

A M E R I C A N
PASTORS
— N E T W O R K —



Standing in the Gap for Truth.

**Transgender Identity –
Not Accepting God's Design**

M A Y 2 0 1 6

“Oh would some Power the gift give us
To see ourselves as others see us!”

Robert Burns, “To a Louse” (1759-1796)

*Our government,
whose foundations
were built by men who
believed God, has been
hijacked by those who
totally reject God.*

While asking for the power to see ourselves as others see us, people of faith have often taken the adage of Robert Burns one step further. They read their Bibles and pray that God would give them the power to see themselves for who they are, to humble themselves before Him, to obey the civil government and obey the laws of the land and pay their taxes. They want their families to be safe and left alone to seek “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

Our government, whose foundations were built by men who believed God, has been hijacked by those who totally reject God and seek to rule their citizens in a way that forces on us and our children humanistic standards of public conduct, through a failed educational system that teaches exactly the opposite of Bible principles. Instead of keeping out of the business of the home and family, there are those who are set upon a course of systematically destroying the very bedrock of our country—the nuclear family. The most recent meddlesome, oppressive and destructive social engineering experiment of catering to transgender individuals is the government overstepping the line and using its power to harm the family. Can a woman or little girl feel safe in a public bathroom when sexually developed men can come into the rest room and watch them or even attack them? Protecting citizens should be the first job of our government, not enabling perversion or potential predators!



THE GOVERNMENT’S DECREE—VELVET GLOVE HIDES IRON FIST

On May 13, 2016, the Obama administration released under the seals of the U. S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, and the U. S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, what has been called a “decree” regarding, of all things, the use of public bathrooms in public places and schools. While supposedly being just a list of “suggestions” to safeguard the bathroom, locker room and shower use for the 750,000 gender-confused persons in our society, the non-implementation of these supposed “civil rights” may result in the defunding of public schools that do not submit to Washington’s blackmail. (Letter, 2016)

CO-OPTING CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS-DESTROYING THEIR PURPOSE

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits employers from discriminating against employees on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, and religion. A similar provision in Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 says federally funded educational institutions cannot discriminate on the basis of sex. The Justice Department claims non-discrimination by gender identity falls under discrimination by sex, which is federally prohibited. (Christian Headlines, 2016)

The government has been in the brainwashing business regarding what are contrived civil rights for a long time. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is probably being “reimagined” to use in a battle that is totally irrational and in no way, shape or form resembling which was supposed to be corrected by the Civil Rights of 1964.

Every citizen would do well to read Dr. King’s epistle titled Letter from Birmingham Jail (a link to it is found in the reference section at the end of this white paper). Dr. King’s focus was judging men upon their character and not the color of their skin—allowing men and women of all races to utilize public services and to avail themselves of restaurants, hotels and other services. Today’s bastardization of what Dr. King stood for now includes government extending “special rights” to specific groups by lifestyle and private sexual activities. The promoters of today’s lunacy call themselves “Social Justice Warriors” when in reality they are anti-social activists who use intrusiveness, aggression and legal coercion to achieve what they believe will



be a utopian end. They are nowhere close to supporting the American ideal provided by the founders to live and let live. (Rockwell, 2016)

Black conservatives slammed the Obama Administration for threatening to withhold funds from schools that assign bathrooms and locker rooms to students based on biological sex. Members of the Project 21 black leadership group (<http://linkis.com/nationalcenter.org/fysSr>) voiced their outrage at



some federal officials who compared efforts to allow students to use whatever bathroom corresponds with their gender identity with the civil rights movement and struggle against Jim Crow.

“The White House is pushing a radical agenda that has no support in the language or history of existing civil rights law, and they are pursuing it by threatening to punish the most vulnerable students in public school—withholding lunch and remedial teaching assistance

from poor and minority students. This is cruel and divisive and will ultimately be overturned,” said Project 21 Co-Chairman Horace Cooper, an attorney and legal commentator who taught constitutional law at George Mason University. Every public school district in the country received a letter from the federal government Friday, warning school officials must allow students to use whatever bathroom and locker room corresponds to their perceived gender identity, or face a lawsuit.

