

SHOULD CHRISTIANS USE “PREFERRED PRONOUNS”

INTRODUCTION

- Christians in the Western world are being persecuted for not using the “preferred pronouns” of transgenders
- Until recently, all human societies have generally understood a person's gender to be determined by their biological sex – it was something objectively inherent to their physical biology, not something subjectively imagined in their mind
- Today, having abandoned God, along with any concept of absolute truth, our society now permits people to “choose” their gender identity
- But the real problem arises when these people force others to participate in their insanity by requiring them to address them according to their chosen gender identity
 - ✓ Male: he/him/his
 - ✓ Female: she/her/hers
 - ✓ Plural: they/them/theirs
 - ✓ Neutral: ze/zir/zirs or xe/xem/xyrs
- Transgenders also will change their name to suit their new imagined gender and insist that the rest of us use their new name

What is the Christian response?

I. WE NEED CLARITY IN OUR THINKING OF THEM

- A. God clearly defined his design for mankind, gender and sexuality in the creation account (Genesis 1:26-28)
 1. God made clear distinctions in the creation
 - a. A distinction between man and God
 - b. A distinction between man and beast
 - c. A distinction between man and woman
 2. The ungodly seek to blur all of these distinctions
 3. We are specifically told that God in the beginning made two, and only two, genders – male and female (Genesis 5:2; Matthew 19:4)
 4. Along with the rest of the original creation, these two genders are described as “very good” (Genesis 1:31)
- B. God requires a clear distinction between the genders

1. In clothing (Deuteronomy 22:5)
 - a. The garments of men, and the garments of women should be different and easily distinguished
 - b. Until the 20th century, gender distinctive clothing was an integral part of almost every culture
 - c. The antichrist movements of feminism movement and the sexual revolution brought about a widespread acceptance of androgynous and unisex clothing
 2. In hair length (1 Corinthians 11:14-15)
 3. In behaviour (1 Corinthians 6:9)
 4. In roles (Genesis 2:18; 1 Corinthians 11:8-9; 1 Timothy 2:11-12)
- C. Transgenderism springs from the sinful, corrupt heart of man
1. It originates from the same source as every other evil and perversion in the world
 2. It is open rebellion against God Almighty, defying his design for men and women
 3. The transgender shakes his fist at God, saying, "Why hast thou made me thus?" (Romans 9:20)
- D. Transgenderism is the fruit of Satan's relentless attack on the home
1. Dysfunctional homes are more likely to produce sodomites and transgenders
 2. The absence of a father in the home increases the risk of many behavioural problems, including drug and alcohol abuse, poor educational performance, teen pregnancy, depression, suicide, and gender confusion
- E. Transgenders are victims of a satanic, antichrist, anti-truth, anti-human system
1. These people face many problems, and the system through social media, education, popular culture, etc, has convinced them that the answer to their problems is to change their gender
 2. Many of these people didn't have the privileges we have of growing up in a normal, stable home, where the truth of God is taught and the lies of the world are rejected
 3. But some well-meaning people, in their desire to be understanding and sympathetic to transgenders, will actually go along with their insanity and participate in their mental delusion by pretending the person has actually changed their gender

4. The president of the Southern Baptist Convention exhorted Christians to support “gender justice”, and that using “preferred pronouns” for transgender people is “pronoun hospitality”

II. WE NEED VERITY IN OUR TALKING TO THEM

- A. Christians must speak the truth
 1. “Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour” (Ephesians 4:25; cf. Zechariah 8:16)
 2. “But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty...but by manifestation of the truth” (2 Corinthians 4:2)
 3. “Preferred pronouns” is coercive or compelled speech that requires people to speak lies
- B. The prophet Micaiah demonstrates how God’s people must not be intimidated into speaking lies (1 Kings 22)
 1. He was hated because he spoke the truth and refused to say what the king wanted to hear (v.8)
 2. When he was called upon, he was adjured to conform his words to accord with those of the false prophets (v.13)
 3. At first, Micaiah played along and gave the king the message he wanted to hear (v.15)
 4. But even this did not satisfy king Ahab who knew Micaiah was not sincere
 5. You cannot satisfy or appease the gender cult activists, no matter how strictly and repeatedly you comply with their orders
 6. Even when you use their pronouns, repeat their slogans, wave their flags, wear their badges, they will always want more
 7. They want to not only control your *speech*, but your *thoughts*
 8. They want to completely demoralise you until you not only *speak* lies but *believe* them
 9. When Micaiah finally did speak the truth (v.17) he was assaulted and imprisoned (vv.24,27)
 10. As has been the case for God’s prophets throughout history, Christians must be prepared to suffer persecution for speaking God’s truth to the world

III. WE NEED CHARITY IN OUR TREATMENT OF THEM

- A. We are to speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15)
 1. This is a characteristic of spiritual maturity (Ephesians 4:14)

2. While charity shows grace to sinners, covering a multitude of sins (1 Peter 4:8), it does not partake of other men's sins – it "rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth" (1 Corinthians 13:6)
 3. When we speak the truth, it is not to be in a spirit of judgment, condemnation or superiority, but of love, that seeks the welfare of others
- B. We are to strive to "give none offence" (1 Corinthians 10:32,33; 2 Corinthians 6:3)
1. "That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ" (Philippians 1:10)
 2. We are to seek to avoid any words or behaviour that would cause others to stumble (1 Corinthians 8:13; Romans 14:13)
 3. "That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain." (Philippians 2:15-16)
 4. Nevertheless, the light of truth is offensive to the world, and unbelievers will stumble at it (1 Peter 2:8)
- C. We must be prepared to give the right answer when we find ourselves in this situation
1. It requires our speech to be with grace and godliness (Colossians 4:6)
 2. It requires our hearts to be sanctified (1 Peter 3:15)

CONCLUSION

1. As the end of the age draws near, the father of lies is increasing his deceptive work among humanity, causing them to reject the truth and believe lies
2. As Christ was sent to this world to bear witness unto the truth (John 18:37), so he sends us to be witnesses to the truth also (John 20:21)
3. The solution to those who have been captured by the transgender cult is the same as for any other sinner – the gospel of Christ
4. As we refuse to participate in their lies, but rather stand for the God's truth in our words and behaviour, adorning the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things (Titus 2:10), we can show these miserable people that there is a better life in Christ
5. We are no better than others – we are merely sinners saved by grace, and we seek for others to know that saving grace also
6. May God give us grace and wisdom as we traverse these difficult times before us