

## Biblical Sexuality and Gender, Part 2: A Faithful Gospel Witness

### 1 Peter 3:16-17

**MPS** Christians honor Jesus as Lord through a faithful witness to the glory of God's design in Biblical sexuality.

**OBJ** Christians can understand how to stand on God's Truth to form a faithful, gospel witness by **Three Areas of Focus**.

For anyone who was not with us last week, Today's message will provide a continuation from last week's introduction to Biblical Sexuality and Gender. Last week we considered how we set our hearts to honor Christ the Lord and prepare to make a defense for our hope in Him by establishing a Biblical Foundation. Today we move from that foundation toward a missional approach in how Christians bear a faithful witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

**Resources** I remind you of the resource we are providing for your further preparation. My full manuscripts and a comprehensive Bibliography (for my study) are both available on my website, [www.mlaneharrison.com](http://www.mlaneharrison.com). The Resource Wall in the North-Community Room also provides immediate access to a limited number of recommended resources, both for this topic and for the broader issue of discipling your children at every age in a healthy, Biblical sexuality.

#### READ 1 Peter 3:15-17

*but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, <sup>16</sup>having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup>For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. **1 Peter 3:15–17***

This verse exhorts Christians to fidelity in Biblical truth along with faithfulness in our witness and mission. And that is our aim in this two-part series. I ended last week's message by introducing Gender Dysphoria and Transgenderism. Today I begin there and move back toward Scripture as we shape our faithful witness.

**Gender Dysphoria** is a phrase implemented to reduce stigma away from what was known as Gender Identity Disorder.<sup>1</sup> Gender identity is a feeling-based concept concerning how one psychologically perceives oneself as either masculine or feminine.<sup>2</sup> Dysphoria arises when what is felt is in seeming contradiction to one's biological sex. While gender dysphoria and transgenderism must be discussed together, we must recognize that gender dysphoria and transgenderism are not the same, and that not every situation must or should be treated the same way. To be clear, Christians do not deny that people experience gender dysphoria. But we hold that gender is determined at birth, by biology, and not assigned at birth, or any time later, by preference or personal choice. Therefore, we reject, because of our faith and science, the demand that every person who experiences dysphoria be placed under the ideology and methodology of transgenderism as the only acceptable response. Christians recognize, "The soul and body are both part of God's good creation, and they are designed to complement each other. When people claim to have the soul of one gender trapped in the body of another gender, they are making a false claim based on an inadequate understanding of Christian anthropology. For people experiencing gender dysphoria, it is more accurate to say, "I am a male made in the image of God with both a body and soul, but I am experiencing confused feelings about gender right now."<sup>3</sup> And for those who struggle with Gender Dysphoria, we neither shame nor shun them. "A Christian stance acknowledges biological factors, the home environment, past experiences, and human volition can all contribute to gender dysphoria."<sup>4</sup> **Christians must open our arms to love and walk with those who struggle with Gender Dysphoria. But we walk in the light of God's truth, not the darkness of transgenderism's lie.**

**TRANS** But understanding Gender Dysphoria is only a beginning. Transgenderism is a completely different kind of delusion.

<sup>1</sup> Yarhouse, Mark A. Understanding Gender Dysphoria: Navigating Transgender Issues in a Changing Culture. (Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2015.), p14. [Kindle]

<sup>2</sup> Branch, Alan. Affirming God's Image: Addressing the Transgender Question with Science and Scripture. (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2019), p22.

<sup>3</sup> Branch, Alan. Affirming God's Image: Addressing the Transgender Question with Science and Scripture. p32.

<sup>4</sup> Branch, Alan. Affirming God's Image: Addressing the Transgender Question with Science and Scripture. p33.



