

Eagle Forum Report

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200 W. Third St., Ste. 502 • Alton, IL 62002 • (618) 433-8990 • Eagle@EagleForum.org • EagleForum.org

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What Is Sex?

IS SEX IMMUTABLE OR CHANGEABLE?

by David Pickup, Masters in Psychology, and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and Supervisor.

In one striking moment of myopic jurisprudence, the Supreme Court of the United States moved our country toward a future filled with confused and abused children.

SCOTUS ruled 5-4 (*Harris Funeral Homes v. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission*) that no employer can fire a transgendered or homosexual person who claims those identities. They ruled that doing so is at the heart of discrimination and is illegal.

“Held: An employer who fires an individual merely for being gay or transgender violates Title VII. Pp. 4–33.

(a) Title VII makes it “unlawful . . . for an employer to fail or refuse to hire or to discharge any individual, or otherwise to discriminate against any individual . . . because of such individual’s race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.”

SCOTUS provided three court cases as precedents to rule that their new interpretation of the 1964 Civil Rights Act is correct. Incredibly, the court admitted that the Civil Rights Act did *not* mean gender or sexual orientation as the terms are defined

today, but referred solely to biological gender.

What SCOTUS didn’t explain was *why* they changed the meaning of sex (which in today’s leftist thinking means anyone can be any gender or orientation with which they emotionally identify.) What they did not explain was *how* they came to the “certainty” of the latest meaning of sex. What they did not explain was by *what* constitutional authority did they have the right to redefine the core meaning of sex.

SCOTUS ruled from the bench on an issue that is easily contradicted by accessible scientific research, which makes their ruling blatantly unconstitutional. Five justices have no right to change the meaning of what has been understood by human beings from the beginning of time. Those of us who are people of faith can also immediately recognize that there is a heavenly court that is higher than these judges.

SCOTUS wrangled legal language, codified misinformation and displayed unnecessary ignorance,

even from a purely scientific viewpoint, in their ruling. In principle, the same mistake of redefining gender and sexuality was made by ex-Justice Kennedy who wrote the majority opinion of the same-sex marriage question in 2013, *Obergefell v. Hodges*. Kennedy stated that sexuality is



immutable — in other words, inborn and unchangeable. Every justification, reasoning, or emotional argument for LGBT rights is based on this one simple foundation. “This is who I am, I’m born this way and change is impossible” is the foundation on which all LGBT issues are built. Without this foundation the Supreme Court has nothing on which to base its majority opinion. Their language was highly detailed, meticulous in noting precedents, and even highly passion-

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ate. But without this immutable foundation, everything falls.

Do you think LGBT activists don't know the immense, civilization-changing effect of the court's new definition of gender and sexuality? Just look at the article written by one of the most proactive LGBT online newspapers that was published in 2015:

"Here Is The Single Most Important Word In Today's Historic Marriage Equality Opinion," by Ian Millhiser, June 26, 2015. The word? "Immutable." Inborn causation and immutability is the specific foundation on which LGBT rights are based.

Based on this modern-day interpretation of the SCOTUS majority, there are indeed people who are men born in women's bodies, that "research" indicates homosexual and transgender identities are healthy and there couldn't possibly be anything that causes these issues from childhood, that change is not just impossible but that any attempts to change these emotional issues are abusive and should be illegal. Do you see the danger of American's rights to change-therapy and religious practice being taken away? You should. LGBT activists have already convinced over 20 states to take away the right of free speech of therapists and minor clients to engage in therapy that resolves these issues. These laws banning therapy include the imminent end of religious rights for church-employed, state-licensed counselors to practice their faith with faith-based minors and their parents.

I do not believe that any professional licensed therapist is harming clients undergoing change or resolution therapy. (There of course are rare exceptions to every helping profession no matter what therapeutic issues are being addressed.) I believe this because transgender and homo-

sexual feelings are in fact not inborn or immutable. There is no research that has proved inborn causality or immutability. (If SCOTUS simply did their research, they would have accessed this knowledge.)

