

Title: Why "Tolerance" is so Hateful
Text: Genesis 1.27
Theme: Transgenderism and the gospel
Prop Stmnt: Transgenderism is a desperate and deeply destructive attempt to replace the Creator.

Read Text:

It is not my normal habit to preach topical sermons because I am convinced that your primary sermonic diet needs to be the reading and explanation of the Bible as it is written, verse by verse, chapter by chapter, and book by book. Therefore, most of the time I am excited to stand before you and proclaim what God has revealed. I revel in this joy. But there are times however, when an issue is so pressing that it is helpful for us if I take some time and connect some of the theological dots from the Scriptures to help you understand that issue with biblical clarity. This morning I am addressing the issue of Transgenderism. I am not preaching on this in order to be trendy. In fact my explanation of this issue is decidedly untrendy and out of step with the contemporary thought. I am preaching on this issue for three reasons: 1) There are people that some of you know who are considering or pursuing gender re-assignment. These are troubled people who are taking desperate steps in order to address the brokenness in their lives. I want you to have compassion that motivates you to speak the truth in love. They need it. The road they are on will take them off a cliff. They need Christ. 2) There are some of you who are confused on this issue. You do not want to be associated with hateful and bigoted people, but is it really ok to change your gender? You need to think clearly. 3) All of us need to know that based on the current trajectory, major social changes are coming that at this rate will impact life as we know it and our ability to minister as a church in our current context. The current administration in Washington said, "if you don't like same sex marriage, don't get one." In other words, live and let live. But tolerance means acceptance and acceptance means enforcement. These issues are being shoved in our faces. I planned to speak on this for several weeks anticipating some of the events that happened this week, but not this fast.

The transgender revolution is claiming that people have the right to identify themselves according to whatever gender they feel like at the moment. North Carolina legislators recently passed a wide-ranging bill barring transgender people from bathrooms and locker rooms that do not match the gender on their birth certificates. The fallout has been predictable. Claiming that North Carolina is hateful, intolerant, bigoted, etc., American Airlines, Apple, Dow Chemical, PayPal, Red Hat, and Biogen all released statements criticizing the new law. The Pistons basketball coach criticized North Carolina. And the NBA said that "we do not yet know what impact it [the new law in NC] will have on our ability to successfully host the 2017 All-Star Game in Charlotte." In other words, we do not know if we can play a basketball game there because people have to use a public bathroom consistent with their biological sex. Really? The governor of Georgia vetoed a similar law in his state when the NFL and NCAA threatened to boycott Atlanta from being able to host tournaments or be considered as a possible Super Bowl site if this law passed by the legislature was signed.

What is a Christian camp supposed to do when a boy self-identifies as a girl and wants to be in the girls cabin? Or what if the boy decides mid-week, while at camp to self-identity as a girl? You realize that if the camp says “No” that it may be risking legal exposure based upon sexual discrimination, right? And what is seen as the height of evil is to deny someone the opportunity to self-identify however they want. Let’s define some terms.

We are now being told that there is a difference between sex and gender. Your sex is your biological condition. Your DNA, your chromosomes, reproductive organs identify you as either a male or a female. You have biological coding that says what your sex is. However, we are now told that your gender is your self-understanding. Your gender is how you define yourself, view yourself, and identify yourself and how you choose to identify yourself may be different than your biological coding. Sex is your biological coding. Your gender is who you identify as. A recent article being quoted in social media said, “...*not all women are biologically female. Gender and sex are two completely different things*¹ (- *having a vagina does not make you a woman and not having a vagina does not make you any less of one*). *Neither gender nor sex are binary, and there lies two massive spectrums of identities within both of them.*” She says this as if just saying it makes it true. But this claim is not only a blatant contradiction of God, but as such it cannot stand on its own and collapses under the weight of its own inconsistency and flaws after all, facts are stubborn things.