“The activists are becoming increasingly personal now. Such legal inclusions are becoming personally invasive of the private activities and moral beliefs of the activists’ victims...”

THE LGBTQ ACTIVISTS’ WAR ON COMMON COURTESY, PUBLIC MORALITY, PRIVACY AND DECENCY

What was once matters of personal choice, privacy and family standards have now become matters for Federal Public Policy. Activists are intruding into the personal life of every citizen. As Lew Rockwell reminds us,

“The activists are becoming increasingly personal now. Such legal inclusions are becoming personally invasive of the private activities and moral beliefs of the activists’ victims. ...That is because those are private matters. These are personal matters. The activists say that traditionalists have a problem with their sexuality and their bodies, when no, it is those on the left who have

the problem. Not only do the LGBT activists and their leftist cohorts show a lack of decency and discretion, and a lack of understanding of privacy and dignity in regards to human sexuality, but they now seem to side with intruders and invaders.” (Rockwell, 2016)

As featured in the Wall Street Journal, Dr. Paul R. McHugh, the former psychiatrist-in-chief for Johns Hopkins Hospital and its current Distinguished Service Professor of Psychiatry, said that transgenderism is a “mental disorder” that merits treatment, that sex change is “biologically impossible,” and that people who promote sexual reassignment surgery are collaborating with and promoting a mental disorder. (McHugh, 2016)

Dr. McHugh points out that 70 to 80 percent of children expressing transgender feelings had shed such feelings over time. Dr. McHugh also noted that transgender people have shown higher rates of depression and suicide following gender reassignment surgery. Again, however, the controversy is now surrounding mostly those who haven’t had such surgical procedures, but merely those who believe or say they really are someone of the opposite sex. The bottom line is what the transgender ideology is doing to children and to future generations. What we really need is a return to respect for the dignity of others and for private property rights, and, most of all, we must get rid of government schools that are being used to brainwash our children and threaten their safety. (Chapman, 2016)

WHY TARGET’S BATHROOM POLICY NOW TARGETS US ALL

North Carolina’s failure to comply with the demands of the LGTBQ lobby in the rejection of a bill that would allow persons who “identify” as one sex or the other, or neither, to use the public bathroom of their choosing was met with an almost immediate lawsuit from the U.S. Department of Justice. North Carolina sued back, tossing the issue into the courts. The White House called North Carolina’s failure to kowtow “mean-spirited.” While the Obama administration said the North Carolina action was political, it was the liberal New York Times that seems to have a moment of clarity when it wrote:

It represents the latest example of the Obama administration using a combination of policies, lawsuits and public statements to change the civil rights landscape for gays, lesbians, bisexual and transgender people. After supporting the rights of gay people to marry, allowing them to serve openly



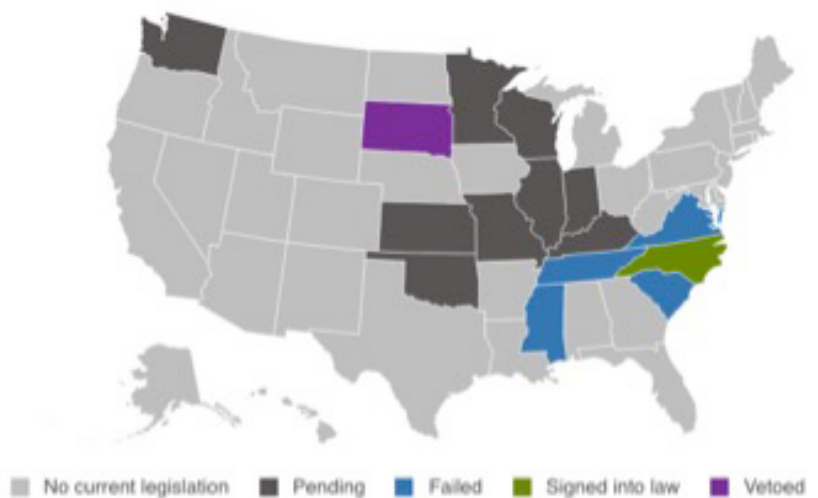
in the military and prohibiting federal contractors from discriminating against them, the administration is wading into the battle over bathrooms and siding with transgender people. (New York Times, 2016)