**Transgenderism** is defined by the American Psychological Association as “an umbrella term for persons whose gender identity, gender expression, or behavior does not conform to that typically associated with the sex to which they were assigned at birth.”<sup>5</sup> Even this definition has problems because “The phrase “sex assigned at birth,” i.e., imposed from outside, is now favored because it makes room for “gender identity” as the real basis of a person’s sex.”<sup>6</sup> But the truth is, “No one has yet discovered a “transgender” gene, nor have any genetic or epigenetic factors been discovered that are both necessary and sufficient to cause transgenderism.”<sup>7</sup> Even the policies and procedures, and curriculum that are being driven through the medical and educational institutions today are not based in scientific studies and findings, but personal declarations without source or study substantiation by activists in those fields. Transgender activists demand that the internal sense, or feeling, of an individual must be the accepted norm, and everything and everyone must acquiesce to the desired end of forming reality around that internal sense.

**TRANS** So, **How Do Christians stand on God’s truth to bear a faithful witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ?**  
**Christians honor Jesus as Lord through a faithful witness to the glory of God’s design in Biblical sexuality.**

**OBJ** **Three Areas of Focus to stand on God’s Truth in forming a faithful, gospel witness.**

### **Focus Area #1: A Redemptive Narrative**

**A Christian redemptive narrative begins at Creation and stays focused on the cross.** The Biblical foundation of Genesis 1-2 from which we began anchors us as we see God’s design and plan for humanity. Genesis 3 reveals the root of our problem, sin. As we have already acknowledged, not every aspect of this nor every person involved is directly in sin. But sin remains the root problem because it perverts and skews God’s creational design. And denying God will always take one off course to avoid the cross. **We do not expect that all people will acknowledge God’s creational design as humanity’s highest good, but as Christians we hold this as our anchor, trusting this is true even in this physical realm.**

**Once we understand the root problem, several passages shape our Christian witness.** As we return to the Garden in the creation narrative, we move to Genesis 3 where Adam and Eve sinned. Their first response was to recognize that they were naked.<sup>8</sup> Nakedness indicates a sex consciousness which was now associated with shame and guilt before God because of their sin. Paul identifies sexual immorality as a distinctive trait of idolatry and a primary activity of one who is exchanging the truth of God for a lie. And listen to the progression of what transpires by participation and indulgence.

*<sup>21</sup>For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup>Claiming to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup>and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.*

*<sup>24</sup>Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves,*

*<sup>25</sup>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.*

*<sup>26</sup>For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; <sup>27</sup>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.*

*<sup>28</sup>And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.*

*<sup>29</sup>They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, <sup>30</sup>slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents,*

*<sup>31</sup>foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. <sup>32</sup>Though they know God’s righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them. **Romans 1:21-32***

**Romans 1 reveals what happens when God is not rightly worshiped.** When one fails to praise God, they exchange His glory for pseudo glory. The more one worships false idols, by principle or in practice, the more a person becomes like and

<sup>5</sup> American Psychological Association’s definition. <https://www.apa.org/topics/lgbtq/transgender>. Last accessed September 21, 2022.

<sup>6</sup> Anderson, Ryan T. *When Harry Became Sally: Responding to the Transgender Moment*. (New York: Encounter Books, 2019), p29.

<sup>7</sup> Branch, Alan. p64.

<sup>8</sup> Genesis 3:6-7



has their life shaped by those false idols. Because of this, God gives them up to the lusts of their hearts, to dishonorable passions, and to a debased mind, where what ought not be done is the thing that is done. This is the progression of sin's condemnation, from which shame and guilt result. This is not to say that every person follows the same path nor to the same extreme. It does teach, though, that when we encounter ungodliness and wickedness, we know where it comes from and how one gets there. Some people are affected because of personal participation. Still many others because they are influenced by a broader brokenness in the world. The brokenness of this dark world affects many without direct, personal participation. What seems like for some who say, "I didn't choose this.", may be true for their willful volition, but it remains the outcome of both the indulgence and influence of a world ruled by darkness. And for those who tolerate and practice, the affect can be ever more severe and extensive. While there are other sins included in Paul's list, emphasis is placed on the perversity demonstrated through sexual immorality. God created our bodies distinctively to glorify Him in His design and plan for sexuality. All sexual immorality dishonors God and darkens the mind toward God. And the longer and further one walks in this darkness, the more debased and damaging it becomes, even to their own bodies.