To transgender is to change your self-identify from one gender to another. This may or may not be done with the aid of medical assistance such as hormone suppression, hormone replacement and gender reassignment surgery. I recognize that what I just said sounds completely bizarre to those of you who are older. But to those of you who younger, you have been immersed in a culture that defines good and evil based on what the group thinks. And since the group supposedly thinks that every person has the right to self-identify, then you are assaulted with every emotional appeal to go along with this and threat if you don't. This sermon is designed to help you think and to think biblically. You live in a world that wants your emotions to frame the discussion. It may be trendy in the moment but there is no security with it because there is no foundation. But the God who made this world gave you His Word. His Word is the reality that frames the discussion and defines the terms. Rebellion against God is treason and treason against God is treacherous. I want you to see that transgenderism is insanity. It is sin. And because it is a sin at such a deep level with so many profound implications for the person, it is a sin that is particularly sad. “*God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*” This truth is repeated in Genesis 5.2 and quoted by Christ in Matthew 19.4 when he says, “*Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female...*”

I. **God created humans.**

¹ The statement in parenthesis is a part of the article I did not read publicly, but is included since it articulates the author’s view.

This is the heart of the issue and it is the story of the human race. God designed the human race and because he designed and created the human race, God is the owner. He owns the human race. The human race is accountable to God because he owns us. He owns us because he made us. As the designer, creator, and owner, God is the ruler and judge. He writes the laws. He makes the categories and definitions. He made us as male or female and said so. We all understand that our culture has rejected that truth. In rejecting that truth, it has rejected reality and is attempting to live in a make-believe world. Here are the options:

- 1) Accept reality and live under the authority of God.
- 2) Reject reality and attempt to be your own authority.

Those two options are played out over and over in history and explored at length in the Bible. God is intolerant of those who hate him. God is intolerant of those who reject him and rebel against him. When the authority of God is rejected, then every man does that which is right in his own eyes. Our culture (post-modernism) claims that we construct truths together. Truth is what we are saying it is at the moment. The bottom line is that we do not want God reigning over us. But, when you throw God away (at least attempt to) you throw away his ownership. That means that nobody has you. Nobody names you. God named Adam because he owns him. Remember that scene from **Toy Story** when Woody looks at the bottom of his boot and finds Andy's name on it? He is somebody because he is owned. Being owned is a grace to embrace, not a liability to reject. But without God, nobody claims you. Nobody made you. You are an accident. You have no purpose. You have no meaning. You have no origin. Without God, you have no identity. *Transgenderism is the desperate search for identity apart from God.* It is a search that will never end, because your true identity is found in the One who made you, loves you and sent Christ to die for you. When you reject that, you are vulnerable to believing anything about you. You are vulnerable to believing the absurdity that your sex is different than your gender.

II. **Rejecting God brings chaos and catastrophe.**

Beginning with Adam in Genesis 3, the human race has tried to reject God, because we want to be God. Our desire to be God is so powerful that we will ignore every evidence there is for God just in order to pretend that there is no God, that we can be our god, that we can make our own laws and live however we want. Evolution is not a quest for scientific answers; it is an attempt to live in denial of God. What is abortion? It is a brazen act of playing God. We judge who is human enough to live and who can die. We judge who has value and who doesn't. We make the laws. Life and death are taken from God and put into our hands.

Transgenderism is a desperate and deeply destructive attempt to replace the Creator because it is an attempt to say that I am not only going to use my body in a way that defies God, but I am going to actually change what God made. I am a mistake and I am going to fix it. I am going to save myself. Think about that with empathy. A transgender believes that he/she is a mistake. I am flawed. I am out of alignment. I do not belong.

Now, there is some truth to that, right? Every human being except Christ is a sinner. And as such we are broken, flawed, insecure and out of alignment. We are out of alignment with God. That is what sin does to us. The solution is not found in us. We are the problem. But Transgenderism is offered because we are deceived into thinking that medical advances give us the power to rewrite the laws of God and fix what God has done. In reality Transgenderism is the wrong solution to a deep problem that only makes things worse. What happens if you try to carry acid in a bucket? The acid will eat through and destroy the bucket. Our culture is so proud of the fact that it is carrying acid in a bucket, but already it is eating through and will only get worse.

