



From the desk of Bill Johnson

The fight against pornography is on!

I want to thank you all for making this ministry possible both now and over the many years since our founding in 1987. We have been greatly affirmed in our ministry through gracious words of encouragement and the faithful generosity extended to us as we closed out 2017.

I begin my personal note for 2018 by addressing a question regarding our name.

Question: The name of your ministry is American Decency Association. It seems you used to fight pornography and indecency more than you do. What happened? Don't you care about those matters any more?

Answer: We have expanded our emphasis in recent years as new battles have arisen, but not because we aren't immensely troubled about the matters of pornography and indecency anymore. We are very concerned!

For many years we fought faithfully and hard against pornography, obscenity and indecency on television, movies, magazines, billboards, radio, the malls, etc.. We had many letter writing campaigns to advertisers urging corporations (large and small) not to sponsor degrading, pornographic things. We warned, encouraged, opposed, spoke out day in and day out.

Our great concern was that Christians were (and are) being desensitized and accommodated little by little, ever so slowly, to that which was against God and His standard. *I will place no wicked thing before my eyes.* Ps. 101:3a

As I spoke at churches throughout Michigan, I began to get a strong sense that many Christians were choosing entertainment that was godless. I warned that as individuals

carelessly viewed pornographic things they would be seduced by the enemy of their souls as they plunged downward into reprobation.

Reprobation: Rejection of God's standards. Delusional about what truth is. Unprincipled, depraved, unable to discern evil. Romans 1:28: "And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done."

Has America become a reprobate nation? As I read Lisa's article on page 3, I felt drawn to repeat a few sentences.

In 2016 alone the pornography website Pornhub had 4.6 BILLION hours of viewer traffic. Forty percent of that came from the United States which would equal 221 page views per person in the entire population. Keep in mind this is only one website in a sea of sewage."

On the front page, I wrote - **What Cost Freedom? The Fight is on!** But, there is another fight for freedom that is largely ignored. I am referring to pornography.

It should be clear to each of us by now that there is an intense battle - a spiritual battle - going on for the hearts, minds, and souls of each of us.

Years ago we distributed a bumper sticker with the words - "**Pornography is NOT a victimless crime.**" What an understatement! Untold numbers of households quietly suffer under the bondage of pornography undermining spiritual authority, intimacy, moral courage, integrity, honesty, Biblical convictions - thereby producing spiritual pygmies - compromising those who otherwise could be leaders for Christ in their households and workplaces.

Scary, isn't it? Long answer to a short question. Our ministry, by His grace, continues to engage on both battlefronts (the battle within and the battle without) day in and day out!

Pray for us as we pray for you. Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.

Letters from Supporters



We continue to be inspired by your undaunted faithfulness in shining the Light of Christ in this ever darkening world. Why do you do it? - because of and out of your LOVE for God and LOVE for us, the people of God, and in thanksgiving for all He has done and given in Christ Jesus, our LORD and Savior. Thank you for your example of living out your faith, in love, day by day. ...

E&J. P.

Thank you for standing strong and speaking truth. I pray that ADA's needs are met and I thank the Lord for everyone at ADA.

J&T. W.

I savor each one written in your newsletter and it always speaks to my spirit and heart. Thank you and God bless you and all your co-workers. J.R.

Standing on the threshold of another year with all its uncertainties, challenges, joys, and battles! How good to know He knows the way ahead and His promises never change! Love in Jesus, B&B. B.

This check isn't much - but when I read you have a friend who has offered to match and double my gift, I had to respond. What a wonderful friend he is to your ministry. God bless each and everyone on your staff. May you have a blessed holiday. N.S.

We marvel at your persistence and perseverance for good. When I read Psalm 119:46 I always think of you and thank God for you! Ps, 119:46 - "I will speak of Your statutes before kings and I will not be put to shame." God bless you ... J&D. T.

We can't thank you enough for your devotion to serving our God. G&J. H.

Thank you for being a "watchman on the wall!" Don't become discouraged because we know our labor for the Lord is not in vain. The fear of the Lord is to hate evil and expose it! M.G.