Finally, in 1 Corinthians 6:13-20, we learn that sexuality is the aspect that joins soul and body, the inner person with the physical person. By God's design, sexual activity joins the soul of one to another. And sexual immorality wreaks its greatest condemnation against the one who indulges in it, sinning against one's own body. [Sexual immorality darkens the mind so that not even physical pain can numb the discord created by denial of God.](#)

**KEY to Area #1** When Christians hold a redemptive narrative, it leads us to the cross of Jesus Christ. We look to Him to receive forgiveness and cleansing in His sacrificial atonement. Holy Spirit comes to dwell in us to empower us. And as we walk in the light of His truth he renews our mind.<sup>9</sup> "Scientific evidence to date clearly does not show the existence of a gene or genes that *cause* transgenderism. Instead, changes to a few limited regions within the human genome demonstrate a low level of correlation with a transgender identity. The simplistic "born this way" argument regarding transgenderism is inconsistent with current scientific research. The Christian view is more robust and suggests that transgenderism emerges from a complex matrix of factors including one's genetics, family of origin, environment, response to stress and temptation, and perhaps many other factors that remain unknown to us."<sup>10</sup> [Christians hold a redemptive narrative because God wants to forgive and cleanse, to restore wholeness, to renew the mind and bring transformation of being.](#)

**TRANS** The Christian narrative is hard to hold because of Transgender activism. Not all who identify as transgender embrace the Activist's methodology, but we will survey some more extreme demands of Transgender activists.

**ILLUS** **The Transgender Activists' agenda** has invaded every sphere of society to mandate a counter-reality. I will highlight three fields under the most severe deception, law and government, medicine and healthcare, and education.

In **Law and Politics**, the agenda has been pushed through several avenues and taken several turns. Beginning in 2010, "The Obama Administration pushed 'gender identity' policies as a matter of civil rights in various domains—education, health care, housing, the military."<sup>11</sup> Since then, every department has methodically pushed the agenda by varying interpretations through mandates. Though some were blocked at the federal level by the Trump Administration, battles continued in States, and most were reinvigorated by the Biden Administration. In New York City you can now be fined up to \$250,000.00 if you intentionally use the wrong pronoun toward someone, considered a form of hate speech. A New York Post article from this past Monday reports that Montana is now temporarily allowing transgender people to change the gender on their birth certificates.<sup>12</sup> Without such terrible public policy we would not be dealing with so much of the social melee. And now, The Equality Act now before Congress seeks to make gender identity a protected minority class. If this Law passes, it will make the last 50 years of sixty million plus abortions under *Roe v. Wade* little more than the "tip" of the catastrophic, social iceberg.

<sup>9</sup> Romans 12:2

<sup>10</sup> Branch, Alan., p65.

<sup>11</sup> Anderson, Ryan T. [When Harry Became Sally: Responding to the Transgender Moment](#). p12.

<sup>12</sup> "Montana to allow transgender people to change birth record". New York Post, September 20, 2022. <https://nypost.com/2022/09/20/montana-to-allow-transgender-people-to-change-birth-record/>. Last accessed Thursday, September 22, 2022.