A. Socially and culturally

Transgenderism is another example of trying to create a framework without a frame. Our culture is hell-bent on throwing God and his laws out of the public square. When you do that, you throw away all foundation for civility. God is the foundation for language, ideas, reason, logic, definition, values, morals and even math. When you throw him away, you throw away everything. Everyone is now free to do whatever he/she wants. The framers of our Constitution anchored the principles of that document to God's law. Throw away God's law and you throw away the foundation and the protections that come from the Constitution. We are faced with the impossible attempt to legitimize everything when everything is not legitimate. Now, people try to hold on to two opposing ideas all at the same time. Take the idea of same-sex marriage. Same-sex marriage is not marriage. The Supreme Court says that it is, but the Supreme Court is not the creator, designer, owner, ruler, definer and law-maker of life. It really does not matter what they say because they have no final authority. But, what they have done is *category confusion*. They have taken the category of marriage and have called it something that it is not. When they attempted to usurp their authority by giving a definition of marriage that is not valid, they not only created confusion, but they threw open the door to any and all definitions of marriage. If marriage can now be between 2 people of the same sex, then what stops it from being between 3, 4, or 5 people? If gender is arbitrary, then the number in marriage is arbitrary. And what stops it from being defined as between humans? Why not humans and animals? Don't animals have rights? Why are humans protected by the constitution and not animals? Who came up with the designation of humans and animals anyway? Aren't we all creatures? Well, we can't call us that because a creature implies creation and creation implies a Creator, and no matter what the data says, we know that we cannot have a Creator in our worldview, right? You are witnessing the implosion of a culture. You are living in the midst of a society trying to make everything ok, that is not ok and is bringing enormous confusion and inconsistency to it.

B. Legally

14 years ago, a woman underwent gender reassignment surgery to become a man, but while this person self-identified as a man, this person still had the reproductive organs of a female. So, this woman, who transitioned to "a man" got married to a woman and by means of artificial insemination, the "man" became pregnant. Complicating matters was the fact that now the "man" and the woman wanted a divorce. But the judge who was

hearing the case was in a quandary as to how to identify the people who were getting a divorce. Was this divorce between a man and a woman or was it between two women? The woman who became “a man” was legally named a man, but this “man” was pregnant. What do you do with a man who is pregnant? In the end, the judge described the marriage as having been between “*a female ... and a person capable of giving birth, who later did so.*”

C. Logically

If it was discovered that a young man exposed himself in a public school classroom, he would be punished and even charged with a crime. However, if that same young man, decided that he felt like a girl on that particular day and went into the girls locker room at the same high school and exposed himself, then we are being told that this is to be tolerated, accepted and even championed. The same federal government that establishes laws for sexual harassment says that you cannot expose yourself, right? But, if you are a boy who decides to change clothes next to a girl in a locker room, then that is equality. And the rest of the girls are all supposed to be ok with it. The U.S. Department of Education ruled a boy, who self-identified as a girl was discriminated against because his high school did not permit him to go into the girls locker room with open changing areas and open showers. They did provide him with privacy curtains, but because he was not treated like all of the other shes, he was not satisfied with that and neither was the Department of Education.

