**Biblical Ethics And Handling The Issues Of Our Day**

**\*\* What is Christian Ethics?** *“It is using Scripture as a lens to make decisions and determine right and wrong regarding ethical dilemmas and challenges such as Abortion, Critical Race Theory, Gender wars, Euthanasia. Included is this is the application of Scriptural truths to current ethical issues that we are facing in 2024.”*

**1) What We Are Covering In Our Seminar – 3 Key Battleground Ethical Issues**

1. **The following are the three topics we will cover in this seminar. They are just some of many ethical dilemmas that Christians must be prepared to confront:**
2. **Abortion** – There is no doubt that this continues to be a topic of conversation that Christians need to address. The overturning of Roe vs. Wade did not bring the discussion to an end.
3. **Racism/CRT/Wokeness** – This is a major issue today. There is a certain mindset that states that all people of a certain color are “racists.” How do we respond to that belief? What, Biblically do we do and say to people who accuse us of something we are not?
4. **The Gender Wars** – There is a major push in our culture to promote transgenderism. How do we respond to this when talking with people and what are we do as Christians if we must confront it?

**2) Our Approach To Each Topic:**

1. **We will note what each of the three areas believes, laying some groundwork.** We will also define what we are discussing and give additional information to help clarify what we are talking about.
2. **We will then address each issue from a Scriptural point of view.** This means we will respond through the lens of a Biblical worldview.
3. **We will address some of the “reasons” people give in support of these issues as applicable** and answer some of the objections against a Biblical view used by those who are pro-abortion, etc.
4. **Your interaction is important** because we want to hear your thoughts on these topics. Each of us may have some insights that will help interacting on the topic.

**Ethical Issue #1 – How Should Christians Approach The Issue Of Abortion**

**1. Some Opening Remarks:**

 **A.** Roe vs. Wade was overturned in 2022 and the issue of abortion was given back to the states to oversee. Since that time, there has been a drop-off in the number of abortions. It may not be as great a number as we would have hoped for. In states with full or partial birth bans, the rates obviously dropped but increased in states that allow access for anyone from anywhere else to have an abortion done. I just read in February of this year that 89,000 babies have been saved since Roe vs. Wade was overturned.

 **B.** Since 1973 over 65 million babies have been killed by abortion. Add to that the number of botched abortions where the child is removed from the mother and just left to die and the number climbs. Not sure of the totals for that.

 **C.** As of January of 2024, over a dozen states have outlawed abortion. Included in those would be Missouri, Idaho, Tennessee, Mississippi. Other states have bans on abortion after a certain period of time based on the age of the child in the womb, ranging from six to eighteen weeks.

 **D.** Michigan is one of the most pro-abortion states in the country. Voters approved a state constitutional amendment to protect abortion. In our state, abortion is legal up to the moment of birth. Partial birth abortions, thankfully, are banned in Michigan. Partial birth abortion physically shook me.

 **E.** We protect the life of unborn animals who are considered valuable, and yet a human being’s life is of less value than, for example, an eagle’s egg.

 **F.** The issue does come down to a few things. First, when does life begin? Second, should the government protect the unborn and at what point should they begin doing that – at conception, after so many weeks, etc.? Third, what kind of penalties should be assessed to those who take the life of an unborn child? Fourth, this, as we shall see, is an ethical and Biblical issue. There may be differences of opinion on the answers here.

 **G.** This, in my opinion, is a spiritual war. Yes, God’s heaven is being populated, but the death of children grieves Him and I believe that any country that treats their children in a manner such as aborting them, will be harshly judged.

**2. When does life begin:**

 **A. What does God’s Word say?**

1. **Ps. 51:5** – David writes that in sin his mother conceived him. This does not mean his mom was in sin when he was conceived. He was, at conception, given a nature of sin, as we all have who are humans. Note the statement of conception.
2. **Ps**. **139:13-16** – Here we read how God has formed our inward parts and knit us together in our mother’s womb. We are “fearfully and wonderfully made.”
3. **Jer. 1:5** – God tells Jeremiah that before he was formed in the womb the Lord knew him. God considered Jeremiah to be a person when he was in the womb. The word “formed” is seen, for example, in the picture of a potter and their clay. Before God “created” us in the womb, He knew us.
4. **Ex**. **21:22-25** – **Vs. 22** tells us that in a scuffle, if a woman who is pregnant ends up in labor because of it, yet her and the baby are okay, there is still a fine to be paid. **Vss. 23-25** tells us that if there is harm to her or the child, even to the point where mother or child dies, there are harsher repercussions. The child in the womb is protected by God’s laws just as much as anyone already born.
5. **Mt. 1:20-22** – In this passage note in **vs. 20** that it was life that was conceived in Mary and that she would give birth to a Son, that of course, being Jesus.
6. **Luke 1:39-42** – Mary, the mother of Jesus, went to visit Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist. Note the response of the baby John in **vs. 41**.