In **Medicine and Healthcare**, John Hopkins is likely the best-known origin and battle of the debate over transgender ideology imposed on medicine and healthcare.<sup>13</sup> Once the Department of Health and Human Services of the Obama Administration redefined the word sex to mean “gender identity”, healthcare and healthcare insurance radically shifted. Transgender ideology is changing every aspect of healthcare as it pervades and dominates major universities in the medical science fields and in the training of tomorrow’s medical professionals. A Four Stage Treatment Plan is followed so that once “a child identifies as the opposite sex in a manner that is ‘consistent, persistent, and insistent’, the appropriate response is to support that identification.”<sup>14</sup> A new wardrobe, pronouns, and treatment is mandated for that child. Puberty blockers are prescribed prior to, to subvert puberty. Around age sixteen, cross-sex hormones are administered. At Eighteen, they may undergo sex reassignment surgery. The fact is these ages have shifted to radically early ages for each of these stages. Psychology is ruling ideology to suppress and counter factual biology. Transgender science, from those advancing the ideology, is rooted in personal declarations that are without sources or studies to prove anything about what they claim.<sup>15</sup>

**Education** at every level has been overrun by Transgenderism ideology, which now dominates curriculum and policy. The nation’s largest teacher union, National Education Association, “partnered with LGBT organizations to formulate the guidelines for schools.” Ryan Anderson goes on to explain,

“The National Education Association endorses activists’ view that transgender identities are a healthy and normal aspect of human development, that children should always be encouraged to act in ways consistent with their self-identification (whatever it is), that any attempt to help a child feel more comfortable in his or her own body is unethical and likely to be harmful, that all this applies even to very young and mentally disabled children, and that the religious beliefs and religious liberty rights of parents and teachers don’t matter. This is coming to a school near you, if it isn’t already there.”<sup>16</sup>

You need to know the curriculum being used to teach Transgender ideology to our children, now in our region.

**ILLUS** The **Genderbread Person / Gender Unicorn**<sup>17</sup> were created to teach transgenderism. They stopped using the “Genderbread Person” because, well, it looked too much like a real person. So the Gender Unicorn was created instead. Pay close attention to this: when activists want to teach a new “reality” about transgenderism, they stopped using a character that looked too much like a real person, and opted to define reality with a Unicorn. How very accurate: a fictitious being vested in the immature imagination of an unrealistic existence that, in fact, does not exist. (My description.) And THIS is how they want to construct reality for our children. They coerce to the point of “bullying” under near unlimited threat, and “Groom” those under their influence for the abuse and destruction it will bring on their life. **We, YOU, are not dealing with people who are operating in the realm of sanity but love the darkness in which they choose to walk.**

**Transgenderism in public education also involves the violation of Parental Rights in activists’ policy.**<sup>18</sup>

“Transgender activists believe that schools should conceal from parents who do not embrace transgender ideology the fact that their child is identifying as transgender. The guidelines give advice on how to use a student’s preferred name and pronouns in class, but the legal name and normal sex-specific pronouns in communications with parents, to hide their child’s social transition.”

The idea that educators hold primary responsibility for children while in school, of which the NEA purports, is the most dangerous tactic in education, and it is not the Law.<sup>19</sup> This is a wicked practice to usurp parental rights and stands in direct contradiction to Scripture. You need to understand how it is being used to abuse and damage children and remain committed to confront and oppose it immediately wherever and whenever you encounter it. So much so, you should lead

<sup>13</sup> Anderson, Ryan T. *When Harry Became Sally: Responding to the Transgender Moment*. p15f.

<sup>14</sup> Anderson, Ryan T., p120.

<sup>15</sup> Anderson, Ryan T., p320-33. Anderson introduces Dr. Deanna Adkins, “professor at Duke university School of Medicine and the director of the Duke Center for Child and Adolescent Gender Care, (which opened in 2015)” as a leading proponent by her declarations.

<sup>16</sup> Anderson, Ryan T., p38.

<sup>17</sup> Anderson, Ryan T., p31f. Anderson explains how the two resources originated and developed, and are being implemented.

<sup>18</sup> Anderson, Ryan T., p42-45.