The Reaction of Our Actions

by Lisa Van Houten



Entertainment mogul Harvey Weinstein; renowned CBS journalist Charlie Rose; Today Show icon Matt Lauer; PBS' Prairie Home Companion host Garrison Keillor; celebrity chef Mario Batali; New York Metropolitan Opera's famed conductor James Levine; award-winning actor Dustin Hoffman; longest serving Congressman John Conyers, etc. etc.. Like dominoes falling, the list of lechers among the rich and powerful grows weekly.

Yet while #MeToo trends on Twitter as countless women come forward with their accounts of experiencing sexual harassment and abuse from those in powerful positions, few are asking what's causing this epidemic of perversion?

As you might remember from high school, Isaac Newton's third law of physics tells us that **"for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction."** So look at the following statistics and consider what's the reaction – the result – of these actions.

In 2016 alone the pornography website Pornhub had 4.6 BILLION hours of viewer traffic. Forty percent of that came from the United States which would equal 221 page views per person in the entire U.S. population. Keep in mind this is only one website in a sea of sewage.

According to a study by Proven Men Ministries, 79% of American men between the ages of 18 and 30 admit to watching porn at least monthly, along with 67% of men between 31 and 49 and half of all men aged 50-68. Thirty percent of younger men say they watch porn every day.

A 2014 study by the Barna Group revealed that 64% of Christian men and 15% of Christian women admitted to

viewing pornography at least once a month.

The porn industry is worth \$97 billion - bringing in more money in a year than the NFL, NBA, and MLB combined. Forget baseball - pornography is now America's favorite pastime.

With porn's profits exceeding Hollywood's, it's no surprise that Hollywood continues to peddle its own version of erotica.

And the latest salacious offering is the soon to be released third installment of the "Fifty Shades of Grey" movie trilogy – timed to hit theaters right before Valentine's Day.

The pornographic "Fifty Shades of Grey" series, which is referred to as "mommy porn," centers on graphic sexual themes of BDSM (Bondage, Discipline/Dominance, Sadism and Masochism). These film glamorize sexual violence, abuse, and psychological coercion against women.

As Katherine Blakeman from Nation Center on Sexual Exploitation writes: *"As a woman living in the age of #MeToo, I am bewildered by how many of my fellow women like the Fifty Shades of Grey trilogy. ...*

For a more realistic look at how a sexual encounter between a sexually abusive, ego-maniacal multi-millionaire and a young, vulnerable woman would end for the young woman, look no further than George Soros' hedge fund manager, Howie Rubin.

Rubin allegedly beat and raped three different women in his creepy penthouse BDSM dungeon, according to the lawsuit one woman filed against him.

The details of that case are horrific, so why is Fifty Shades glamorizing this type of abuse as mere entertainment in the age of #MeToo and Harvey Weinstein? ...

How is it that women who decry the sexual harassment and abuse perpetrated by those listed above, will flock to theaters to watch a woman go through similar degradation on the silver screen?

Yet, as the adage goes, when we point a finger at others, there are three pointing back at ourselves. John Ellis, writing for PJ Media, says it well.

Hollywood is an industry that has, throughout its entire history and without any evidence of slowing down anytime soon, brazenly splashed their rebellion against the Creator of the universe across the movie and TV screens of this nation. And it's an industry that makes much of its money from professing Christians who love to be entertained.

Tragically, it often appears as if few Christians actually weigh the content and worldview of the pop culture they love against the tenets and commands of their faith. Apparently, in the minds of many Christians, God understands when His command to pursue holiness takes a back-seat to an entertaining TV show or movie. After all, Paul's command in Romans 12:2 is better translated "be not conformed to this world — unless you found a show you want to binge-watch." Right? ...

At the beginning of this article I ask what's causing this rash of sexual misconduct. "What came first the chicken or the egg?" Is it pornography that created the predators or predators who create a market for pornography?

This time that age old question is easily answered. The root problem isn't power or pornography; it's sin. The heart is wicked above all else.

The results of mankind's sin leads to sexual sin via the casting couch, the pornographer's studio, our television and computer screens, and within our relationships. The epidemic of pornography must be opposed, but it's only a symptom – a reaction – of the action of sin within the human heart.