 **B. What is the view of the medical and scientific fields?**

1. This will differ from doctor to doctor and scientist to scientist as to when we can declare the child a human. But there is more than enough evidence from both the medical and scientific communities to argue that life begins at conception. Here are some following quotes that support that view.

*“Upon fertilization, parts of human beings have actually been transformed…into a single, whole human being. During the process of fertilization…a new human being is produced.”* – Dr. Dianne Irving, biochemist and biologist

*"The development of a human begins with fertilization…"* – T.W. Sadler, *Langman's Medical Embryology*. 7th edition. Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins 1995, p. 3

 *"To accept the fact that after fertilization has taken place a new human has come into being is no longer a matter of taste or opinion...it is plain experimental evidence. Each individual has a very neat beginning, at conception."* – Dr**. Jerome Lejeune**, "Father of Modern Genetics."

Steve Jacobs (see below) *“emailed surveys to professors in the biology departments of over 1,000 institutions around the world.” The results determined that the vast majority of biologists believe that life begins at conception*. Jacobs writes, *“I found that 5,337 biologists (96%) affirmed that a human’s life begins at fertilization, with 240 (4%) rejecting that view.”*

*This finding is even more stunning since the vast majority of the biologists surveyed were liberal, pro-choice and non-religious. “The majority of the sample identified as liberal (89%), pro-choice (85%) and non-religious (63%).* – Steve Jacobs began the study as a part of his dissertation for his Ph.D. at the University of Chicago’s department of Comparative Human Development. This was in an article dated 2019.

1. The issue is no longer what the medical and scientific communities think. It has become a philosophical war of worldviews where people become the sole decision makers of the unborn.
2. When we say it is an ethical issue, it revolves around an individual’s viewpoint on whether they want the child or not, though the baby is a human being.
3. The pro-choice individuals, knowing that they cannot win the argument scientifically, medically, or Biblically on whether the child, or the embryo, is biologically human, have shifted their arguments to the idea of “personhood” based on their own subjective values and views.

**3. Answering objections and arguments of pro-choice advocates and their views on the “personhood” of the child and their reasons for downplaying the viability of the baby being fully human along with reasons they encourage abortion:**

 A. If it is unable to interact and survive on its own, it is not fully a “person.”

* The same could be said about an infant or someone who is comatose. Does this make them “less” human because they are outside the womb. Of course not.
* As we have shown above, the child, at any point in the womb, is a person.

 B. Personhood begins when someone draws their first breath.

* In **Ps. 51:5** David noted that he existed before he drew his first breath.
* Birth is the human debut to the world. That, though, does not take away from whether the baby in the womb is a person because it has not taken its first breath. Children in the womb feel pain, they move, they suck their thumb.

 C. If a child in the womb has birth defects detected ahead of time.

* The argument here is that to bring a child into the world who has, for example, “Down’s Syndrome,” would put a weight on the parents and the child could have a difficult life.
* Note that many with, for example, “Down’s Syndrome,” as an example, have lived and are living productive lives.
* Who makes the decision as to what “defects” determines whether an abortion should occur. Much of the pressure comes from culture. This thinking also fosters the mindset that we only want physically perfect humans in our society.
* In **Ex. 4:11** God asks who made man’s mouth, or makes him mute, deaf, able to see, or blind. Ultimately, God does not make people blind, per se, but He is aware of their problem but does not devalue them. One of the great hymn writers, Fanny Crosby, became blind at an early age and God used her greatly.
* In **Jn. 9** Jesus told His disciples that a man who had been born blind was not in his condition because of sin. Out of his blindness, God would be glorified.
* Once you go down the road to determining who is worthy to be brought into the world, where do you stop? Again, this is all based on subjective values and feelings and what some individual thinks about another person who may not “measure up.”