D. Medically

The New York Times recently reported the story of a girl who transgendered to a boy. In order to maintain this change, this “boy” has to take regular shots of testosterone. The problem is, “he” wrecked his knee in a skiing accident and had to have surgery. The endocrinologist said that patients should not take testosterone post-surgery, but that presented this patient with a dilemma. If “he”, in order to recover from surgery did not take his shots, then he would start reverting back to a she. In another case, a she who transitioned to a he was diagnosed with breast cancer. Now what? Medical protocols are created based in many cases upon your biological sex. Just because you say that you are something else does not change what you are. What is a doctor supposed to do? If the doctor treats you based on your self-identified gender the doctor is not practicing proper medicine, but if the doctor treats you based on your biological sex, the doctor could be guilty of discrimination. Does that make any sense at all? In a candid article, the American College of Pediatrics released a pre-statement (March 26, 2016) on how Gender Ideology Harms Children. This pre-statement is going to be followed up with a full statement this summer. The bottom line in their statement is this: “*Facts – not ideology – determine reality.*” They support this with 8 reasons:

- 1) Human sexuality is an objective biological binary trait: “XY” and “XX” are genetic markers of health – not genetic markers of a disorder.
- 2) No one is born with a gender. Everyone is born with a biological sex. Gender is a sociological and psychological concept; not an objective biological one.

- 3) A person's belief that he or she is something they are not is, at best a sign of confused thinking.
- 4) Puberty is not a disease and puberty blocking hormones can be dangerous.
- 5) According to the DSM – V, as many as 98% of gender confused boys and 88% of gender confused girls eventually accept their biological sex after naturally passing through puberty.
- 6) Children who use puberty blockers to impersonate the opposite sex will require cross-sex hormones in late adolescence. Cross-sex hormones (testosterone and estrogen) are associated with dangerous health risks including but not limited to high blood pressure, blood clots, stroke and cancer.
- 7) Rates of suicide are twenty times greater among adults who use cross-sex hormones and undergo sex reassignment surgery, even in Sweden which is among the most LGBTQ affirming countries.
- 8) Conditioning children into believing a lifetime of chemical and surgical impersonation of the opposite sex is normal and healthful is child abuse.

One of the signatures of this was the University Distinguished Service Professor of Psychiatry at Johns Hopkins Medical School and the former psychiatrist in chief at Johns Hopkins Hospital. These pediatricians were immediately attacked as nothing more than a "*Hate Group Masquerading as Pediatricians.*" They are labeled as a hate group because they say that facts determine reality. That is important to know, but there is something else to realize. Think of what this does to the person and the price that is paid.

E. Personally

A person who rejects their biological coding is fundamentally rebelling against themselves. We cannot separate our bodies from our persons. We are a whole person. Anything that is a sin against our body is a sin against our person. We call something unwholesome because it fractures us. The person who has the biological coding of a man and tries to live and identify as a woman is fighting to be something he is not. Every day he has to deny reality. He lives in a body that is programmed from conception to be one thing and through drugs, and surgery, he is trying to deny that. But, what that person really is, will keep coming out and you must keep suppressing it and pretending that you are something else. In other words, the person is never at peace. They will never be at home in their body and therefore never be at peace with themselves. People who are not at home with ourselves want to blame the world around them, and certainly there are many cases when the world around us does not help. But, even if every transgendering person was permitted to go anywhere and do anything without any limits, that person would still not feel accepted because that person is NOT accepted by their own body. Here are the facts: John Hopkins University Medical Center pioneered sex-reassignment surgery and not long ago released a stunning statement saying that they were not going to do them any more. They created the process believing that it would help people only to discover that the suicide rate of those who go through the surgery is so ridiculously high. Our culture wants to assume that it is the result of all of the hateful bigotry that is still present. A man who went through this, bravely wrote an article that I read recently that presents a different perspective. This man truly believed that his problems in life were the

result of the fact that he was a woman trapped in the body of a man. He transitioned to being a woman, as much as he could be including sex-reassignment surgery. He was convinced that this was the ticket to his peace. After going through everything he sadly realized that he was still a deeply troubled person. He asked if you can begin to grasp the depression that comes upon a person who has taken such radical steps only to discover that he/she is still a wreck? Now what? If you were a wreck as a man, believing that you were a mistake, and now you are a wreck as a woman, what else is there for you to do? You cannot find peace. Hence the suicide rate is so high. There is no peace inside and will never be at peace with self until self is at peace with God.

