

Transgender Policy Explained

As a Christian journalist, who reports stories from a biblical worldview, I believe everything I report should reflect reality as described in Scripture.

At the core of transgender ideology is a belief that runs counter to a biblical worldview—the belief that the true self has no connection to the body. This belief is known in academic circles as personhood theory. In ancient times, it was known as Gnosticism.

The Gnostics had such a low view of the body that they denied the Incarnation, finding the thought that God could take on a human body repulsive. Gnosticism (or personhood theory) was then, and is today, a heresy.

The Bible affirms the body as good and integral to the true self. (Gen. 1:27; Psalm 139:14). It also states that God’s creation, including sexual differentiation, is “very good” (Gen. 1:31). And in the New Testament, the apostle Paul further teaches that the one-flesh union of husband and wife is a spiritual symbol, reflecting a “profound mystery” of Christ’s relationship with His church.

So, I cannot embrace a biblical worldview and also affirm that someone who was born biologically female is truly a male simply because that person has embraced a masculine identity, and vice-versa.

As a result, it is my policy to refer to people initially by their name and to note if a person has embraced an identity other than his or her biological sex. I will subsequently refer to such persons using the person’s last name. But if I must use a pronoun, I will use a pronoun that corresponds to the person’s biological sex.

I understand that this policy will anger those with a different worldview, and that some feel I am being cruel or discourteous when I don’t affirm someone’s preferred gender.

This deeply grieves me because I always desire to be courteous and kind. However, this is a situation where the principle of being courteous (i.e. referring to people by their preferred noun or pronoun) conflicts with a higher principle—biblical truth.

My entire ministry is built around speaking the truth, even when that truth is painful or unpopular. And I don't feel I can violate this principle now, even though I know standing on this principle will upset a sizable portion of the population.

I truly love people who identify as LGBT. I know the world says that I cannot believe as I do and love them, but that's simply not true. I do.

We obviously have fundamental differences about truth and what leads to human flourishing. But it's my hope and desire that despite these differences, we can still listen to one other and respect one another, even if we don't affirm each other's choices.