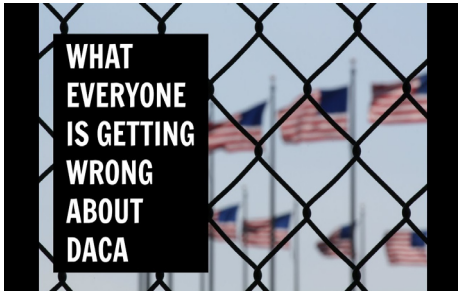
Without submission to God and to His design and parameters for sexuality, abuse will continue; Pornhub will continue; "Fifty Shades of Grey" will continue.

The problem is our sinful nature. The solution is the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Ducking DACA

by Steve Huston

The following offers two different looks at the issue of DACA from ADA staff writers.



Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals—that is what the term DACA stands for and these “children” go by the name “Dreamers.” DACA was created under Barack Obama in 2012. Its purpose is to allow people who were brought to the US **illegally** as children the temporary right to live, study, and work in America. These “dreamers” who apply for DACA are vetted for criminal history or threats to national security and must be students or have completed school or military service. Should they pass the vetting process, action to deport them is deferred for two years with a chance to renew. Under DACA they are eligible for driving licenses, college enrollment, or a work permit.

Now, in 2018 under President Trump, our government is voting on the wisdom of such a program. Compassion and justice, Christian charity and the rule of law are not mutually exclusive concepts. On the other hand, there are often times when personal Christian action and the Biblical role of government are at odds with one another; particularly if we don’t consider the differences in the role and responsibility of each in society.

This doesn’t leave us with any easy answers; but the role of the federal government is to protect its citizens from harm or potential terrorist activity. It has a fiscal responsibility to its citizens too; adding hundreds of thousands of individuals to the workforce or welfare and free education tabs would be devastating. We have already seen some of the negative effects within our country

due to immigration invasion. Although the Statue of Liberty holds out open arms, she was never prepared for all the open hands looking for a handout.

As with any policy there are two sides and some “innocents” will be hurt. Is it the United States’ fault that illegal parents involved their children in their illegal activity?

We urge you to contact your representative and urge him or her to vote no on DACA.

**United States Capitol switchboard:
202-224-3121**

Who Should Pay?

by Chris Johnson



The basics of immigration policy ought to be pretty black and white: if you came here legally, we’ve vetted you, we know you’re not a threat, we know you’re not bringing any foreign diseases, and we’re happy to have you; if you snuck in illegally, we have no idea why you’re here, who you’re connected to, what you’re bringing with you, and you need to leave.

Immigration law needs to be streamlined so that good, honest people have an easy time getting in legally, and drug dealers, gang members, human traffickers, terrorists etc. have the door slammed in their faces.

But Congress now is facing this question: what do we with the children of illegal immigrants who were born in their parents’ homeland, but have grown up in the United States?

Back in September, President Trump equal-

opportunity offended strong supporters of both sides of the issue, as he announced an end to his predecessor’s policy, Delayed Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), while simultaneously calling on Congress to replace the executive order with actual legislation, “with heart and compassion,” which is what’s being debated now.

The question is that if it is not our nation’s fault that illegal immigrants brought their children here, which is a crime, “*why should we pay for it?*”

As true and solid of an argument that is, it doesn’t bring as much clarity as we might like, because it applies equally to the youths we’re discussing what to do with. It’s also not their fault that illegal immigrant parents brought them here illegally, so why should they have to pay for it?

It is one thing to deport people who came here illegally; it is another to deport what could be called “victims” of their illegalities, particularly when they are now independent adults who have never known life in another culture.

The fact is, the people we’re talking about didn’t do anything illegal, something illegal was done with or to them.

Surely there’s a better way to deal with them than eviction?

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New Year - Old You?

by Steve Huston



God commands in Haggai 1:5 to “Consider your ways.” Yes, it’s a command, not a suggestion. Yet how many of us truly consider our ways?

What shall we consider? Certainly we must consider where our actions will lead us. Look to and follow the logical and spiritual consequences of your actions, the actions and decisions of your family, and that of your country.

