we call "cross-dressing." Verse 5 makes this clear: "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." This shows us that wearing the clothes of the opposite sex is deeply and irreversibly wrong.

The New Testament proclaims exactly the same truth. In Matthew 19:3-6, Jesus addresses the reality of the sexes in a discussion of marriage:

[3] And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, “Is it lawful to divorce one’s wife for any cause?” [4] He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, [5] and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? [6] So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”

This portrait of God-designed marriage between one man and one woman in lifelong covenantal union teaches us much about identity and sexuality. Jesus tells us quite succinctly that God has made men, and God has made women. If you have a male body, you are a man. If you have a female body, you are a woman. Your calling from God is not to rework this equation; your calling from God is to honor God in your body, savoring manhood and celebrating womanhood (1 Corinthians 11:3-17).

III. How Does the Gospel Shape Our Approach to People Celebrating Transgenderism?

The gospel of Jesus Christ is the power of God unto salvation (Romans 1:16). With this glorious truth in mind, here are three brief ways that the gospel affects our engagement—personally and spiritually—of transgenderism.

First, the gospel is what fellow sinners most need. As Christians, we have what every sinner most needs: the news that Christ died to wash our sins and rose to give us victory over death. This is what we are uniquely placed in the world to do: preach the gospel alongside all the truth of God. We believers are very glad for good arguments from reason, science, and other disciplines. But our chief offering to the world is the “good news” that sinners can be totally forgiven and changed by God.

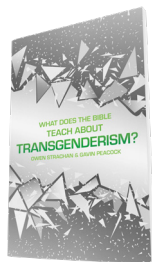
This directs our efforts. We should tell people the truth about their sin and then point them to the hope—truly eternal hope—that faith in Christ gives! We’re not simply trying to get people to stop embracing androgyny or cross-dressing, in other words; we’re praying for the salvation of souls running from God. Don’t follow your heart, we say in love; follow Christ.

Second, the gospel compels us to love all people. As those living in an increasingly pagan culture, it is right to feel many things in response to the evils around us. We should grieve the rebellion against God that we're witnessing. We should mourn the evil done to children. We should feel a sense of righteous purpose in taking our own humble stand against sinfulness. But above all, we should feel love for those trapped by transgenderism. We are not waging war against flesh and blood, but against spiritual forces (Ephesians 6:12).

Here is a powerful weapon we wield: Love—Christian love based in Christian truth. This does not mean we honor and affirm people's sin—not at all. It means that we do all we can to treat even our public-square opponents that they are made in God's image, and that we go out of our way to be as kind and merciful as we can (2 Timothy 2:25). This always means that we tell the truth, though, and reach out to lost men and women trapped by lies, Satan's own lies (Colossians 2:8; 2 Corinthians 10:3-6). The way out of transgenderism is not found by following your heart; it's found by following God's voice, which we hear authoritatively in God's Word.

Third, the gospel transforms to the uttermost. As we have noted, we believers must stand against evil. We must do so unflinchingly. We cannot forget, for example, that children are being targeted left and right today by transgender ideology. But while we remain steadfast and immovable in the battle by God's grace (1 Corinthians 15:58), we must never lose sight of hope. God saves. God changes. God transforms. This transformation begins in a moment, of course, but it does not end there. It plays out as God ordains for most of us over months, years, and decades. It's not so much a sprint; it's a marathon, and we run it by God's grace.

This is good news! For those caught in a transgender identity and lifestyle, there is truly infinite hope in the gospel. Don't despair: even those who seem light-years from Christianity are but a millimeter away from the gracious hand of God.



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