<sup>19</sup> Sourced from a conversation with Michael Whitehead, Attorney, Whitehead Law Firm LLC. “The NEA position that the school officials are fully responsible is NOT the law. When parents stand up and fight back they are winning in court. As for the issue of who is primarily responsible for the student during school hours, MW first encountered this in 1979 in Grandview, MO, school district.”





with it, to make clear to your child's teacher, principle, counselor, administrators, and school board that you will not tolerate this ideology nor policy. For now, there is precedence in the courts, specifically the U.S. Supreme Court that sides with the parents. Silence by parents will change this. Let me be clear: do not immediately blame nor pressure a teacher, they may or may not agree. But once these policies are adopted, teachers come under severe pressure, and those who do not agree are as much a victim as students.<sup>20</sup> [Christians in public schools need to put the regular school board meeting on the calendar and ask questions to get informed and involved.](#)

TRANS This leads to Focus Area #2.

### Focus Area #2: Truth and Identity

**Christians focus on truth because we are people of God's truth.**<sup>21</sup> We always pursue and never fear truth, understanding that God's Word is truth<sup>22</sup>, in Him there is no lie, and all truth is His. This is why we begin with the creation narrative in understanding and for how adequate treatment should be approached, that the philosophy and approach of treatment honors the creation narrative and what we believe about a person created as a whole being in God's image. The reality of gender dysphoria and transgenderism is that people are being destroyed by lies. Transgender activists' claims are inherently confused, filled with internal contradictions, and philosophically incoherent.<sup>23</sup> Denial of the truth in gender differences is at the heart of this issue. Judith Butler is a feminist scholar who advocates the 'social constructionist' view of gender and claims that the differences are owed to myth, not reality.<sup>24</sup> This perspective, that denies the reality of gender distinctives, is sourced from the same people that invented the Gender Unicorn to teach 'reality' instead.<sup>25</sup> But no one will ever know any difference if no one tells the truth. Christians stand on truth. We refuse to entertain or embrace lies, or even like it through Social Media memes like "Love is Love". No, that is a lie. God is love. His truth is goodness for all humanity. Or like, "A trans boy/girl is a boy/girl." No, they are not, and they never will be no matter how much chemical alteration nor body modification is completed. [The most loving thing a Christian can do for any person is to be faithful to the truth of God's Word in speech and action.](#)

Transgender Activism propagates tactics to bully parents that intimidate and conjure up fear by telling them, your child "will commit suicide if you oppose their feelings. What they don't want you to know is that statistics show that "depression, psychosis, and suicide occur frequently both before and after sex reassignment therapies. And there are effective therapies to help children with gender dysphoria feel comfortable in their bodies; indeed, 80-95 percent of such children do not persist in a transgender identity."<sup>26</sup> This statistic is the position of which all competent authorities agree and is testimony in U. S. Supreme Court record from early 2017 for a case involving gender identity policies in schools.<sup>27</sup> [Their whole agenda is a lie!](#)

**Truth defines a person's identity.** Christians hold to good and true science, that gender identity is biologically determined and immutable. We do not embrace their narrative, do not buy into their lies, nor propagate their deception. We hold that at conception life begins and sex and gender is determined.<sup>28</sup> "A Christian stance toward transgenderism will distinguish between someone who experiences gender dysphoria and someone who embraces a transgender identity. When someone

<sup>20</sup> Sourced from a conversation with Michael Whitehead, Attorney, Whitehead Law Firm LLC. "Teachers are as much a target in this as students. They are now being required to use preferred pronouns. To date, the law is more protective of teacher rights, for now. They cannot bully nor be insensitive, but do not have to bow to pressure to use preferred pronouns.

<sup>21</sup> 1 Timothy 3:15

<sup>22</sup> Psalm 119:160; John 17:17

<sup>23</sup> Anderson, Ryan T., p48. Anderson states, "The claims of Transgender activists are inherently confused and filled with internal contradictions. Activists never acknowledge those contradictions, but opportunistically rely on whichever claim is useful at any given moment."<sup>23</sup> Anderson continues, "Transgender activist claims are philosophically incoherent."

<sup>24</sup> Strachan, Owen, and Gavin Peacock. The Grand Design: Male and Female He Made Them. (Great Britain: Christian Focus Publications Ltd., 2016), p29. See Footnote 6.