God accusingly proclaimed to Israel: “**The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master’s crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider.**” (Is. 1:3) Later, in the same chapter, God shows them what they should be considering. “**If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.**” (vv 19-20)

Christian, look at your own ways and consider them **in light of the authority of the Scriptures**. Are you being “willing and obedient” to the Word of God or does “refuse and rebel” against the Word better describe you?

In order to **justify** sin or to **deny** that some action is a sin I hear many Christians say, “I feel like...” ignoring the fact that they can’t back up their feelings with the facts of Scripture. Recognizing and being saddened by George Barna’s research, this shouldn’t surprise us too much:

- 60% of Americans can’t name even 5 of the 10 Commandments.
- 82% of Americans believe ‘God helps those who help themselves’ is in the Bible.
- Over 50% of graduating high school seniors thought that Sodom and Gomorrah were husband and wife.
- A considerable number of respondents

thought the Sermon on the Mount was preached by Billy Graham.

- Many Christians can’t identify more than 2 or 3 of the disciples.

We—God’s people—are told to diligently teach the Word of God (His Truth) to our children because it is life and health to us (Deut. 6:6-7; 32:46-47; Prov. 4:20-27); yet **1 out of 5 people who attend church regularly never read the Bible at all and 80% of Americans have never read the Bible through even once!** Is it any wonder that Christians don’t live by the authority of Scripture or that they rely on their feelings more than they do the facts? Many in the church today aren’t willing to adjust their thinking to what God’s Word says when their feelings are confronted by those facts. Is it any wonder that our nation and the church is in the state that it is?

A Christian’s feelings do not trump the FACTS of GOD! Take heed to the Word of God. “Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways.” (Haggai 1:7)

Some will adamantly demand that they are saved by grace and that the law has no place in their lives now. They are right that the law does not save; but, the law of love binds us to the law of God. We want to serve and obey Him because of His great saving grace poured upon us. Many of these people who claim this have fallen into either the heresies of “higher criticism”—dismantling the Word of God and undermining its authority with the question, “Hath God really said?” or the belief of dispensationalism, denying that the whole counsel of God is for today. They do away with portions of the Bible, stating that it isn’t for the people of this time period.

They fail to see that the Old Testament period was a time of law—but NOT without grace; and the New Testament period is a time of grace—BUT NOT WITHOUT LAW! In both periods, the ONLY way to salvation has been “by grace through faith.” God has but one way of saving men.

Satan has come like a thief; he has stolen large sections of the Bible from Christians and has made them to question the authority

of the Bible. He has waged a war against the veracity and authority of God’s Word through the exaltation of self, our thoughts and our feelings. Many Christians have either lost faith in God’s promises concerning holy living and power for service or have even lost the desire to read the Bible, because they feel like they know what is right. They don’t recognize that their feelings are greatly influenced by the society in which they live and the misconceptions with which they have been raised. We NEED to KNOW the God of the Bible and the only way to do that is to go to the source; read the Word for yourself!

A Christian’s feelings do not trump the FACTS of GOD! “Consider your ways.”

First we must consider what happens when we don’t read the Word of God regularly. Look around you; see our society, it’s falling apart. Recognize that before men can take hold of false truth (fallacies), they must first let go of the Word of God. And if we are to take up TRUTH (God’s truth) and allow it to rule our lives, we must let go of our hold on feelings, worldliness, and purposefully with determination and a holy will, take up the Word of God. We must prepare our hearts to seek the Lord. Consider the path’s end for those who do not prepare their heart to seek God: “**And he did evil, because he prepared not his heart to seek the LORD.**” (2 Chronicles 12:14)

Change must start within ourselves; it must start within our homes. We need to run our homes by the authority of Scripture and we must develop a love for the Word of God. This year let us decide with purpose to read our Bibles. Let us decide to read through the whole counsel of God with our family. If you’re single, read. If you are empty nesters or a couple who has no children, read! If you are a family with any age children, read!

Reading the Bible through in a year may seem like a daunting task and to do so with small children may seem impossible; not to mention the inevitable question, “they are so young; will they get anything from it?”

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New Year - Old You?

