# American Decency Association PO Box 202, Fremont, MI 49412 231-924-4050 www.americandecency.org

October 2017 Encouraging Christians to guard their hearts

### **5 Things Every Christian Must Know About the Transgender Debate**

By: Andrew T. Walker



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ria — a condition where a person senses that their gender identity (how they feel about being male or female) may not align with their biological sex and experiences emotional distress as a result.

While we resist the attempt being made at a cultural and legal level to view gender as a matter of choice, we must also rec-The transgender debate is ognize that caught up in all this are deeply hurting people. ... They need to cation, law, government, know that (even while we entertainment all fall in may not agree with them) Christians love them, are gender debate ... . So here there for them, are ready are five essential things to listen to them and seek for Christians to keep in to understand the pain they mind as we think about are facing, and deeply desire what is best for them. Compassion and dignity for dysphoric individuals is not in tension with disagreeing with transgenderism as a social movement.

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The biggest claim of the transgender movement is that a man who thinks he's a woman can really be a woman, and vice versa. You see this in many ways — from preferred pronouns, sex reassignment surgeries, and demands to use the restroom of perceived rather than given gender. The problem is that this is a philosophical claim that is not true, and can never be true, in any way or form. A man's chromosomes cannot be engineered into female chromosomes. Altering one's appearance cosmetically or surgically cannot change the underlying reality of a person's biological make-up. The psychology of the mind cannot override the facts of a person's biological markers. The transgender revolution demands that we believe falsehoods about human nature. And truth and falsehood have never been a matter of majority vote, because we know that there is a Creator who has the authority to decide and state what is right and

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informed by the Bible can fully explain why people experience feelings of gender dysphoria. The Christian worldview once was, nor how it will ers struggle or sin. eventually be in the New Creation (Genesis 3; Ro- The transgender debate mans 8: Revelation 21). in the universe has been dads are really real. left undisturbed by sin's the brokenness of creation of our lives — even our same degree, every huwho made them has also mother and a father. saved them and will one day restore them.

So in this created-but-broken world, we understand that not all identities or feelings are to be accepted The transgender debate

standing the transgender all guided by a mixture of good and broken desires. The great Bible story of A Christian worldview Creation, Fall, and Redemption tells us that we should not be shocked that people experience desires that will not in fact bring about the wholeness they is one that acknowledges are seeking; and equally that creation has been dis- that we can never be selfrupted and is not the way it righteous about how oth-

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effects. This means that If being a man or woman is determined by someone's reaches into every corner mind or will, it means that there's no such thing as minds and hearts. To the true maleness or femaleness. Both become just a man is made in God's im- construct based on cultural age. To differing degrees stereotypes. ... Erasing the and in differing ways, biological significance of every human struggles our maleness and femalewith the brokenness of our ness destroys the script own bodies, desires, and that God knit into human thoughts. And to the same existence for how the sexdegree, every human can es interact with one anothfind their true identity by er and how children know recognizing that the God the difference between a

### Christians need both conviction AND compassion in the transgender [Used with permission: thedebate.

is ripe with controversy. Holding a biblical conviction in this debate means that individuals will find themselves in disagreements with friends, families, and co-workers—and that, however we express ourselves, we will be accused of being haters, bigots, and worse.

At a time like this, Christians need the courage to defend a true vision for human flourishing based on the biblical understanding of being made in His image. We must avoid trite explanations or knee-jerk reactions, but we must continue to say that, since God made us, he gets the ultimate say in who we are. We must put steel in our spines.

But all the conviction in the world won't matter if we act or speak without compassion. Jesus did not aim to win debates. He sought to love people. So must we as his followers. As we ground our convictions in God's unchanging, perfect, Word, we must speak with compassion in our hearts.

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people experience feelings of gender dysphoria. The Christian worldview is one that acknowledges that creation has been disonce was, nor how it will ers struggle or sin. eventually be in the New Creation (Genesis 3: Romans 8; Revelation 21). No part of our existence in the universe has been left undisturbed by sin's effects. This means that the brokenness of creation reaches into every corner of our lives — even our minds and hearts. To the same degree, every human is made in God's image. To differing degrees and in differing ways, every human struggles with the brokenness of our own bodies, desires, and thoughts. And to the same degree, every human can find their true identity by recognizing that the God who made them has also saved them and will one day restore them.

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### The transgender debate questions whether men and women, moms and dads are really real.

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