

The Church in Babylon

Study Notes

Session Five

“Transgenderism, Sexuality and the Church”

Jeremiah 9:1, *“Oh that my head were waters, and my eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!”*

George Orwell once said, *“In a time of universal deceit, telling the truth is a revolutionary act.”* Let us join together in telling the truth in these days.

What is transgenderism?

Transgender - often shortened as trans, people have a gender identity or gender expression that differs from their sex assignment at birth. Trans men and trans women are people whose gender identity is the opposite of their assigned sex.

Gender Dysphoria - Gender dysphoria is the feeling of discomfort or distress that might occur in people whose gender identity differs from their sex assigned at birth or sex-related physical characteristics. Transgender and gender-nonconforming people might experience gender dysphoria at some point in their lives.

Why Transgenderism?

- a. Living Authentically?
 - What do we say to those who say they must live according to their feelings or orientation not according to their biological anatomy?
 - The legendary UCLA head coach John Wooden once said: “Being true to ourselves doesn’t make us people of integrity. Charles Manson [now deceased] was true to himself, and as a result, he right is spending the rest of his life in prison. Ultimately, being true to our Creator gives us the purest form of integrity.”
 - This search for an authentic life leads many who struggle with transgenderism to turn to another issue, transableism.
 - Transableism refers to thinking that you are born with body parts that you don’t feel belong to you, and so you must rid yourself of these parts to live authentically.
- b. Misgendering Children?
 - There was a study done a few years ago by Maria do Mar Pereira from the University of Warwick’s Department of Sociology studying what they called “gender variant children.”

- Tara Culp-Ressler summed up the research for ThinkProgress.org by saying *“Raising children in societies that adhere to rigid gender roles, with fixed ideas about what should be considered ‘masculine’ and ‘feminine’ can actually be detrimental to their physical and mental health, according to a study that observed 14 year-olds interactions over a three month period.”*
- The pressure to support transgenderism, at every age, is growing.

Problem with Transgenderism

a. Mind Problem vs. Body Problem

- In the fall of 2016 Lawrence S. Mayer and Paul R. McHugh looked at findings from the fields of biology, psychology, and social sciences to see the effects of sexuality and gender. Here are some of their findings:
 - Members of the transgender population are at higher risk of a variety of mental health problems.
 - Compared to the general population, adults who have undergone sex-reassignment surgery continue to have a higher risk of experiencing poor mental health outcomes.
 - One study found that, compared to controls, sex-reassigned individuals were about five times more likely to attempt suicide and about nineteen more times more likely to die by suicide.
 - Only a minority of children who experience cross-gender identification will continue to do so into adolescence and adulthood.
 - There is little scientific evidence for the therapeutic value of interventions that delay puberty... there is no evidence that all those children who express gender-atypical thoughts or behavior should be encouraged to become transgender.
- Keep in mind that transgender surgery can never change anyone’s sex.
 - “You are never changing the sex of the patient. Never. Every cell in the body is programmed to be male or female.” – Quentin Van Meter, pediatric endocrinologist

How would you answer if you were accused of being bigoted because you are opposed to transgender surgery? Or same-sex marriage?

Biblical Answer for Transgenderism

a. Creation

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. Genesis 1:26-27

b. Celibacy

- *“There are untold thousands of faithful and beautiful saints in so many churches across the world who are same-sex attracted, struggling with those temptations, but have made the choice to live celibately because that is what God calls all people to when they have not entered into His place for marriage.”* - Glen T. Stanton author of *Loving My LGBT Neighbor: Being Friends in Grace and Truth*
- To those committed to a life of holiness, God makes this remarkable promise, which, in principle, is applicable to all who live celibate lives:
 - *Let not the foreigner who has joined himself to the Lord say,
“The Lord will surely separate me from his people”;
and let not the eunuch say,
“Behold, I am a dry tree.”*
 - ⁴ *For thus says the Lord:
“To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths,
who choose the things that please me
and hold fast my covenant,*
 - ⁵ *I will give in my house and within my walls
a monument and a name
better than sons and daughters;
I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off.* Isaiah 56:3-5

The Church’s Answer for Transgenderism

What would you do if your teenager told you that a friend of theirs was “trans”?

“Why is it acceptable to surgically alter a child’s body to match his sense of self but bigoted to try to change his sense of self to match his body? If it is wrong to attempt to change a child’s gender identity (because transgender activist say it is fixed and meddling with it is harmful), then why is it morally acceptable to alter something as fixed as the reproductive anatomy of a minor?” - Andrew Walker and Denny Burk

Whether the brokenness is sexual or something else, how do you think our churches and/or fellow believers should deal with broken people?