 D. What about rape or incest?

* This is a horrific tragedy, and we must try to understand the pain that the mother must be going through because of what happened.
* We as Christians should be there to give our support to the mom during this time of their life.
* These constitute, though, at the most, 1% of all abortions. We would not think of taking the life of the child who was born from such a terrible situation once they are out of the womb.
* If it is too painful for the mother to raise the baby, adoption is a viable option. The child is not at fault in this situation.
* As “Right to Life of Michigan” notes, “*The unborn child is the second victim of the crime and shouldn’t be treated as if she was the attacker.”*

 E. To save the life of the mother

* Though this does happen on very rare occasions. I had a tough time finding up to date statistics but at one time it was 0.118% of abortions were for this reason.
* In these situations, it is a decision between the death of one (child) or two (mother and child).
* This is a moral choice, and saving the life of the one who can be saved, usually the mother, is the right choice.

 F. The health of the mother

* Some say that for a woman to carry a child to full-term puts her at risk. Read the following from “Right to Life of Michigan” in responding to this argument,

*“Abortion advocates claim that abortion is 11 times safer than carrying a pregnancy to term. Even if we accept these statistics, they don’t prove very much. If a woman has an abortion, she has a 99.9994% chance of survival, compared to a 99.9943% chance if a woman carried her pregnancy to term.”*

* The reality is that abortion has become a form of birth control.

 G. “It’s my body” and I can do with it what I want.

* The evidence shows that the child, though being carried in the mother’s womb, has a distinct genetic identity and distinct DNA which shows that it is not just a blob of tissue, but a separate life. Yes, dependent upon the mother for nourishment but it is also its own life. Infants who are born need others to feed them, but they are distinct from those feeding them.
* The baby has its own heart, lungs, blood type. It is another person as much as the mother is. Therefore, the “it’s my body” argument is self-centered and ignores the reality that the child also can say, “it’s my body” because they are a person.
* This viewpoint, that we can control and make decisions over another person’s life, whether in the womb or outside the womb, leads to all kinds of other moral and ethical problems. You could not argue against slavery because someone could say they have control over other people. No one would agree with that.
* We have the right regarding our own body to do what we want. We do not have the right to determine what somebody else does with their body (the unborn), which this argument used against the Pro-life view actually supports the belief that a baby in the womb is a human.

**4. How should we respond to people who are pro-abortion or considering having one:**

1. Show grace. Do not call someone a “murderer.” The goal is to talk with them, to offer alternatives, to hear their story as to why they are getting an abortion.
2. Give them information regarding the child they are carrying. Get them materials to read that shows that the little one in their womb is a person.
3. Encourage them, if possible, to get an ultrasound. Many women have changed their minds regarding abortion when they saw the child in their womb.
4. Tell them about God’s love for them and His care for them and their child. Lovingly explain that God views life as beginning at conception and that even if they have had an abortion, God still extends His love to them and desires for them to become a follower of Jesus through faith, or if a follower, to continue growing spiritually.
5. There are sacrifices that are made when a child comes along. We all make sacrifices. If the mother does not feel capable of raising a child, encourage them to use the adoption system. Having life be a little more challenging because a child is brought into the world is part of parenting. Again, promote adoption through a Christian adoption agency if possible and make sure that group has Biblical values.
6. Pray for those who so adamantly support killing the unborn. And if you know someone who is considering an abortion, pray for them and talk to them.

