

Transgenderism Hot Summer Nights

Intro – NCAA Swimming Transgender Controversy

- In 2017, swimmer **William Thomas** began studying at the University of Pennsylvania. He competed on the university's men's swim team from 2017 to 2020.
- Thomas was not a stand-out on the Penn team nor on the national scene. In 2020, Thomas was ranked **the #462 swimmer in the NCAA** – far from the top of the heap.
- Thomas said he experienced **gender dysphoria** and stress on his mental health, which led him to transition and begin hormone replacement therapy in May 2019, following his sophomore year.
- Before the start of Thomas's senior season, the NCAA required transgender women (men) to undergo **12 months of hormone therapy** to become eligible for competition in the women's category.
- When Thomas began his season in November 2021, he'd undergone **30 months** of hormone therapy. He then started competing with women, where he placed #1 in competition.
- Thomas' success in women's athletics **sparked quite a debate** about biological men competing in women's athletics. It also brought the top of **transgenderism** to the forefront of culture.

1. What is transgenderism?

- The term transgender is an adjective applied to a person whose gender identity does not correspond with the sex registered for them at birth. Someone whose **“gender”** does not match their **sex**.
 - Our culture calls someone a “transgender man” who was born a biological woman and vice versa. The idea is that “sex” is **biological**, while “gender” is a **malleable human construct**.
 - It's interesting to note that “gender” and “sex” had the **same definition** throughout English-speaking history. Defining sex and gender separately is a recent development dating back to the 1950s.
 - It's not uncommon for those who are transgender to **cross-dress**. A transgender man will often take on the appearance of a man, though she is really a biological woman and vice versa.
 - Transgender people may identify as heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual, or none of the above. It's likely that most transgender people would identify as gay. **1.64 million Americans** over the age of 13 identify as transgender (.5% - less than 1%).
- ### 2. How do “medical experts” view transgenderism?
- Transgenderism often includes *gender dysphoria*. GD is a state of severe **distress** or **unhappiness** caused by feeling that one's gender identity **does not match** one's sex.
 - *The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition, Text Revision* (DSM-5-TR) lists a long set of symptoms related to GD, all of which must be present for **at least 6 months**.

- Transgenderism is typically given to the world of **psychology**. The DSM-5 says that treatment for GD includes “open-ended exploration of their feelings and experiences of gender identity and expression, *without the therapist having any pre-defined gender identity or expression outcome* defined as preferable to another.”
- Further, they say that “attempts to force a transgender person to be cisgender (sometimes referred to as *gender identity conversion efforts* or so-called “gender identity conversion therapy”) are considered **unethical** and have been linked to adverse mental health outcomes.”
- In other words, modern psychology prescribes **unconditional affirmation** for those who are transgender – social, legal, medical, and even surgical affirmation are all included.
- Such affirmation could mean the use of different pronouns, changing one’s name, prescribing puberty blockers for those in adolescence, and even surgically altering one’s genitalia.
- Statistical data tells us that **suicide rates** among transgender people are markedly higher than the general population. **82%** have considered killing themselves, and **40%** have attempted to do so.

3. What is public opinion about transgenderism?

- According to a study released by Pew in June 2022, most Americans favor protecting trans people from discrimination, but fewer support

policies related to medical care for gender transitions.

- **64% of Americans** say they favor laws that would protect transgender individuals from discrimination in jobs, housing, and public spaces. 25% have no opinion and only 10% strongly disagree.
- The public is **divided** over the extent to which our society has accepted people who are transgender: 38% say society has gone too far in accepting them, while a roughly equal share (36%) say society hasn’t gone far enough.
- **Sixty-six percent of American adults** do not believe that biological males should be allowed to compete in women’s sports competitions at the **high school** level.
- When it comes to **college and professional sports**, **65% of American adults** don’t believe that biological males should be allowed to compete in women’s sports.
- And yet, one can’t help but think that **greater sympathy** has been gained for transgenderism in our culture, especially since media and entertainment bombard us with images of **effeminate men and macho women**.
- The media calls the use of puberty blockers and genitalia reassignment “*gender-affirming care*.” The idea is that one is not affirming a person’s gender unless they support both. More than **20 Republican-led states** have passed bills regulating so-called “gender-affirming care.”

4. What does the Bible say about transgenderism?

- The Bible is emphatically clear that God created all humans either **male or female** – “*So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*” (Gen. 1:27) Adam & Eve – not Steve.
- Scripture is clear that God created the woman as **a helpmate** to man (Gen. 2:18) and His clear design is that “*a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh*” (Gen. 2:24).
- Thus, gender and sex are two words to describe the same thing – **biological sex**. God’s desire is for men to act like men (1 Cor. 16:13) and for women to conduct themselves as women.
- The Scripture is filled with **instruction** from God directed to both men and women, plus husbands and wives. Those roles have application in the home and in the local church.
- **God prohibited cross-dressing** for His people Israel – “*A woman shall not wear anything that pertains to a man, nor shall a man put on a woman’s garment, for all who do so are **an abomination** to the Lord your God.*” (Deut. 22:5)
- In Romans 1, the Apostle Paul says that the judgment of God was poured out on those who “*exchanged the natural use for what is against nature*” (1:26).
- Transgenderism is **a perversion of God’s design** in creation, and thus it is a satanic attempt to undermine God’s plan that must be **rejected**.

5. What is the Christian response to transgenderism?

- The two overarching principles that guide every aspect of Christian life are these – **love the Lord** your God with you heart, soul, mind, and strength; and **love your neighbor** as yourself.
- To that end, loving God means that we must **believe** the truth of His Word and make the **application** to our lives. In this case, that means affirming biblical manhood and womanhood.
- In a world that forces us into submission by threatening us with cancellation, **we must stand strong** on the truth of God’s Word, sharing it even with those who don’t want to hear it.
- Loving our neighbor as ourselves requires us to remember that **every person** the world calls “transgender” has been made in the image of God. **He loves every transgender person in the world**, and so should we.
- Loving those who are transgender means **befriending** them and **serving** them with acts of kindness, earning the right to speak truth into their lives. They won’t care how much we know until they know how much we care.
- Loving those who are transgender means we must also **share with them the truth about their sin**. Affirming someone’s sin (as psychology commands us to do) is the most dangerous and hateful thing we can do.
- Paul said it best – we must make it our aim to **speak the truth in love** (Eph. 4:15).