ANOTHER ATTACK ON THE BIBLICAL DESIGN FOR FAMILY

A term pastors need to learn is “co-belligerence.” Standing together for the sake of righteousness based upon scriptural principle will become more and more needed as society declines.

Pastors of all conservative denominations have expressed great concern at the “trans-inclusive” policies being implemented by the Obama administration. One religious leader emphasized the family foundation being trampled by saying that gender ideology denies the differences in the nature of a man and a woman and the danger that poses to a society without sexual differences. The anthropological basis for the family is thus destroyed.

Status of Transgender Access Legislation



Sources: [National Conference of State Legislatures](#) | Graphiq Analysis. As of May, 4, 2016



REDEFINING THE CONCEPT OF GENDER

The foundational truth of the Bible is being blatantly ignored by the activists seeking to redefine gender. Scripture teaches in Genesis 1:27-28 that “male and female He created them.” God blessed them and God said to them: “Be fertile and multiply.” Sexual difference matters to us because we are creatures created in the image of God.

It’s part of the intrinsic goodness of God’s creation. He has created and supports the meaning and value that lies at the heart of marriage. Only love expressed through the complimentary sexual differences of the husband

and wife is intrinsically and inseparably ordered to create new life.

Gender ideology erases sexual difference (further facilitating marriage redefinition regardless of what the Supreme Court rules). Without sexual difference, human sexuality is disconnected from procreation, and sex becomes an individualized pursuit of passing pleasure practiced by narcissistic individuals without responsibility for the consequences that may occur.

STRETCHING THE LAW—INVENTING LAW OUT OF THIN AIR

While the focus on the personal safety of women and the rearing of children must be taken into account with this depravity-driven change in direction, there are larger issues that should be mentioned as discussed by The Gospel Coalition, which lists “[4 Bigger Repercussions of the Bathroom Decree](#).”

Repercussion #1: Blazing a Political Path Toward Tyranny

First, it is striking to see the description of the president’s guidelines as “[a decree](#)” (now softened to “directive”), as well as the White House’s threat of withholding funds from schools that do not comply.

Regardless of one’s views on gender identity, no one believes that the intent of the lawmakers who passed the Civil Rights Act in the 1960s and Title IX legislation was to include gender identity as part of their protections. To apply this legislation to gender identity today, apart from Congressional approval, is to effectively rewrite the law without any kind of legislative process. It is to create a new law out of nothing and then use the president’s powers to promote it.

Even if you agree with the president’s guidelines, I urge you to consider the precedent this sets for future presidents to invent and revise new interpretations of laws and then demand compliance. The Founding Fathers put guardrails in place to keep the legislative, executive, and judicial branches from careening toward tyranny. Ever since Woodrow Wilson, those guardrails have been weakening, making it easier for a future tyrant to seize power and have historical precedent for doing so.

Repercussion #2: Co-opting the Civil Rights Narrative

The fact that “segregation” has re-entered the American vocabulary, only this time in reference to bathrooms, is astonishing. It puts gender identity and race in the same category, and then applies the story of civil rights to the

*“The detachment of
“sex” from “gender” will
have repercussions that
extend far beyond the
debate over bathrooms,
and because of the
complexities associated
with various forms
of gender identity, a
soft despotism will
be necessary in order
to enforce the new
tolerance.”*

societal push to embrace transgender theories. To dissent from this ideology or to question the wisdom and prudence of this revisionist understanding of the human person is to join the ranks of bigots and racists.

