

## A “Genderless” Society

In today’s relativistic society, individuals like Bruce “Caitlyn” Jenner can be whatever gender they feel—a policy which breaks down the biological classifications which humans have held throughout history. The transgender movement is actually a highly gnostic philosophy which undermines God’s authority.



Gnosticism is the idea that man’s spirit is trapped in one’s flesh yet fully distinct from it. For Gnostics, the body is evil and the spirit is good; therefore, any sins committed in the body do not count because true life exists in the spirit. They reject physical reality and believe truth is within themselves.

**“(Gnosticism’s) dogma is really about rejecting external authority and fixed reality in favor of self-empowerment, self-actualization, and some level of self-deification ... Same-sex marriage and transgenderism, joined now by post-genderism, insist individual thoughts, yearnings, and self-identities trump physical realities and universal truths.”<sup>1</sup>**

Changing one’s outward appearance is an expression of a deeper internal issue. When individuals have the ability to choose a gender other than that which they were “assigned” at birth, it gives them a false sense of control over their lives—something which all human beings crave.

While it is not always the case, scholars have found that for some individuals, “gender identity disorder” is reactive: a defense mechanism to childhood sexual abuse.<sup>2</sup> Many people have been hurt deeply, whether sexually or verbally, and are responding to that abuse the only way they know how. For this reason, gender identity issues must be handled with

great sensitivity.

At their core, every person is seeking autonomy, validation, purpose and value. What each person must realize is that there is no one more capable of defining a person’s identity than his or her Creator.

## Our response as Christians

The loving, Gospel-centered Church should be the best place for a hurting person to go. The struggle that many people face over their gender identity is a result of living in a sinful, broken world. Humans often seek to fill a God-shaped vacuum with everything but God. Once we as believers acknowledge our own attempts to be the lord of our lives; then we’ll enter the gender identity conversation with both humility and compassion.

**“Our transgender neighbors experience real suffering, and we should suffer with them. The answers the culture and the Sexual-Revolution Complex offer can’t relieve that suffering. We should stand for God’s good design, including around what Jesus says has been true ‘from the beginning’—that we are created male and female, not as self-willed designations but as part of God’s creative act (Mk. 10:6).”<sup>3</sup>**

Some churches believe that supporting transgenderism is acting in love; but it is actually promoting bondage (2 Peter 2:19). Instead, believers should point people to the truth that God does not make mistakes (Psalm 139:13-16). Their body and soul were made with great purpose and intentionality, and true freedom comes through knowing the One who heals their wounds, defines their identity and loves them fully. In order to know who they are, they must first understand *whose* they are. According to Dr. Russell Moore,

**“A rejection of the goodness of those creational realities then is a revolt against God’s lordship, and against the picture of the gospel that God has embedded in the creation ... We don’t need to fix what happened in our first birth; we need a new birth altogether.”<sup>4</sup>**

## Biological & Medical Conclusions



Two prominent gender identity issue groups include those who “cross-dress” with clothing of the opposite gender for reasons like sexual pleasure or entertainment as well as those who believe they are “transsexual.” In their mind, there is a disconnect between their spirit and matter.

“Gender dysphoria” (formerly termed *Gender Identity Disorder*, but was changed by the American Psychological Association in order to “avoid offense”) is the term now used for people who feel they are living in the body of the “wrong gender,” given to them at birth. Many seek to align their bodies with what they feel is their “true” gender identity through medical treatment.

The majority of babies in the womb each have hormones and chromosomes that distinguish them as either male or female at as early as 16 weeks’ gestation. “Treatments” for gender dysphoria such as cross-sex hormones, gender-change surgery, and social/legal transition *cannot* change a person’s biological sex.

### *What about intersex conditions?*

Intersex conditions are often cited as an argument for transgenderism, but the truth is that the majority of people who are transgender *do not have intersex conditions* from birth. The percentage of those whose chromosomal sex is inconsistent with their phenotypic sex or their phenotype is unclassifiable as either male or female is actually about 0.018 percent.<sup>5</sup> Therefore, unique circumstances of individuals with intersex conditions should be treated on a case-by-case basis by parents and doctors and are not a valid argument for transgenderism.

Highly-acclaimed medical professionals agree. Psychoanalyst and psychiatrist Dr. Jon Meyer studied adults who had received sex-change operations. Years after the surgery, he found that many individuals still had the same psychological issues with emotions, relationships and work as they did pre-surgery. Based on evidence from this study and others, Johns Hopkins University closed its surgical gender reassignment unit. The former

psychiatrist-in-chief, Dr. Paul R. McHugh explained the reasoning behind its closure:

“With these facts in hand I concluded that Hopkins was fundamentally cooperating with a mental illness. We psychiatrists, I thought, would do better to concentrate on trying to fix their minds and not their genitalia.”<sup>6</sup>