<sup>25</sup> Trans Student Educational Resources is a site that hosts an extensive form of the Gender Unicorn, a resource created and widely used to introduce transgenderism in education. <https://transstudent.org/gender/>. Last accessed September 14, 2022.

<sup>26</sup> Anderson, Ryan T., p36.

<sup>27</sup> Anderson, Ryan T., p123.

<sup>28</sup> Anderson, Ryan T., p78. Anderson points out that according to two important resources, Langman's Medical Embryology and William J. Larsen's Human Embryology, AT conception, life begins, and sex and gender is determined.



says, 'I experience gender dysphoria,' they are merely naming a problem; when someone says, 'I am transgender,' they are embracing an identity that is inconsistent with Scripture."<sup>29</sup> Identity is never rooted in our sin, but in the object of our worship. When we worship false idols, as Romans 1 reveals, we become identified by them. When we are redeemed to worship God through Jesus Christ, we are set free from sin and no longer defined nor identified by it. "We believe that sexual attractions or other subjective psychological feelings do not define a person. Rather, every person is defined by their immutable, in-born biological sex, which is present and identifiable in the DNA of every cell in the human body. We believe our bodies are part of God's creation. This includes our gender—our maleness and femaleness. While it is certainly true that some people identify very strongly as "gay," "lesbian," "bisexual," "transgender," or another identity and act according to this identity, this behavior does not define them, just as a so-called "straight" person is not defined by their "straightness." Rather, the divinely intended purpose of human sexuality is inherently present in the complementarity of the male and female sex, as created by God and described in the first chapter of Genesis."<sup>30</sup> [According to the Bible, in God's eyes a Christian may struggle with Gender Dysphoria but there is no such thing as a Transgender Christian.](#)

**Science really does establish the truth about sex and gender for us.**<sup>31</sup> But claims made by Transgender activists are not based in science, rather personal declarations of those who have, obviously, decided to ignore reality and mandate their psychosis on everyone else. As Ryan Anderson states in summarizing the Transgender moment across every field, "politics now rules the debate."<sup>32</sup> In sexual sin, the darker the mind the greater the damage to the body. When we deny God and seek to make man God, we will always objectify and mutilate that which is the glory of man to construct a new image of God and advance this idolatry. Dr. Alan Branch best captures the challenge Christians face when he asks, "We are called to show the love of Jesus Christ to the world, but how do we accomplish this when the culture is upending fundamental categories of gender?" He answers by saying, "Love for the lost certainly means we should speak with mercy and kindness, but fidelity to God also means we must speak the truth, even if it is painful or unpopular."<sup>33</sup> [We are engaged in a spiritual battle, first and foremost, because we are addressing a darkened and debased mindset that can only be changed by the light and power of God's Truth; our first line of defense and attack must have divine power from on High. Christians must stand on truth.](#)

### Focus Area #3: Speech / Language

There is a reason they have created a new vocabulary. **Language is a principal strategy by which Transgender activists demand conformity.** A new, and ever-shifting, vocabulary has emerged as one way to force others to adopt their ideology by demanding acceptance of their terminology. "By deconstructing languages, transgender activists seek to change the way people think and talk about gender, and thus ostracize people who affirm the gender binary of male and female."<sup>34</sup> "We reject the demand for conforming actions that presume forgone conclusions of theory that are **unproven**<sup>35</sup>, **misleading**<sup>36</sup>, **deceptive**<sup>37</sup>, and **abusive**.<sup>38</sup> [It is important to understand their terms, but even more critical that we not acquiesce to use their vocabulary, nor embrace their definition and meaning.](#)

<sup>29</sup> Branch, Alan., p129.

<sup>30</sup> Borrowed from Family Research Council statement on Sexuality. <https://www.frc.org/sexuality>. Last accessed September 21, 2022.