In [her speech](#) that connected racially segregated bathrooms to gender identity, Attorney General Loretta Lynch claimed that, in both cases, there was merely a “distinction without a difference.” In other words, the fact that a transgender female possesses male anatomy is a distinction, but not a substantive difference.

This is not a scientific statement, but an ideological vision of what male and female mean. The detachment of “sex” from “gender” will have repercussions that extend far beyond the debate over bathrooms, and because of the complexities associated with various forms of gender identity, [a soft despotism](#) will be necessary in order to enforce the new tolerance.

Repercussion #3: Promoting a New Vision of What It Means to Be Human

As Christians, we believe that gender is a gift from God and that we ought to welcome this gift (part of God’s good creation), even when it may be difficult (as a result of our fallenness). We believe that true freedom comes within our acceptance of our bodily existence, as given to us by God, and our discovery of how best to glorify God within this finite frame.

Today’s world promotes another “gospel”: believe and submit to one’s own individual desires as an act of self-definition. Another “great commission:” to increase the number of people who affirm every act of self-definition, without question. Another “hope”: to create a world of peace and joy by embracing a [queer cosmology](#) that transforms society into [less binary ways](#) of being.

The bathroom debate is heated because of what it symbolizes: a redefinition of what it means to be human.

- What does it mean to be a mother in a world in which men can have babies?
- To advocate for medical procedures on the body that have no relation to deeper questions of what our bodies are for?
- To see [surgeries that sterilize](#) as the only compassionate option for people experiencing gender dysphoria?

Repercussion #4: Exploring New Options for Educating Kids

Some Christian parents say they will pull their children out of the public schools because of these developments. They worry that their children are in danger.

I believe we should be asking questions about public education that go far beyond issues related to safety. The deeper questions concern the promulgation of a worldview that is antithetical to Christianity, indoctrination into secularism, the promotion of ideologies of gender and sexuality that stand in direct opposition to Christian teaching about the goodness of creation, the gift of our bodies, and the meaning of marriage as oriented toward procreation.

Christians are concerned about what may happen in the bathroom; they should be much more concerned about what happens in the classroom. Of course, the cost of a Christian education, not to mention the unavailability in certain locations, makes this option almost impossible for many families. Neither is homeschooling always an option. Regardless, I expect Christians to engage in difficult but beneficial conversations about their responsibility to educate their children. (Christian Coalition, 2016)

ONE FINAL NOTE

We would be remiss if we did not mention the fact that there are children—about 1 in 4,500—who are diagnosed with sexual defects at birth. These children have chromosomes that show that they are either male (XY) or female (XX) from their DNA blueprint regardless of what their external genitalia may exhibit. While these conditions do exist, they represent an abnormal and rare physical condition to be treated medically as best as possible. It does not establish a premise to force an alignment in thought and action of the entire rest of society. To learn more about this issue and how you can help parents dealing with it, please follow this link.

http://dsdfamilies.org/mednote/sex_assignment.php.

SO WHAT?

God made people either male or female. We cannot do whatever we want with our gender. All we can do is thank God for the way He made us and ask him for forgiveness, grace and a heavenly home. Our differences point to

“Our culture is embracing transgender identity and is thus uprooting the very structure of our bodily existence. To reject this reality is to embrace chaos. Untold numbers of boys and girls will be harmed by doing so.”

the complementary nature of men and women. It is amazing that God could not completely express who He was and what His image was like in one gender. It took two who are very different but totally compatible and able to represent His finest qualities in a fallen world.

First, we should recognize that we are witnessing moral anarchy, as Western nations abandon all semblance of biblical authority. There is nothing more essential to our lives than our manhood or womanhood.

Our culture is embracing transgender identity and is thus uprooting the very structure of our bodily existence. To reject this reality is to embrace chaos. Untold numbers of boys and girls will be harmed by doing so. Most significantly, God is not honored or obeyed.