**Ethical Issue #2 – How Should Christians Approach The Issue Of Wokism, Critical Race Theory and Intersectionality**

**1. Some Opening Remarks:**

1. **Defining terms and a few points connected to them – We must define what we are talking about before we discuss how to Biblically respond.**
2. Wokeness – To be “woke” is to understand and see the *“comprehensive inequity of our social order and strives to highlight power structures in society that stem from racial privilege.”* – Owen Strachan, Christianity And Wokeness, pg. 8
* To be “woke” means to also embrace “Critical Race Theory” (CRT), which we will define momentarily.
* Woke theorists believe that America is completely inundated with racism at every level.
* In their thinking, white people are the problem for “systematic racism” in our country. Not every white person would be included, but the majority, yes.
* The goal with “woke” people is not equality, or people being judged by their character, not color. It is the defeat of “whiteness.”
* To say that we should be “color blind” as people when considering others, that statement makes us a racist. The “woke” mindset is difficult to change.
* According to Woke thinkers, racism is behind everything, and our country was designed for white people to rule. All white people are racist, whether they recognize it or not. We must understand what we have done to others and make changes to our way of life according to woke theorists. Basically, undo everything that America has ever done.
* Keep in mind that many who are trying to “fix” things do not come from a Biblical worldview. Fixing racial issues through manmade ideologies are bound to fail. It takes the Gospel changing lives to change culture.
1. Critical Race Theory (CRT) – This is connected to wokeness. You cannot have one without the other. If you are woke, you believe in CRT. It is challenging to specifically define CRT but in essence, supporters of this thought process see the world and the problems of the world through power dynamics. It sees certain minorities (race, gender and gender identity, sexual orientation) as oppressed and held down by others, specifically the white race being the culprit.
* CRT has its roots in Marxism, though some debate whether this is true or not. Karl Marx promoted “Critical Theory,” but focused on the “have’s and have not’s” of society. Marxism attempts to make everyone equal socially and economically. CRT takes “Critical Theory” and expands it to include, as noted above, race, gender, sexual orientation but the list could go on and on. Basically, anyone who feels oppressed or held back from living out and being accepted for what they think.
* With CRT, all issues are based in racism, and as noted above, whether conscious of it or not, specific groups are racist, pure and simple. Again, this “racism” goes beyond just skin color but also includes any minority group, though without a doubt people groups are the number one focus.
* Sadly, Black Americans such as Thomas Sowell who have spoken out against CRT have been maligned and name-called because they refuse to get caught up in the deceptive lies associated with CRT.
* One of the areas of weakness of CRT is that it plays the oppressor-oppressed card and does away with any personal responsibility. It could be argued that it focuses so much on oppression that it takes away the desire for people to rise above any supposed ills that they faced in their lives because they “feel” held back and thus, the need to dismantle society and reconstruct it to fix the problem.
* Racism is wrong, period, but any group or individual can be racist. To affix all social ills and problems to one issue (racism) as the foundation of troubles in society is non-sensical. And the “fixing” is never ending when it comes to trying to end “systemic racism” as they call it.
* CRT claims that we are racist because we are white and our family before us was racist. No doubt there were those who believed in slavery or holding down others (women could not vote in elections in the U.S. until 1919-1920) but to say that someone in 2024 is guilty of what somebody did a century or two ago is wrong and ludicrous at the core.
* CRT shows no grace to anyone. Everyone is pigeon-holed into specific categories and even if you are not racist, you really are. (e.g. – multiethnic churches and those who are not)
1. Intersectionality – When you become “woke” and see the injustices done to others and become an “antiracist,” you also see all other evils and the need to liberate people who have been held captive by racist thinking. Thus, we see how the causes of many minority groups overlap, they intersect. You oppose any unjust power dynamics across the board (Strachan, Christianity And Wokeness, pg. 16).
* This power play may be seen in how women are treated, the idea that any man in leadership oppresses women, thus causing a “toxic” culture. There are exceptions to this, obviously, but the mindset of “woke” people feeds on this view.
* Heterosexual people oppress those who are not by simply having a different view on sexuality. We have no right to share our view on what God says on this issue.
* The rich oppress the poor because financial inequality is wrong according to wokeness. This is a part of socialistic thinking.
* Homeschool parents and families get attacked because parents are oppressing their kids by choosing to provide education outside the public stream and in many cases, are teaching religious beliefs.
* The list could go on and on. It is so subjective, this entire movement of Wokeness and CRT and Intersectionality, that anyone can come up with an oppressor-oppressed viewpoint about any group.

**2. Some Problems Of The Wokeness Movement (Though They Would Deny Them)**

1. **The following are some reasons why the “woke” movement is spiritually broken and bankrupt**
2. With CRT, there is no grace. If we do not bow to the ideology of wokeness, they can be unkind and graceless. If you do not adhere to what woke supporters think, they will try to destroy you. You may lose your job, friends, business. They are brutal in their attacks.

Illustration of this fact: A Christian deli-owner in Chicago named Juan Riesco faced this firsthand. He was sponsored by Nike; celebrities wore his stuff and from a business standpoint his family was living the American dream. But it crumbled. From the website, “For The Gospel,” came the following story about this individual. Speaking of Mr. Riesco,

*“Then, his Christian faith, Biblical view of sexuality and gender, and failure to cave to the demands of the culture made him the favorite target of Black Lives Matter and they turned him into public enemy #1. But he was white, right? No. He was part of an immigrant family of Cuban, Mexican, and Lebanese descent.”*

The brutality of the treatment of this man by the BLM people is disgusting. Watching the video about what happened to Nini’s Café and the family is sickening. Death threats, etc. The church was threatened as well as the people in the church. The Riesco’s ended up leaving Chicago for safety.

