



CHILICROSSROADS BIBLE CHURCH

November 18, 2010

Chairman Steve Hambley and Members of the House Civil Justice Committee
77 S. High St, 11th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Steve Hambley and Members of the House Civil Justice Committee,

This article references a 30-year longitudinal study that shows that trans individuals who get surgery are 19 times more likely to kill themselves after the surgery. ¹ Public policy that doesn't take this into account is destructive to our state. Why would we as a society encourage young people who haven't even been alive 30 years to pursue a lifestyle that the empirical evidence (a 30-year study) shows is self-destructive? The American Academy of Pediatrics says the trans suicide rate is much higher than the rate for non-trans children. 41% of trans people in the US have attempted suicide. ² 52% of trans youth have considered suicide in the last year. ³ How does that conform to the Bible's teaching to love our neighbor? It doesn't. We can't love our neighbor and encourage them to make dangerous choices at the same time.

The Bible says a fair amount about gender. 27 verses into the Bible, we read these words, "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them" Gen. 1:27. Nowhere does the Bible say anything about any gender other than male and female.

As a father of a son and a daughter, and as a lover of science, I can say men and women are different down to each cell of their body. Every female body cell has two X chromosomes. Every male body cell has an X and a Y chromosome. A person can take hormones and have surgeries, but they remain male or female. Because this is true, the kindest thing I can say about gender is that there have always been and will always be only two genders. Gender and sex are not on a continuum. They are not fluid. They are static and chosen by a loving God.

With allowances made for age, my son could always beat my daughter at basketball, football, a foot race or an arm-wrestling match. A boy can't become a girl. And a girl can't become a boy. And to tell a young child they can change their gender is to tell them a harmful lie.

As followers of Christ, our thinking is grounded on what the Bible says. The Bible teaches us to love and respect others and treat them as we want to be treated. So we try to do that. The best thing we can tell young people who are curious about gender is the truth. "You are beautiful. You are loved. You are created in very image of Almighty God as a male or female. He lovingly formed every human in the womb (Psa. 139:15-16). He didn't make a mistake when He Created you male or female. Embrace how and who He made you."

The best way to have happy, healthy young people in Ohio is tell them the truth in a supportive environment. Proverbs 26:28 says if you lie to someone it's proof you hate them. Let's tell them the truth: that there are only two genders and help them be the best men and women on the planet.

Pastor Neal Dearyan

¹ https://redstate.com/brandon_morse/2018/03/21/ben-shapiro-wrecks-study-tries-prove-sex-change-surgery-doesnt-increase-chances-suicide-n86629

² <https://www.livescience.com/11208-high-suicide-risk-prejudice-plague-transgender-people.html>

³ <https://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/ny-transgender-non-binary-lgbtq-youth-suicide-trevor-project-survey-20200715-qz4wut4mwzdgfzesc6akltky-story.html>