[Continued from Page 5]

A thorough knowledge of the Bible is worth more than a college education.

Theodore Roosevelt

BrainyQuote

Children grasp so much more than we give them credit for and God tells us to do it; so, don't let your children leave home without this necessary preparation for the future. Make it a yearly habit to read and study the Bible with your children. This is much more than preparing them for some Bible trivia game. This is an important parenting and training tool which has been obtained and ordained by the Living God. This prepares them to be strong and courageous as they walk through a Biblically barren landscape. Make no mistake, it is the Lord who will keep them; but it's your responsibility to raise, train, and nurture them in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

Take up the challenge and read the Bible through this year. Pick a good reading plan and stick to it. Get everyone involved. Take turns reading a few verses at a time (before our youngest could read we would feed her words to allow her to take part in "reading." Now she reads very well and can't wait for her turn!

Break it up between morning and evening if you'd like. It probably won't take as much time as you fear it will. Try to have a consistent time for your reading and get everyone involved by asking them questions. Ask what their favorite part was; share yours. Pick out a couple points you want them to understand well—don't feel like you need to explain everything. When you fall behind (and likely you will), catch up by spreading those chapters out over several days and keep reading away; or find some other creative way of catching up. But whatever you do: **CATCH UP, DON'T GIVE UP!**

In all that you do, every decision you make, consider your ways. Consider the results personally, as a family, and as a society. **"Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways."**

Remembering R.C. Sproul

by Chris Johnson



If there was one voice that I could recognize playing through the radio in our home growing up, it was the voice of theologian R.C. Sproul.

Whether it was his radio program - "Renewing Your Mind," or the "Tape of the Month" - a subscription cassette containing his preaching, or the latest Ligonier Conference tape set, his down-to-earth, relatable voice, with just a hint of what must have been a Pennsylvania accent peaking through on occasion, was ever-present.

Later, in my high school years, I sat through Sproul's, "Foundations: An Overview of Systematic Theology" videos and then his, "The Consequences of Ideas: An Overview of Philosophy."

In middle school and high school, our family attended the Ligonier Ministries annual conference on at least three occasions, and heard from some wonderful pastors - but Sproul's message was always the highlight.

Sproul knew how to communicate weighty concepts through personal anecdotes and stories. He knew how to dig the deep truths out of obscure Old Testament passages, and how to make you feel the weight of the grace of God in the Gospel.

Here's an example from his book, "The Holiness of God:"

"The slightest sin is an act of defiance against cosmic authority. It is a revolutionary act, a rebellious act in which we are setting ourselves in opposition to the One to whom we owe everything. It is an insult to His holiness. We become false witnesses to God. When we sin as the image bearers of God, we are saying to the whole creation, to all of nature under

our dominion, to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field: 'This is how God is. This is how you Creator behaves. Look in this mirror; look at us, and you will see the character of the Almighty.' We say to the world, God is covetous; God is ruthless; God is bitter; God is a murderer, a thief, a slanderer, an adulterer. God is all of these things that we are doing."

Of course, the better we understand the dastardliness of our own sin, as R.C. helps us with in this excerpt, the more magnanimous the grace of God appears to us!

That is the Good News that I know Dr. Sproul would like to be remembered for. On December 14, 2017, R.C. Sproul went to be the One he loved and lived for. He had had ongoing health problems, and succumbed to a chronic lung disease.

One of the first lessons that R.C. teaches in the "Foundations" course is the meaning of the word theology, derived from the Greek words, "Theos" - meaning "God" - and "logos" - meaning "knowledge."

Theo logos. Theology. The knowledge, or study, of God.

R.C. excelled in that pursuit, he devoted His life to knowing and understanding the God that He loved.

Although we will miss Him and his teachings here on earth, it is a comfort to know that He understands God now as much as any person ever has or will. His study is complete.

To learn more about the life and ministry of R.C. Sproul, you can visit their website at Ligonier.org.

A Battle of Epic Proportions

by Lisa Van Houten



There's a war going on in which children are being recruited as soldiers. No, I'm not talking about ISIS. Rather, I'm referring to another form of radicalism – liberalism. The Left is seeking to transform our children into social justice warriors to advance the LGBT agenda.