1. It plays the victim card to the maximum. There is a martyr mentality when it comes to those who are caught up in this thinking. They also are very self-righteous. We are wrong, they are right, and we just need to “get over it.”

Plus, these groups can be extremely violent. Black Lives Matter has destroyed businesses of both whites and non-whites. They feel justified in their actions because, after all, they are the oppressed. But this attitude and thinking leaves you wanting more justice, and contentment simply does not exist. God is the One Who deals with things. We are not to seek vengeance **(Rom. 12:17-21)**.

1. No matter how hard you try to appease the woke crowd, it is never enough. This leads to more division, more hate, more distance. Repentance, if we have sinned, is not enough. We must jump on the band wagon of destroying all the systems that have led to racism, even if they are not inherently evil or part of the problem.
2. Wokeness is hypocritical racism. To make the claim that all whites are racist and the problem, is to make a racist claim. There is no way around it. No matter how hard the “woke” crowd denies it, they are themselves doing exactly what they accuse others of doing and being.
3. Wokeness destroys the Biblical view that all humanity is made in the image of God. This image is fallen and broken but wokeness refuses to accept the idea of man being in God’s image. It misrepresents what it means to be human, that we are all one family, as far as our origin, but we are diverse culturally, geographically, ethnically. Yet, man is made in the image of God.
4. Wokeness does not like the concept of “All Lives Matter.” Because of white privilege, and racism that still permeates culture, this is an empty statement until everyone and everything lines up with the woke agenda and white culture bows down and admits to its many failures, perceived or real.

If you use the phrase “color blind” as a way of speaking of how we should treat each other since we all are of one race **(Acts 17:26; Gal. 3:28)**, you are a racist as we have already noted. It means that we are not willing to see the real problems in society and by making statements like this, we show that we are part of the problem.

Respecting someone’s culture and understanding certain things about society does not make you racist. In our country we are diverse, regardless of skin color. People in the South think differently than people on the West Coast for example. Personalities, the way people do things, “sayings,” differs. This has nothing to do with racism. Cultural differences exist worldwide.

1. Wokeness has infected many churches. Owen Strachan, again, in his book “Christianity And Wokeness,” on pgs. 34-35, notes areas where churches feel the pressure of this anti-God movement. We will mention just a few:
* Evangelicals are hearing that they are “white supremacists” by nature.
* Christians are being called to “repent” of their “whiteness” and reject their inherent “white fragility.”
* Christians are encouraged to align with Black Lives Matter (me – or any other group that focuses on woke justice), an organization with a polar-opposite worldview on matters of the natural family, the sexes, and human sexuality.
* Christians are told to see “capitalism” as oppressive, unfair, and unjust, with socialism of various kinds as the preferable system.

\*\* These are just four ideas that churches are hearing from those trying to infiltrate wokeness into the church, specifically white churches.

**3. A Biblical Response To Wokeness, CRT, and Intersectionality**

1. **The following are some approaches we can and should take in trying to combat this movement.**
2. Do not let people brand us as a racist based on our skin color. Tell them that a Biblical worldview sees issues of the world as sin issues. That may reveal itself at times in the sin of racism, but not all whites, blacks, Asians, or others, are racist because of skin color. Remind them that to put everyone in the same pot and label a particular group racist is irrational, unfair, and inconsistent.

When we say “inconsistent” we can point to someone, as we have noted, like Thomas Sowell, a brilliant thinker, who is black, yet does not buy into wokeness. He has been called an “Uncle Tom” by others who share the same skin color. He has been seen as a “sell-out” to a white dominated culture. The inconsistency is that you cannot pick and choose who is racist based on subjective thinking, though that is how they approach the topic.

That thinking does not stand up against objective challenges. The response of the woke movement is to simply “shut down” the conversation which shows that they themselves are racist and unwilling to hear any other side. When that happens, we pray for them because they are closed to interaction.

1. Speak out against the mistreatment of anyone. Racism, persecution of others, no matter who or what the situation, is wrong. State it. This is not an admission of guilt, as if we are the ones sinning or mistreating others. It is an acknowledgment of what Scripture states regarding how we are to treat others. See **Col. 3:12-17**.

We are not condoning sinful behavior that goes against the Bible, we are simply stating what God’s Word says. We are to speak against sin, but to do so wisely and firmly **(Col. 4:6)**.