When a person undergoes sex-reassignment treatment or surgery, there are mental and physical health risks involved; not to mention it contradicts medical reasoning and credibility. According to Bernd Meyenburg, the head of the Psychiatric Special Outpatient Clinic for Children and Adolescents with Identity Disorders,

“From a purely medical standpoint, we are dealing with the mutilation of a biologically healthy body.”<sup>7</sup>

For those who’ve had sex-reassignment surgery, rates of suicide increase 20-fold.<sup>8</sup> Furthermore, cross-sex hormones can lead to blood pressure issues, blood clots, dehydration, electrolyte imbalance, liver damage, and slightly higher cancer rates amongst users.<sup>9</sup>

Walt Heyer, a man who has undergone two sex-changes, now dedicates his time to exposing the truth of the transgender lifestyle. He said,



Credit: Gus Lloyd

“The surgery fixed nothing – it only masked and exacerbated deeper psychological problems ... if people knew what real transgenders went through after having the life-changing surgery, they wouldn’t be naively cheering on Jenner.”<sup>10</sup>

## Public Policy

### Family

A father and mother are a child’s first examples of gender identity and what it means to be male or female. Broken homes affect a child’s development of these ideas; it is best for a child to have both a male and female parent home intact. Among children who have had transgender feelings, 70 to 80 percent have lost those feelings over time.<sup>11</sup> Therefore, it is crucial for parents to respond in a healthy manner and seek out a Christian counselor for the child if necessary.

### Education

Education decisions should be placed in the hands of the parents first and then locally-elected officials. Sex education curriculum which encompasses false realities is extremely dangerous during the most crucial stages of development. According to Trayce Hansen, Ph.D. and licensed Psychologist:

“Curriculum addressing sexual orientation and gender identity will influence impressionable children and perhaps alter their still developing sexual and gender identities ... Teaching children that all sexual- and gender-related behaviors are equally desirable will increase the number of children who depart from the norm and engage in those behaviors.”<sup>12</sup>

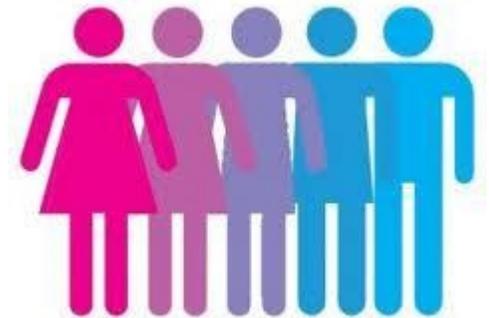
### Government

Legislation such as the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) and “Bathroom Bills” increase unnecessary government intrusion, pose safety risks, and have the potential to force Americans to violate their consciences or impose upon their Constitutional freedoms. Taxpayers should not be forced to pay for gender-reassignment surgery or treatments if it undermines their religious or fundamental convictions.

#### Resources:

- <sup>1</sup>Tooley, Mark. (2015). *Justice Kennedy’s Pursuit of Gnosis*. The American Spectator. <http://spectator.org/articles/63320/justice-kennedy%E2%80%99s-pursuit-gnosis>.
- <sup>2</sup>Tooh, Jenna. (2013). *The (In) Visibility of Childhood Sexual Abuse: Psychiatric Theorizing of Transgenderism and Intersexuality*. *Intersectionalities: A Global Journal of Social Work Analysis, Research, Policy, and Practice*, Volume 2, 75.
- <sup>3</sup>Moore, Russell. (2015). *What Should the Church Say to Bruce Jenner?* Retrieved September 1, 2015, from <http://www.russellmoore.com/2015/04/24/what-should-the-church-say-to-bruce-jenner/>
- <sup>4</sup>Sax, L. (2002). *How Common is Intersex? A Response to Anne Fausto-Sterline*. *The Journal of Sex Research*, Volume 39, No. 3, p.174.
- <sup>5</sup>McHugh, P. (2004). *Surgical sex*. *First Things*, 34-38.
- <sup>6</sup>Mohler, Jr., Albert. (2010). *The Tragedy of Untethered Science — Chilling Examples*. <http://www.albertmohler.com/2007/02/01/the-tragedy-of-untethered-science-chilling-examples/>
- <sup>7</sup>University of Rochester Medical Center. (2015). *Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Health Issues*. <https://www.urmc.rochester.edu/encyclopedia/content.aspx?ContentTypeId=134&ContentId=116>.
- <sup>8</sup>Havertuck, Michael F. (2015, June 9). *Sex changes fixed nothing, says regretful transgender*. GOPUSA. <http://www.gopusa.com/freshink/2015/06/09/sex-changes-fixed-nothing-says-regretful-transgender/>.
- <sup>9</sup>Carter, Joe. (2015). *5 Facts About Transgenderism*. The Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission. <http://erlc.com/article/5-facts-about-transgenderism>.
- <sup>10</sup>Hansen, Trayce, Ph.D. *Impact of School Curriculum Addressing Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity*. Concerned Women for America Publication.

# Since When Are Feelings > Fact?



Concerned Women for America Resource



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Published September 2015