Kindergarteners are being introduced to transgenderism, LGBT sex ed curriculum is being taught to 9 year olds, and the latest public library trend sweeping the nation is Drag Queen story hours for preschoolers.

And one of the wolves seeking to devour our children's innocence is hiding in sheep's clothing. Disney. Don't let the name fool you - Disney is no friend of the family. And with their latest effort to push the LGBT agenda upon children, that's been proven once again.

Last year we reported that Disney was depicting gay and lesbian kissing on one of its most popular cartoons, "Star vs. The Forces of Evil," on the Disney XD channel. The scene also featured transgender characters in this children's cartoon.

But Disney isn't stopping there. **The same Disney cartoon has introduced the company's first male princess.** Disney wants their impressionable viewers to know that it's okay for boys to be "princesses." One of the characters on the cartoon shouts: "Why does it matter if he's a boy? He can be a princess if he wants to!"

Huffington Post's Queer Voices section called it a *"beautiful moment and one that could be incredibly influential for kids who are soaking up social cues about what it means to be a boy or a girl — or any gender in between ..."*

Franklin Graham is also warning parents about Disney, writing on Facebook:

"Disney used to be the brand that parents could trust. They were kind of like the 'gold seal' of family programming. But those days are long gone. Disney is in the LGBTQ camp, and they're wanting to use so-called family-friendly programs to influence the youth of today to accept and to be a part of the destructive LGBT lifestyle."

Who will mold your children and grandchildren – Walt Disney or the Word of God?

As Christian blogger Elizabeth Johnston writes - *"The left is determined to normalize immoral sexual behavior as well as rip our children's innocence from them as young as possible."* It's a battle for the hearts and minds of our children and grandchildren. As the left seeks to use them as pawns to advance their agenda, we must battle to protect their purity. To the victor, goes the children.

Pornography: Exposed

by Judy Krause



A few years ago at an American Decency Conference, Bill Johnson came up with a new idea. He asked each member of the staff to take part in a panel discussion. He desired that people get to know the staff in a more personal way. Not one of us knew the question we would be asked. When the microphone was handed to me, Bill asked, "What experience in your past has drawn you closer to God?" My heart sank. Sharing the true answer would force me to become very vulnerable to everyone present, as the reality was that it took a very painful, lonely, and horrifying experience to get me on my knees and to literally draw me to seek my Lord and Savior as never before. It was an experience that I had never shared with

anyone, except my boss, by pastor, my twin sister, and two special friends. And now, to my shock, I started telling the whole group the beginning of my secret story.

I had found myself living in an unbelievable situation, one that I least expected would happen in my life. I had come home from work after a typical day at ADA. I went into our home office. A thought came to me, "Open your computer." I stood there for a few seconds, as I had never had a thought like that before. Hesitantly, I sat down and opened it up. To my horror, the screen was filled with pornographic images that my spouse had been viewing. I froze! I could not move! I truly felt paralyzed! After some time, I turned it off.

After several agonizing days, talking to the people already mentioned, I soon realized that only God could truly heal my deep inner agony. So I fell on my knees and cried to Him over and over and over again. That began the journey of seeking my Lord and Savior's direction, comfort, and healing as never before!

That's only the beginning of the story. I was in total disbelief that I had shared my dark secret story. In numbness, I handed the mic over to the next staff person. I remember walking back to my seat with my head down. I had literally shared my secret. How would people react? Had I just "blown" it? ADA's conferences are always designed to uplift, instruct and to spiritually encourage every person who comes. I had just spewed out of my mouth the most painful, ugly experience in my life.

To my wonder and surprise, seven women approached me afterwards and thanked me for sharing such a sensitive time in my life. Their loving and hurting eyes told me that they were experiencing the same thing. And the story continues to come up when meeting people who were there, even after these several years.

I had unknowingly hit a painful nerve in many hearts. By request, more articles will follow this story, with the purpose of helping women find hope, help, and healing on their similar journeys.