1. Let our voice be heard regarding CRT being taught in schools (if it is) and other areas of culture, such as businesses, etc. If we are a parent, we need to be aware if schools are teaching tenets of CRT, whether they use the exact words or not.

There have been schools where teachers made kids stand apart from others to shame them of their “whiteness” by trying to use them as examples. Stand up at community events and share our views.

1. Stay the course as a follower of Christ. This is not about being popular. It is about obeying God’s Word. Treat people as God expects us to **(James 2:1-13)**. Speak out when we need to and challenge the faulty thinking that permeates our world today.

Point people to the life of Christ and how He treated others. He did not hate or injure others, nor did He threaten them if they disagreed with Him nor did He approve of a lifestyle or thought pattern that went against God.

1. Keep CRT out of the church. This does not mean that we are blind to problems in our culture, but CRT has a faulty foundation. Churches have felt the pressure to accept certain tenets of CRT. We are called to teach the Word of God which is transformational **(Heb. 4:12)**. True change in any society and individuals within it comes as we follow the Word of God as our guide.
2. Share that if God exists, He holds each of us accountable for our actions as individuals **(Rev. 20:11-13)**. Tell them that we all must answer to God, and that their perception that we must be “racist” because of their feelings takes away from any objective consideration of another person’s true beliefs.
3. Be firm that the answer to change is in the Gospel. True repentance has to do with dealing with our sins, not our skin color. God called the churches in Revelation to repent, to make course corrections **(Rev. 2-3)**.

In sharing this, remind them that they are claiming to know our heart by saying we cannot help but be racist because of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Share what the Scriptures say about all being equal in Christ **(Gal. 3:28)**, and that we attempt to live that out every day. Challenge them to give you the same respect they are demanding of you.

**Ethical Issue #3 – How Should Christians Approach The Issue Of Transgenderism**

**1. Some Opening Remarks:**

1. **Defining terms and understanding what is happening in our culture**
2. Some things to note that are important in this and all conversations regarding ethics, specifically CRT and transgender ideology.
* We have laws in many places now that allow people identifying as the opposite sex to use public restrooms that were and should be gender specific based on a person’s biological sex.
* Transgenderism is not new; it is just on the rise because culture has made it one of the main tenets of anti-Christian beliefs. The first gender reassignment surgery took place in 1930. **Deut. 22:5** warns us about what we see happening in our culture today.
* We have drag queen reading days for children at our local libraries.
* While teacher’s unions think that schools should teach gender identity and such, teachers, along with parents and students disagree, and the gap is wide. Note the following.

In an article written by Ben Johnson for “The Washington Stand” he notes the following,

*“More than 10 times as many teachers said debates over LGBT ideology, including sexual orientation and gender ideology, “have had a negative impact on their ability to do their job,” compared to 4% who said they improve learning,*[*according*](https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/2024/02/22/race-and-lgbtq-issues-in-k-12-schools/)*to the Pew Research Center: 41% to 4%. Social Studies and English teachers were the most likely to say SOGI topics harmed their teaching time; they were also the classes most likely to discuss those issues, the survey found.”*

In addition, the aforementioned article notes,

*“Although a plurality (48%) of teachers believe parents should be able to opt their children out of transgender ideology indoctrination classes, one-third of instructors believed such classes should be compulsory.*

*“On both topics,*[*parents’ views were more evenly split*](https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/2022/10/26/parents-differ-sharply-by-party-over-what-their-k-12-children-should-learn-in-school/#no-consensus-among-parents-about-what-they-want-their-children-to-learn-about-gender-identity-or-slavery)*than the views of teachers,” according to the Pew survey. For instance, a majority of parents (54%) believe they should be able to determine whether teachers can subject their children to trans ideology.*

*The largest percentage of teens do not want to hear about LGBT ideology in the classroom, either: 48% say the topics should not be taught at school. Teens are also slightly more likely to believe in biological sex than in transgenderism (26% vs. 25%).”*

1. Transgender – The viewpoint that who you were biologically born as may not be who you are. Based on feelings and subjectivity, and pressure from culture, people are choosing to identify as the opposite sex of how God created them.
* Usually the phrase “transgender” applies to those who may not necessarily change their biological sex through drug treatments and surgery but will instead try to look and dress like the opposite sex. We, though, are using the word to describe both those who identify as their opposite biological gender along with those who take the route of medically attempting to change their biological birth gender.
* There is a belief, called “gender dysphoria,” that is often used to describe a person’s crisis of gender. Just two years ago this personal struggle was noted as making up .001% of the population, and that percentage was mostly males.

