



# Christian Citizenship

"You are the salt of the earth . . . You are the light of the world" (Mt. 5:13-16). One way to be salty and let our light shine is by being good citizens on earth. Our vocation as citizens of both the secular kingdom and God's kingdom gives us the responsibility to proclaim God's Word and care for our neighbors. We are called to engage the "public square" with our message of Christ's mercy for all. Please pray for God's will to be done... in Jesus' name.

## A Christian Response to Hostility and Persecution

"Recalling our identity in Christ," writes Dr. Jesse Yow, "it should come as no surprise that we experience attacks from the evil one. First Peter 5:8-9 warns, 'Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.'"

Yow lists some of the evil's one's "favorite tactics" which include "trying to break us away from the rest of the Body of Christ, isolating us from God's Word, immobilizing us with discouragement, dividing our fellowship, challenging the authority of God's Word, or challenging God's authority or integrity ... Regardless of the form of attack, the evil one is an opportunist and may choose to provoke opposition or persecution whenever suitable openings arise.

"God brought an orderly creation out of nothing (Genesis 1:1-2, 31a). He "prefers order and peace to confusion when it comes to worship and spiritual practice. As 1 Corinthians 14:33 points out, 'God is not a God of confusion but of peace' ... God is the only source of true peace." Attacks on Christians—sometimes "random and yet intense"—cause "turmoil and try to destroy our peace. At least some of these attacks reflect a mostly hidden warfare by spiritual forces of evil against the kingdom of God ... Romans 5:3-5 tells us, 'We rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit

who has been given to us.'" (Excerpts from *Standing Firm: A Christian Response to Hostility and Persecution* by Jesse Yow, CPH, 69-70.)

**What can we do?** Satan wants us to doubt God and despair, but we can believe that God uses hostility and persecution "to shape or hone us into instruments for His ministry of redemption." We can trust that our heavenly Father sometimes uses difficulties "to turn us toward [Him], much as a child might instinctively turn toward his father for protection." Although we may "not understand the situation, its origin, or how or when God might use it ... we can live by the faith God gives us. Our Lord is Commander in Chief, and He places us on the battlefield as part of a larger strategy to accomplish His plans."

**Please pray** with trust in God's promise to guide, sustain, and use us in times of hostility and persecution... in Jesus' name.

## The Cult of Transgender Totalitarianism

Jane Robbins, writing for *The Public Discourse*, observes that "the epidemic of supposed gender dysphoria among children and adolescents—'transgenderism'—has often been described as a cult." Think of how a cult destabilizes "an individual's sense of self by undermining his or her basic consciousness, reality awareness, beliefs and worldview, [and] emotional control." Cults lead their followers to believe that anxiety and uncertainty will disappear with a "new identity" that will solve all problems. "It is readily apparent how a teenager struggling with severe or even common adolescent angst could be lured into such a group."

We could also describe transgenderism "as a form of 'social contagion.' This term refers to 'the spread of ideas, feelings and, some think, neuroses through a community or group by suggestion, gossip, imitation, etc.' The explosion of cases of gender dysphoria, previously an exceedingly rare condition, over the last few years has coincided with a meteoric increase in sympathetic attention to the topic in regular and social media—thus

suggesting social contagion. Parents whose children ‘come out’ as transgender when their friends do certainly agree with this explanation.

Robbins says that “individuals who have been ensnared in but escaped from the transgender movement describe it as ‘an ideology, with elements of both the political and the religious. The devotion to the ideology is so deep that ... ‘anyone who hesitates in supporting transition and [sex-reassignment surgery] is a dinosaur committed to an outgrown, inherently discriminatory understanding of trans persons and needs to be defeated in court or in the public arena.’”

With “totalitarian force transgenderism has shaken the foundations of all we know to be true. Scientific knowledge is rejected and medical practice co-opted in service of a new ‘reality’—that ‘gender’ is independent of sex, that males and females of any age, even young children, are entitled to their own transgender self-identification based only on their feelings, and that literally every individual and every segment of society must bow to their chosen identity at risk of losing reputation, livelihood, and even freedom itself ... this revolution is happening without any credible scientific evidence to support it.” This revolution is “nonsense” because “sex is determined by unalterable chromosomes. An individual can change his hormone levels and undergo surgery to better imitate the opposite sex, but a male on the day of his conception will remain a male on the day of his death.”

The “transgender revolution” has captured government and the media; taken over public and some private schools and business; and corrupted religion, law, research, and language. “It has trampled religious freedom.” It encourages narcissistic behavior and places at risk the relationships of young people with God, parents, and siblings. Walt Heyer endured hormone treatment and surgery before de-transitioning to the man he is. He says, “This is child abuse ... We are manufacturing transgender kids. We are manufacturing their depression, their anxiety, and it’s turned into a huge industry that people are profiting from after kids’ lives are completely torn apart.”

But, observes Robbins, “scientific and moral truths can be buried for only so long, and there are signs

of their revival.” Two examples suffice. There is an “increasing number of physicians publicly proclaiming the nakedness of the transgender emperor,” and a growing network of “groups for parents who have seen the gender madness harm their own children and families.”

**What can we do?** Take the time to read Jane Robbins’ article entitled “The Cracks in the Edifice of Transgender Totalitarianism”

([thepublicdiscourse.com/2019/07/54272](http://thepublicdiscourse.com/2019/07/54272)) Learn the history of “gender identity.” Read about the work of Dr. Paul McHugh. Visit the American College of Pediatricians. Become familiar with the parental groups Transgender Trend, 4<sup>th</sup>WaveNow, and the Kelsey Coalition. Listen to the voices of “de-transitioners” who, after medical transition, realized they had made a life-changing mistake and are now leading to a restoration of sanity by speaking out to warn other victims of the “gender industry.” Visit the website of Walt Heyer at [www.sexchangeregret.com](http://www.sexchangeregret.com).

**Please pray** for young people and their parents to resist the deception of the culture... in Jesus’ name.

### **Young People: Bullying is Not Tolerance**

For the past five years, GLAAD (Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation) has conducted a survey of U.S. adults measuring what it calls the “accelerating acceptance” of LGBT people. However, the results of GLAAD’s 2018 survey show that people between the ages of 18 and 34 are becoming increasingly “uncomfortable” with the bullying behavior of LGBTQ advocates against their perceived foes. Young people dislike bullies. And Jack Phillips (Masterpiece Cakeshop in Denver) and Barronelle Stutzman (Arlene’s Flowers & Gifts in Richland, WA.) have been bullied. Students who support the traditional marriage of one man and one woman have been bullied. Perhaps young people are re-thinking LGBTQ tactics.

**What can we do?** Listen to interviews with Jack Phillips and Barronelle Stutzman. Visit Alliance Defending Freedom, National Organization for Marriage, and CanaVox (click on “reading groups”).

**Please pray** for those who unashamedly defend biblical marriage and family... in Jesus’ name.

