

Trends

It is morally wrong for an individual to identify with a gender different than the sex they were born.

Agree: 35% Disagree: 45% It's not a moral issue: 14% Not sure: 6%

It is morally wrong to change the gender you were born with through either surgery or taking hormones.

Agree: 42% Disagree: 43% It's not a moral issue: 11% Not sure: 4%

- via Baptist Press

Matthew 19:4: "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,'"

Sentence Sermons

"Steel that loses its temper is worthless – so are men." –Unknown

Ephesians 4:26: "Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath."

News & Notes

Please pray for those mentioned in the announcements after services and others listed on the bulletin board in the foyer of the church building.

Pray for all the members at Westside! Please pray for Susan Ferrell and her family as she continues to recover from brain tumor surgery. Also, please pray for her husband Shawn and their three boys: Samuel, Micah, and Eli.

Continue prayers for Jennifer Shorter (Garner) a member at Knightsville who is recovering well from her brain tumor surgery. Also, please pray for Elias Dispennett (age 8), son of Rob Dispennett, Knightsville's preacher, w2ho has Type 1 diabetes.

Please pray for my daughter Dawne. She had successful jaw surgery for her bilateral cleft palate. She has had about a dozen surgeries for this condition over the years. Wednesday's eight hour surgery went well. Dawne was able to return home on Saturday (7/16). Sherry and I would sincerely appreciate continued prayers on her behalf.

Pray for the college students as they are now on summer break. Jonathan will be attending IUPUI law school this fall and Rachel plans to return to IU.

Please keep sister Wilma in your prayers! She gives all of us so much encouragement! God bless her and Virginia! Remember both of them in your prayers.

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Words of Life

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"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

John 6:68



God Hath Spoken

Ryan Thomas

If you knew God was speaking directly to you how would you react? Would you ignore Him or turn away? Surely not! Why then are so many filled with a spirit of apathy and rebellion concerning the Bible? We all need to be impressed with the fact God is speaking to us through the Bible. The Hebrew writer says, "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son" (Heb. 1:1-2). What are some conclusions we can draw from this profound statement?

1) **God speaks to us by Christ.** Some say this is impossible since Christ is not literally on the earth today. We can be certain of this fact (Acts 1:9-11; 2:32-33), however, this does not mean He is not speaking to us. We must realize we hear Christ today the same way the Jews heard Moses and the prophets. Recall the story of the rich man and Lazarus (Lk. 16:19-31)? The rich man and Lazarus were both in Hades; Lazarus in place of "comfort" and the rich man in place of "torment." The rich man asked Abraham to send Lazarus to his house and warn his five brothers "lest they also come into this place of torment" (v. 28). Abraham replied, "They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them" (vs. 29, 31). Was he implying Moses and the prophets were still alive? Of course not, they had been dead for hundreds of years. How then could Moses and the prophets be heard? Folks heard them when they read what they wrote (Acts 13:15, 27; 15:21). Christ is heard today when we read what the inspired New Testament apostles and prophets wrote (Mt. 17:5; Lk. 10:16; 1 Cor. 14:37; 2 Pet. 3:1-2).

2) **What God says to you He says to me.** It is God's will that we all speak the same thing (1 Cor. 1:10). This is why we speak where the Bible speaks and are silent where the Bible is silent (1 Pet. 4:11). Religious confusion and division is an absolute certainty when men fail to heed Peter's admonition.

3) **God has said all He is going to say.** God *hath* spoken, thus, He has revealed “*all truth*” (Jn. 16:13) . Since He has already “*given us all things that pertain unto life and godliness*” (2 Pet. 1:3), nothing supposedly revealed to anyone today pertains to life and godliness. Such “*revelations*” are an “*accursed*” gospel (Gal. 1:6-9). The only way to find out what God has said is to read His word, His book—the Bible. How about you? Do you listen to God through His word the Bible? Or, is it hidden to you by the hardness of your own heart? (Mt. 13:13-15; 2 Cor. 4:3-4)

Whereby When Ye Read

Ryan Thomas

During the early years of the church the gospel was spread through the oral, spoken words of the apostles and those whom they instructed (Acts 5:42; 8:4). But this would not last. Just as the apostles were left alone by the Savior the early Christians would be left alone by the apostles when they died. Since divine inspiration ended with the death of the apostles, something had to take their place. Eventually the gospel had to be written down. Let's look at what happens when we read the written revelation.

1) **We can have Paul's knowledge.** The apostle himself declares that “*Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ*” (Eph. 3:3). Since Paul declared “*the whole counsel of God*” (Acts 20:27) we too can understand “*the whole the counsel of God*” when we read the Bible.

2) **We can know all that God intended for us to know.** In John 16:13 Jesus promised the apostles that when He was gone He would send them the Holy Spirit to guide them into “*all truth.*” We learn in 1 Corinthians 2:1-13 how this took place. We also learn the things revealed by the Holy Spirit are able to make us “*wise unto salvation*” and “*thoroughly furnish us unto all good works*” (2 Tim. 3:15-17). Paul and the other apostles wrote these things down for us in the Bible (1 Cor. 14:37; 1 Jn. 1:3-4). As John said in Revelation 1:3, “*Blessed is he that readeth.*”

3) **We can be certain.** Those living during the lifetime of Christ and the apostles heard rumors and myths regarding what was taking place. Things passed around by word of mouth are doomed to be corrupted and contaminated by false information. This is why Luke took “*in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us*” (Lk. 1:1). Why would Luke even bother writing down these things if they had already been believed? He did it so these things could be preserved for future generations and “*that thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed*” (Lk. 1:3-4). The apostles did not write down everything that took place, but the things they did write were “*written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the*

Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name” (Jn. 20:30-31). We are in extreme danger when we go beyond the things that are written (1 Cor. 4:6; Rev. 22:18-19).

Do You Know Someone Like This?

Larry Ray Hafley

“*Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you*” (Eph. 4:31, 32). “*Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them*” (Col. 3:19). “*Looking diligently lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled*” (Heb. 12:15).

Bitterness has many causes, but no excuses. It starts with the seeds of envy and jealousy. At first it simmers and stews in resentment at an offence or mistreatment, whether real or imagined. Its finished product is characterized by animosity, anger, and harshness. The objects of its ire and venom are shown no mercy. Though the general public may be unaware of the cesspool of bitterness that lies within their esteemed friend, its victims know it only too well, for often have they been drenched and drowned in its vile bile.

Given enough time, bitterness will alienate and separate friends, husbands and wives, business and professional associates, and civic and religious organizations, especially churches. It is no respecter of persons. All are susceptible. “*Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall*” (1 Cor. 10:12).

“Eadie says the *pikra* (bitterness) is ‘a figurative term denoting that fretted and irritable state of mind that keeps a man in perpetual animosity—that inclines him to harsh and uncharitable opinions of men and things—that makes him sour (crabby), and repulsive in his general demeanor—that brings a scowl over his face, and infuses venom into the words of his tongue’” (Earle, *Word Meanings In The New Testament*, p. 318).

“But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?”

1 John 3:17

Do you know someone like this? “Lord, is it I?”