

**2 Timothy 2:24-26**  
**“The Nashville Statement – Article 11”**

**24 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient,**  
**25 in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,**  
**26 and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.**

I suppose I have a lot in common with Joshua Sutcliffe, we're both from England, we're both evangelical pastors, and we both teach part time at schools. There are a few critical differences between us though, Suttcliffe teaches math in a Secondary School in England, and I teach Omnibus (history, English, theology) in a Christian School in America. Sutcliffe however was recently fired from his job.

Why? Did he perhaps do a bad job teaching, show up late to work, or something of that nature? No, he was by all reports an excellent math teacher.

Suttcliffe was suspended for a complement he said “well done girls” to a group of girls who were doing well on a problem that he had set for them. Why is that a problem? Well in the group of students was a girl who had been self-identifying as a boy. Sutcliffe knew that he was supposed to refer to this student as male, but had spent the school year trying desperately to only refer to the student by name, and avoid the use of pronouns. The student knew what he was trying to do as did HER parents, and eventually as was inevitable, he slipped up. The student was outraged, and Sutcliffe apologized, but she dutifully informed her parents her Christian maths teacher had referred to her as a girl in class and the parents complained and the school intervened. An investigation began which concluded that Sutcliffe had “misgendered” the pupil, “demonstrating discriminatory behaviours” and “contravened the

school's equality policy". It went on to reprimand his avoidance of using gendered pronouns regarding the girl up to that point.

*Saying that 'avoidance of using gendered pronouns contravenes the school's code of conduct with regard to demonstrating an awareness of sexual and cultural diversity of students and use of insensitive comments towards young people'.*

*Sutcliffe responded with a letter saying, "As a Christian, I do not share your belief in the ideology of Transgenderism. I do not believe that young children should be encouraged to self-select a 'gender' which may be different from their biological sex; or that everyone at school should adjust their behavior to accommodate such a 'transition'; or that people should be punished for lack of enthusiasm about it."*

*He continued: "Implementation of these ideas is detrimental to the welfare of children, which I believe should be a paramount consideration. However, as a professional, I was always careful not to breach my employer's policies so long as I was not forced to act contrary to my conscience."*

He was subsequently sacked from his job, and is now suing the school for violating his religious rights. However, Britain's High Court has already ruled on several cases similar to this one, and in each case they have decided against the Christian plaintiff and ruled in favor of the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender, etc. etc. etc. agenda.

Now did Sutcliffe make a mistake? Should he simply have gone along with what the school, the student, and her parents wanted and referred to this girl as a boy? It's a lie, and we know it's a lie, but perhaps it's better to just do what society tells us so that we don't lose our jobs our worse.

Well the answer for the Christian the answer is clear. The Old Testament

condemned the society of Judah for their own lies, when they looked at something and said it was the opposite. When they called the sins of their own time good instead of evil. How did the Lord respond?

**Isa. 5:20 Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!**

In the New Testament the Apostles were called upon by the authorities of their own day to stop preaching in the name of Christ:

*Acts 5:27 And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest asked them,*

*28 saying, "Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man's blood on us!"*

*29 But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men.*

*30 "The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree.*

*31 "Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.*

*32 "And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him."*

Later...

*40 And they agreed with him, and when they had called for the apostles and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.*

*41 So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.*

*42 And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.*

We have a duty to call things what they are and in the way that God has made them to declare and teach boldly what God has said in His word.

Paul tells Timothy that is his duty as a pastor:

**2 Tim 2:24 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient,  
25 in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,  
26 and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.**

Note that he says we must not quarrel but be gentle and patient

But we must correct those who are in opposition and our objective in all of this is that they might know the truth

Because our objective is that we may free them from the snare of the devil

For they are doing his will

We must do Christ's will

So the Nashville Statement is correct when it says:

### **Article 11**

**WE AFFIRM our duty to speak the truth in love at all times, including when we speak to or about one another as male or female.**

**WE DENY any obligation to speak in such ways that dishonor God's design of his imagebearers as male and female.**

And we must not think that we will be able to escape by some other means, you remember how that school condemned Sutcliffe for “*avoidance of using gendered pronouns*” we will not ultimately escape even by telling what we know to be lies. Because the culture we live in is not content simply to have people say what they know to be falsehoods, it demands that everyone BELIEVE those falsehoods.

One of the most telling parts of 1984 – Ministry of Love.

“Do you remember,” he went on, “writing in your diary, ‘Freedom is the freedom to say that two plus two make four’?” “Yes,” said Winston. O’Brien held up his left hand, its back toward Winston, with the thumb hidden and the four fingers extended. “How many fingers am I holding up, Winston?” “Four.” “And if the Party says that it is not four but five—then how many?” “Four.”

“You are a slow learner, Winston,” said O’Brien gently. “How can I help it?” he blubbered. “How can I help seeing what is in front of my eyes? Two and two are four.” “Sometimes, Winston. Sometimes they are five. Sometimes they are three. Sometimes they are all of them at once. You must try harder. It is not easy to become sane.”

Winston has to be persuaded not just to say, but to really believe that if the party says  $2+2=5$  that it really does equal five

We live in an age where we are being taught by social pressure not only to see a man and say he’s a woman, but to convince ourselves that we really are looking at woman.

We must not give in, we must speak the truth in love no matter what the cost.  
 That's easy for you to say!  
 Easier, but not easy.  
 PCA circles I'm already a bigot.

The Roman Empire  
 Pluralism  
 Confess what the state tells you  
 They would not  
 And yet they triumphed over that state

***2 Cor. 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh.***

***4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,***

***5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,***

***6 and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.***

The current culture, if it remains opposed to God, will be destroyed:

***Psalm 2:1 Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing?***

***2 The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying,***

***3 "Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us."***

***4 He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The LORD shall hold them in derision.***

***5 Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, And distress them in His deep displeasure:***

***6 "Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion."***

*7 "I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.*

*8 Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession.*

*9 You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.' "*

*10 Now therefore, be wise, O kings; Be instructed, you judges of the earth.*

*11 Serve the LORD with fear, And rejoice with trembling.*

*12 Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, And you perish in the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.*