The rates of suicide among transgender people show the brokenness this choice causes. Dr. McHugh has noted in the Wall Street Journal that the suicide rate among transgender individuals is 20 times higher than in the normal population.

Embracing transgender identity at the cultural level does not produce happiness and wholeness. It goes hand in hand with personal confusion and societal disorder.



Second, we should celebrate the beauty of God's creative design. The Christian church and the godly family should be a festival of happiness. We should rejoice that God in His sovereign wisdom has opened our eyes to see that He has made us according to His perfect design. Manhood and womanhood aren't Plan B. God Himself has made us as we are. We are the pinnacle of His creation.

God's creative work is undermined across the board today. Even in evangelical settings, it is increasingly acceptable to teach that humanity isn't really that special. Adam and Eve weren't literally the first man and woman, but merely selected from a group of hominids to represent humanity. The Bible speaks a "better word" than this (see [Hebrews 12:24](#)). A secularizing, darkening world seeks to demystify the human body. God and His Word dignify it, showing us that our bodies were made not only for utility, but for worship. Christians celebrate the beauty of the body, and of manhood and womanhood, for we see that we owe our form to divine design.

Third, we should recommit ourselves to training our children. The bodily differences between men and women are real. They speak to differences in our makeup, specifically designed by our Creator. In practical form, we must teach these differences to our children. They must see that being a boy or a girl is a matter of God's glory. There should be no shame in boys liking boyish things or in girls adopting girlish behaviors. Christians should encourage this kind of awareness. Many parents will find that their children genuinely enjoy being a boy or a girl, a future man or a future woman. We should regularly remind our kids that it was God who made them as they are. We should encourage them to embrace and assume manhood or womanhood.

When we do so, we're imitating the pattern of wise biblical parents. "Be strong," David said to his son Solomon, "and prove yourself a man" ([1 Kings 2:2](#)). Parents cannot guarantee the godliness of their children, of course. Solomon clearly chose to exhibit his manhood in sinful ways. But we can shepherd our children and exalt the goodness of manhood and womanhood.

If we do not teach our kids about gender and sexuality, we can be assured that our unbiblical culture will. The culture-makers who disobey the Scripture are persuasive, forceful, and eager to indoctrinate our children. Fathers and mothers must recommit themselves to training their children in the scriptural worldview so that children do not embrace the cultural one.

Fourth, we should reach out in compassion and call for repentance. We must reach out to those cursed by Adam's Fall just as we were. We may feel a visceral response to sin and its effects, but this response must never quiet our instinct to show mercy to lost people. Transgender individuals will be increasingly common in our neighborhoods and communities. We have a choice: we can sinfully avoid them, or we can seek to reach out to them in kindness and conviction and evangelize them (see [Matthew 9:10-13](#)).

Conversion for transgender individuals will not be neat and clean. It will be messy. It will involve the recognition that sin has corrupted us in every fiber of our being ([Isaiah 64:6](#)). But the gospel is stronger than sin. Christ's death washes us clean, and Christ's resurrection gives us life. The resurrection raised Christ's spirit even as it renewed His body.

Pastors should preach on the implications of the resurrection for all people, including transgender ones. Coming to faith has profound implications for our bodies. For people who have embraced a transgender identity, repentance

will mean embracing their God-given gender and rejecting whatever sinful identity they have chosen.

CONCLUSION

The talking animals of Walt Disney films and pop culture have charmed many of us. But a Disneyfied concept of narcissistic self-determination has not done us any favors. The culture has offered us a false gospel, one that approves of all we do, leaving us to pursue anything we desire. (Strachan, 2016)

THE COST OF SILENCE

Right now, America has been lulled to sleep in our comfort and our “affluenza.” Our churches are more concerned with people having a real good, feel good time. Sam Rohrer, President of the American Pastor’s Network, gives us a challenge:

“We are to be concerned about the political. We’ve got to preach what the Bible says, but our focus at APN is on the pastors and the pulpits--equipping them, encouraging those who believe in the authority of scripture, and salvation by faith in Christ alone. If those two issues are not righted, their prayers aren’t even going to be answered by God. That’s where we start. You have to have the courage to preach the truth.