An Amazing Tragedy

by Chris Johnson



I have a 2 year old son, and although I can hear his “ten year old self” screaming at me to stop, I’ll go ahead and tell you: sometimes, he likes to wear his mother’s shoes AND the other day, he was in the bathroom playing with my wife’s makeup.

My son’s “10 year old self,” however, I think is pleased that my wife and I are drawing no conclusions from these activities. We know that he’s a normal boy mimicking the actions of a key character in his life. (His ten year old self also wants me to tell you that he’s into lots of typical boy activities too.)

Ten year old Desmond Napoles cannot say the same thing for his mother.

From the Independent: *“Desmond Napoles is a 10-year-old self-professed ‘drag kid’ from Brooklyn. Ever since Napoles was a baby, he would wrap his mother’s towels around his body, don her heels and unleash his inner sass by strutting around the house.*

Napoles says he realised he was gay at a young age when he started developing crushes on boys.

At first, Napoles’ mother Wendylou thought her son may be transgender due to his affinity for feminine clothing.

‘When he was younger, we thought that maybe he was trans because of his strong preference for girls’ toys and wearing girls’ clothes,’ she told Out.

Napoles, known on social media as Desmond is Amazing, was first spotted by the masses wearing an extravagant rainbow-coloured outfit while dancing flamboyantly at the New York Pride Parade in 2015 in a video that circulated the web.

He has since become an icon within the LGBTQ community, with more than 15,000 followers on Instagram following his every fabulous move.”

So, Desmond has been dressing in drag and receiving massive amounts of attention for it at least since he was 8.

In a Facebook comment in reaction to backlash from that 2015 video, the mother said this: *“This boy was always very feminine from day one and instead of denying it or condemning it, we embraced it. We did not need to encourage it, it was always there. He just needed the love and reassurance that he has a place in this world, as does any child.”*

And by embracing it, she means that she started an Instagram account where each picture draws around 500 to a thousand likes. One of the most popular posts, though, shows the young boy in a dress being interviewed and the interviewer asks a question burning in the minds of every serious thinker talking to a ten year old: “Do you think people should be talking about Donald Trump at the holiday dinner table.” Desmond thinks its fine as long as you’re not saying anything good about him, by the way.

That video hit three thousand likes on Instagram.

Desmond isn’t making the news for being a ten year old in a Pride Parade, however; he’s making the news for starting the first ever children’s “drag club.”

The article goes on to report that the drag kids club, *“‘Haus of Amazing’ was officially announced on Instagram in October, with Napoles explaining in the caption that they’re on a mission to create a ‘positive, encouraging, and safe online community for all drag kids to connect with one another.’”*

Let’s take note of something.

10 year old Desmond is not administrating his own Instagram page; he’s certainly not creating and paying for the website about

him; and he’s not coming up with fancy German spellings for the club he dreamed up.

His mother is doing a little more than embracing it - she’s building a business out of it!

Not withstanding all of the boy’s desire to be “positive and encouraging,” Desmond’s story is a tragedy!

A former transgender himself, Walt Heyer has spoken extensively to this subject. From an article he wrote for the Federalist, *“Studies have shown that childhood gender dysphoria does not inevitably continue into adulthood. An overwhelming 77 to 94 percent of gender dysphoric children do not become adults with gender dysphoria.”*

But if Desmond ever desires to live a normal, quiet life, all of this publicity and the attention sought by his mother/manager will have sealed off that possibility. He will struggle to ever be anything but the cross dressing kid.

I can only imagine the loneliness he will go through when he stops being either of those things: a cross dresser or a kid. When Desmond grows up, his shtick is up, and he’s just another guy dressed in drag that the average human being will feel awkward around. Should he desire to give up cross dressing, he will feel the rejection of the hundreds of fans who only loved him because he affirmed their own confusion.

The greatest tragedy, though, is that in Desmond’s mother’s desire to affirm that Desmond is Amazing, she’s denying what it is that makes him amazing. God created Desmond in His own image, and that is truly amazing! Little Desmond’s desire to distance himself from the way that God made him and his mother’s decision to cement his identity in that desire is the true tragedy.

It is our prayer that anyone who faces the struggles and confusion that Desmond does, young or old, would find peace and wholeness in Christ.