III. What to expect

In the name of tolerance and acceptance, society is being demanded by the Department of Justice and the Department of Education to remove all barriers from transgendering. Those who refuse to go along with this social engineering will be punished. In the name of tolerance, we will be called hateful, bigoted, homophobic, etc. Mark Tushnet, William Nelson Cromwell Professor of Law at Harvard Law School wrote very candidly last week that since the liberal judges are now in the majority with the death of Justice Antonin Scalia, it is time to go for the jugular. Take a hard line against the losers of the culture war. Do not be nice to them. Most likely we will not be ignored and unbothered. Keep in mind that the power to tax is the power to coerce. Churches and religious schools occupy a lot of property that is exempt from paying taxes because they are charities. I foresee the day when the government will say to churches and schools that you are free to believe what you want, but if you do not go along with our mandates then you will forfeit your tax exempt status. We own 22 acres of land in a city. We do not pay property tax, but one day, we may. The very things that we are accused of doing, such as: intimidation, shaming, punishing and marginalizing, will be used on us. The federal government is using the power to tax to enforce the demand that everyone have health insurance and they are trying to demand that health insurance providers pay for abortions, even if it is against your religious convictions. They determine what you are to believe and they will enforce it. We call it: Social engineering.

IV. How to respond

A. Do not fear.

Remember the promise of Christ from last week? It is still true. We have another opportunity to shine as light in the darkness. It will be costly though. Some of us will be forced out of jobs and professions that we love. I have no doubt that this administration wants to drive every believer out of the public school system, and wants to take over every Christian school as well. Our responses need to be truth and love, but not fear.

B. Acknowledge our own failures.

Christians have not always responded to social and sexual issues with truth and grace. We can admit that and should. However, the lack of grace of some is not a reason to be silent by us.

C. Recognize the nature of the conflict.

Every one of us had to, or has to figure out who we are. Some of you have the wrong identity. Some of you think that your identity is that of a mom. What happens when your kids grow up and don't need you? You don't know who you are anymore. Some of you think that your identity is an engineer. What happens when you retire? Some of you think that your identity is being young, athletic, and healthy. What happens when you age and lose some of your abilities or are diagnosed with a life-dominating condition? Do you lose your identity? If you are a follower of Christ, your identity is not being a husband, wife, engineer, line-worker, teacher, attorney, soldier, dad, mom or mechanic. You are IN CHRIST. We can relate to the fact that people struggle with identity and that some people struggle very deeply. That is why, in the name of love, we must be intolerant. What I mean is that we must not pretend that this is an acceptable and legitimate option. Instead,

D. Acknowledge the opportunity

People who are struggling with their identity are taking drastic actions. Like most people doing something drastic, these people may be open to a friend who asks good questions in order to learn all that you can about the person. Beneath all of the cross-dressing, hormone therapy, and reassignment surgery is an empty soul desperately trying to be filled. They need to know Christ. They need to know and believe the gospel.

E. Speak the truth in love.

The truth is, transgending will betray the transgender. Anything built on the premise of rejecting God will fail. Who will this person turn to when the novelty of their transition wears off and they are confronted with the same insecurities and fears? The Lord may allow you to be that voice of hope. You can and should tell them that when they discover that this course of action did not work that you have something better. To pretend that what they are doing is in reality, hateful, for it ignores the grievous harm that one is doing to himself. The tolerance of sin is hateful. Sure, it is hateful to be hateful. But, it is hateful to pretend that sin does not exist. It is hateful to pretend that sin is helpful. It is hateful to pretend that God tolerates sin. It is loving to tell people the truth with grace.

V. How did God respond?

He was so intolerant of sin that he sent Christ to die for us. He recognized the depth of our sin. He spoke the truth in love. (Law) He sent Christ to rescue us from sin. He sent Christ to restore our identity.