We are in perilous days. It does no good to know the truth, but not to live it. It does no good to know the truth and not to preach it. We say, ‘Pastors, preach in the pulpit, preach the word of God. God’s word addresses every issue of life!’ The problem is our people don’t know that the Bible speaks to it. We can’t speak as if God’s truth is an opinion. We have to speak as if it’s God’s final word, and He’s the final judge. Let’s please Him, rather than ourselves, or somebody down the street.” (Rohrer, 2016)

The scriptural gospel is far better than anything that will come from Washington. It makes sense of our humanity. It restores our dignity. It calls us to be men and women who see our bodies as gifts, vessels by which we



may give glory to our Maker and Redeemer. This may sound too good to be true, but the church exists to make one thing clear: remaining silent is not only wrong, but it may well prove to be extraordinarily costly. It may sear the conscience of the next generation and hasten our national decline. (Rohrer, 2016)

It is the message of Scripture, and it is the hope of us all.

RESOURCES

Bathroom policies are a symptom of society rejecting Christian understanding of sex and natural law. Downloaded May 17, 2016 from <https://www.osv.com/OSVNewsweekly/Article/TabId/535/ArtMID/13567/ArticleID/19781/Choosing-gender-ignores-truth-of-human-person.aspx>

Christian Coalition, (2016) <https://blogs.thegospelcoalition.org/trevinwax/2016/05/13/4-bigger-repercussions-of-the-bathroom-decree/>

ChristianHeadlines.com.(2016) Justice Department Sues North Carolina to Strike Down HB2, downloaded May 7, 2016 from <http://www.christianheadlines.com/news/justice-department-sues-north-carolina-to-strike-down-hb2.html>

Farnan, T., and Hasson, M., (2016)OSV Newsweekly: ‘Choosing’ gender ignores truth of human person

King, M. L., (1963) Letter from Birmingham Jail. http://kingencyclopedia.stanford.edu/kingweb/popular_requests/frequentdocs/birmingham.pdf

McHugh, P., Johns Hopkins Psychiatrist: Transgender is ‘Mental Disorder,’ Sex Change ‘Biologically Impossible’ Downloaded from CNSnews.com, June 17, 2016 [<http://cnsnews.com/news/article/michael-wchapman/>

[[johns-hopkins-psychiatrist-transgender-mental-disorder-sex-change](http://www.acped.org/the-collegespeaks/position-statements/gender-ideology-harms-children)]
[<http://www.acped.org/the-collegespeaks/position-statements/gender-ideology-harms-children>]
<http://www.wsj.com/articles/paul-mchugh-transgender-surgery-isnt-the-solution-1402615120>

Moir, A., & B., Why Men Don’t Iron: The Science of Gender Studies (New York: Citadel, 2000), 168.

New York Times, (2016) Downloaded May 17, 2016 from http://www.nytimes.com/2016/05/13/us/politics/obama-administration-to-issue-decree-on-transgender-access-to-school-restrooms.html?_r=0

Rockwell, L, (2016) LGBT Activists War on Privacy, Dignity, and Common Decency, downloaded May 17, 2016 from <http://lewrockwell.com>.

Rohrer, S. (2016) Interview on television station, KDOV-LP, April, 2016, a non-commercial television station in Medford, Oregon

Strachan, O. (2013) Risky Gospel: Abandon Fear and Build Something Awesome. Thomas Nelson.

Strachan, O., (2015) Transgender Identity—Wishing Away God’s Design, Downloaded May 17, 2016 from <https://answersingenesis.org/family/gender/transgender-identity-wishing-away-gods-design/>

See John Piper and Wayne Grudem, eds., Recovering Biblical Manhood & Womanhood(Crossway, 1992), and the forthcoming book edited by Owen Strachan and Jonathan Parnell, Designed for Joy (Crossway, 2015).