The New York Post stated the following,

*“According to NYC-based Komodo Health, around 42,000 children and teens across the US*[*received a diagnosis of gender dysphoria*](https://www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/usa-transyouth-data/)*in 2021 — nearly triple the number in 2017.”*

* There is a radical group leading the charge to push for transgender ideology in all areas of culture. They believe in it, have experienced it, and think it is more “normal” than we want to admit.
* The age when children usually struggle with this issue was when they are between 2-7 years old, and they usually outgrow it.

Abigail Shrier, author of *“*Irreversible Damage: The Transgender Craze Seducing Our Daughters” wrote in Hillsdale College’s “Imprimis” publication,

*“When these children were left alone—when no one intervened medically or encouraged what we today call “social transition”—over 70 percent of them naturally outgrew their gender dysphoria.”*

* Society has determined that if a child is struggling with their gender identity, the answer is to push them towards the opposite gender that is biological.
* Our government has just awarded one million dollars in grants to study and support the view that there are more than two biological genders.
* A “tomboy” does not mean the girl is or wants to be recognized as a boy. The new ideology being pushed is that in a case such as this, we should encourage this girl to pursue her “real” identity and pursue being a “boy.”

The following is taken from an article on the “Focus on the Family” website and speaks specifically to a growing cultural and social issue.

*“*[***Rapid onset gender dysphoria***](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6095578/)*, an increasing social phenomenon, affects teens and adults who have identified with their own biological sex for years, then decide they want to change genders and sometimes alter their bodies. This developmental crisis, seen especially among adolescents, is seemingly associated with “peer contagions” such as:*

* *Social media influencers celebrating the ideology of gender fluidity.*
* *Peers embracing transgender behavior as popular and trendy — and as an avenue for social celebration or unique recognition.*
* *Clubs sponsored within public school systems to promote acceptance of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) identity framework.*

*Certain factors tend to coincide with gender dysphoria. The following conditions are*[*found in greater numbers within the trans population*](https://www.webmd.com/sex-relationships/news/20190816/trans-students-more-at-risk-of-mental-health-ills)*:*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * *Low self-esteem*
* *Anxiety*
* *Depression*
* *Lack of identity*
* *Eating disorders*
 | * [*Personality disorder*](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/17671917/)
* *Self-injury*
* [*Sexual trauma*](https://www.thepublicdiscourse.com/2018/03/21178/)
* *Gender trauma*
 |

**Sabrina's Story**
24-year-old Sabrina was adopted at age 2 from China. Her birth parents had abandoned her on the street soon after her birth, preferring a son who could care for them in their old age. As a young child she told her adoptive parents that she was a boy. She wanted to cut her hair short and wear boys’ clothes instead of dresses. Her dysphoria is understandable considering the enormous trauma she endured as a direct result of her being born a girl into this situation.”

* Someone like Sabrina has scars that we need to help them deal with, and the answer, of course, is found a relationship with Christ.

**2. How our culture is pressuring people when it comes to transgenderism:**

1. **What takes place when one wants to “change” genders and how do we see this ethical posture affecting culture?**
2. Children are given puberty blockers so that their hormones are shut off that would help them develop into either a more mature boy or girl. The most used drug is called “Lupron,” and it has never been FDA approved, not that it obviously matters.
* Those who support this type of treatment claim that these drugs are safe and reversible, and that is an outright lie. They do damage that cannot be reversed. Girls become infertile, so even if they grow out of their dysphoria, they may never have children.
* In the state of Washington, for example, 13-year-old girls can begin “gender affirming” therapy without the consent of their parents.
1. We have seen a rise in men claiming to be women playing women’s sports and of boys becoming involved in what at one time were girl organizations. Regarding sports, the fact is, even if one is a man who claims to be a woman, physiologically, they are still stronger by nature than women. This is a direct attack on girls’ sports.
* Over twenty states have laws that ban transgender youth in sports. In other words, if you are a biological boy, you cannot play girls’ sports.
* Girls have no safe places in many states. Boys in girl’s locker rooms because they claim to be “transgendering” or “transitioning” can be very dangerous.
* I just read an article about a girls’ volleyball team playing against a men’s (identifying as women) volleyball team. The actual girls team suffered injuries because, whether we want to admit it or not, men are stronger than women and they were hitting volleyballs that were hard to deal with.
* One mother in Colorado wanted to sign up her 7-year-old boy as a girl scout. She was first refused, but the Girl Scouts of Colorado buckled under pressure, and he was allowed in.
1. Those who choose to have radical surgery done as they change genders face irreversible damage to their bodies if they choose to de-transition and go back to being their biological self.
* Lawsuits have been filed against doctors who have performed these surgeries because of the radicalness of what takes place and the inability to make physical changes when de-transitioning.
* Those who promote opposite-sex hormone injections and surgery see this as a physical disorder, where a person’s body does not match up with their gender identity, thus the need to help them physically be “repaired.”