<sup>31</sup> Anderson, Ryan T., p79, 81. Anderson states, "The fundamental conceptual distinction between male and female is the organism's organization for sexual reproduction." He goes on to state, "Males are organized to engage in sexual acts that donate genetic material, while females are organized to engage in sexual acts that receive genetic material and then gestate the resulting offspring. This fundamental difference in organization is what allows scientists to distinguish male from female."

<sup>32</sup> Anderson, Ryan T., p24.

<sup>33</sup> Branch, Alan., 7.

<sup>34</sup> Branch, Alan., p14.

<sup>35</sup> Branch, Alan., p64. See Footnote 7. We established both from Branch and Anderson that the science is determined by "declaration", with no source studies to cite.

<sup>36</sup> Anderson, Ryan T., p41. "Transgender activists make these policy demands not only as a requirement of justice or equality, but also in the name of science and medicine."

<sup>37</sup> Anderson, Ryan T., p43. Regarding transgenderism and parental authority Anderson states, "Transgender activists believe that schools should conceal from parents who do not embrace transgender ideology the fact that their child is identifying as transgender."

<sup>38</sup> Compare the philosophical convictions of Transgender activism and the policies pushed in schools, how they operate from a position of authority to favor and woo the child into participation all while hiding it from the parents, these are textbook traits and practices for "grooming" for abuse.



Christians do not participate in language that affirms transgenderism because words give meaning to life, and we receive meaning from God's Word. Words matter because they both represent and assign meaning to life. When you entertain, accept or participate in the transgender language, you give tolerance, affirmation, and credibility, and even indulgence to the darkening of the mind and denial of God. This darkens your own mind, even if you silently disagree, to lead to deception by participation. Do not use their vocabulary, nor acquiesce to their labels. "Cisgender"<sup>39</sup> is one of a term given to conform normal gender into their paradigm. Do not use preferred pronouns. Preferred pronoun is typically the first way many encounter the issue. As of now, in the debate, the best practice is to offer to use the name on their birth certificate, or "the pronouns consistent with a person's natal sex."<sup>40</sup> The reason these for such dogmatic demands is because instead of accommodating language to reality, they are trying to change reality by mandated language. When you treat a lie as though it were true, you become the one deceived, and you deceive others, and you encourage others to practice deception.<sup>41</sup> "We need to insist on telling the truth, and on preventing lives from being irreparably damaged."<sup>42</sup>

So with these three areas of focus that form our witness, let's return to our passage.

*do it with gentleness and respect, <sup>16</sup>having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup>For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. 1 Peter 3:16-17*

Let your speech be seasoned and your spirit submitted to the leading of Holy Spirit. Trust the Spirit to empower you. He is still the Christian's power and wisdom for faithful witness.(Acts 1:8) Forming a witness by these areas of focus is the best way to love people. Every person with whom we speak deserves our respect. And when you speak in this way, you act in accordance with your conscience, so that no matter how others respond, what they say and what they attempt to do to you, it will not be your behavior that is put on display, but the truth of God's Word. God will bear witness to them, as He bears witness within you.

Finally, remember in all of this. If you make a mistake or even come to recognize you acted wrongly in some response, statement, or even the spirit in which you responded, don't sit in self-pity. Repent to the Lord, apologize to someone, if necessary, determine how you will act in a righteous manner next time, and move on. These are hard situations, and fear is real. Trust the Lord and He will lead you.

**Christians honor Jesus as Lord through a faithful witness to the glory of God's design in Biblical sexuality.**

<sup>39</sup> Branch, Alan., p18. Branch states, "Cisgender is not entirely a morally neutral term: Transgender activists prefer this newly created word because they claim the traditional terms "natural," biological," or "genetic" males and females assume the normalcy of feeling and acting in accordance with one's birth sex, thus making a moral judgment on transgender people."

<sup>40</sup> Branch, Alan., p8.

<sup>41</sup> Psalm 1:1-2

<sup>42</sup> Anderson, Ryan T., p7.