The following was from another article called “Transgenderism: Blurring the Lines” on the Focus on the Family website, as a response to what we have just noted,

*“Others argue, however, that this process amounts to experimentation on children, and that such gender dysphoria is treatable. Dr. Richard Fitzgibbons, a psychiatrist who has been in practice for over 30 years, said in a recent interview with*Family News in Focus*:*

*“This is a disorder which is preeminently treatable. …In treating this disorder, you help children identify [and] come to understand why they did not embrace the goodness of their masculinity or femininity. The success rate with this treatment is highly effective — 80 percent. There are very few medical conditions or psychiatric conditions where you get 80 percent recovery; here, you do.””*

**3. How should the church respond to this identity crisis among children, youth, and adults?**

**A. The following are ways we can approach this issue from a Biblical worldview:**

1. Help our children to accept how God has wonderfully made them – boys and girls. Teach them what God says about the creation account found in **Gen. 1:27**.
* Celebrate who they are. Reaffirm that they are “fearfully and wonderfully made.”
* Teach our children that when God made men and women, He said that His creation of all things, including humans, was “very good” **(Gen. 1:31)**.
* If girls play with trucks, that does not mean they need to “re-identify” as boys. What other examples can we think of where boys and girls may do something that others would think shows that they are not their biological self?
* If someone needs to, encourage them to take their children to a Christian counselor whose methodology is Biblical and comes from a Biblical worldview.
1. As much as possible, whether there are two parents or one, build a healthy, Christ centered home and be an example of what a Christian is to be like as we interact with others.
* If we see a friend or child drifting and becoming withdrawn, or they begin showing behavior that is not in line with who you know them to be, ask questions – Have they been abused? Are they feeling peer pressure regarding their gender identity? Have they been exposed to pornography? People of all ages have events happen to them that can scar them.
1. Do not call the person by their “preferred pronoun.” Tell them that because of our belief in the Bible, we love them, but we cannot go against God’s biological order.
* In making this decision, realize that some people will alienate us for doing so but others may begin to think about what they are doing because we lovingly said “no” to their request.
* If we can, explain why we cannot refer to them by their “preferred pronoun.” As a Christian, we must obey Scripture and God’s view of gender, male and female, is considered “very good.” He made us who we are.
1. Approach the situation from a worldview belief. The belief among many in culture is that there is no objective truth, thus when it comes to gender, a person’s feelings and their choice identity is what is important. We must be able to challenge this.
* Explain that without objective truth, there is subjective chaos. Someone who is going through a “gender” crisis is hearing conflicting stories from many sides. The goal is not to become overly emotional, but to offer a viewpoint that aligns with both science and most important, ethics and theology.
* Teach our kids and adults that a relationship with God is not about emotions and feelings, which govern much of those who choose to identify as transgender, but about Biblical truth.
* Emotions are important, and we should not downplay them. God made us with them, but they were never intended to be our guide. Emotions and Biblical truth, as we teach both, will help people in understanding how God views them.
* Share the importance God places on both men and women in the Bible. They complement each other. Share from **Eph. 5** about the man’s role to love his wife like Christ loved the church. There is to be mutual respect. Do not allow the world’s viewpoints of oppression of womanhood or the warped view of what makes a man guide the discussion. We must focus on what Scripture says.
* Build a healthy view of being male and female and do not overreact if your three-year daughter likes to play with toy hammers and saws. That does not mean she is going to want to identify as a man. Continually bring them back to what the Scripture says about God’s viewpoint of them as He has wonderfully created them.
* Allow children to flourish within healthy limits. Not all boys are athletes. Not all girls play with barbie dolls. There are things though that we must put a limit on, and we must find those limits in God’s Word. They may look a little different for each family but one for sure is we do not have our boys wear dresses. The goal is to lead in love, not fear and anger.
* If a child or adult is struggling, again, remember that this is a worldview battle and only Christianity has the balance of manhood and womanhood. All others demean one or the other, usually women.