I also don't believe in LGBT inborn causation because my very overbooked private therapy practice is filled with clients who know their gender or sexuality issues are in fact not inborn or immutable. All of them do not identify as LGBT. All of them have identified their own traumas and severely unmet needs in childhood that have caused their gender dysphoria or homosexual feelings. With expert therapy, our motivated clients experience real and lasting change or resolution of their issues. Of course, these issues are tough, and it takes work and time to resolve the underlying issues. But every single one of our motivated clients eventually experience the rise of their authentic, secure selves. Their depression or anxiety resolves. They are shown that shaming themselves for their feelings will never work, and that personal truth and unconditional compassion works indeed.

Contrary to pop-LGBT culture, no licensed therapist uses electroshock, shaming, or "pray away" the gay/trans therapy. In state legislatures over the past seven years, we have yet to hear any credible specific details from ex-clients who have experienced harms from therapists. The LGBT witnesses in state legislatures who seek to ban professional therapy never give names, dates and places to help us identify these therapists who have abused them.

In redefining the meaning of sex, the Supreme Court has put the entire country right up to the edge of destruction in terms of sound jurisprudence, accurate research, secure identity, marriage as the basis of civilization,

religious rights, and plain common sense. Their recent ruling is masked by an attitude of lawfulness and compassion for a victimized minority. In reality, SCOTUS has shown their gross personal bias and assumptions about gender and sexuality to the detriment of our country and our children. LGBT persons deserve understanding, basic civil rights and our deep compassion for the issues they have undergone, especially over the past many decades. However, there is no such thing as compassion without truth.

The truth has been twisted by one branch of government, and we will pay the price for it. What's next? In a word, pedophilia. It will be the "P" on the end of the ever-evolving LGBT moniker. Have you heard the stories beginning to come out of several psychological associations? Are you informed about the revelation of more and more famous people who have been convicted of sex with minors? Have you heard the recent arguments that describe similar "loving" sexual relationships that many men in ancient Rome professed for children? How do I know pedophilia is coming? Some researchers have recently reported that sexual feelings for little children are "inborn and immutable." Once the truth of gender and sexuality is twisted, SCOTUS will have no real leg to stand on when denying rights to future pedophiles who will file lawsuits claiming the same arguments as our transgender and LGBT citizens.

Thankfully, there is a better way as written in 1 Corinthians 6:18-20:

"Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies." 

LET GIRLS BE GIRLS

by Abigail Shrier, author of *Irreversible Damage: The Transgender Craze Seducing Our Daughters*

Each of the detransitioners I talked to told a remarkably similar story — of having had no gender dysphoria until puberty, when she discovered her trans identity online. Some, like Chiara, desisted before ever starting testosterone. (Chiara's mother sent her to live on a horse farm for a year, where she had no internet; the physical labor helped her reconnect to her body, and the lack of internet allowed her to leave her trans identity behind.)

Others, like Desmond, did not turn back until an accumulated course of testosterone left her doubled over in pain from the uterine atrophy it produced. The only way to alleviate the pain, doctors insisted, was hysterectomy. So a year ago, she underwent the procedure. When she awakened without a uterus, she realized her entire gender journey had been a terrible mistake. "Somehow I decided that it just wasn't worth the risk anymore." Having paid an extortionate price for her new identity, Desmond felt only buyer's remorse.

Nearly all of the detransitioners I spoke with are plagued with regret. If they were on testosterone for even a few months, they possess a startlingly masculine voice that will not lift. If they were on T for longer, they suffer the embarrassment of having unusual intimate geography — an enlarged clitoris that resembles a small penis. They hate their five-o'clock shadows and body hair. They live with slashes across their chests and masculine nipples (transverse oblong and smaller) or flaps of skin that don't quite resemble nipples. If they retained their ovaries, once off of testosterone, whatever breast tissue they have will swell

with fluid when their periods return, often failing to drain properly.

For Erin, trans identification seemed to fuel her gender dysphoria. Presenting as a man may have calmed some of her distress, she said, but it was also emotionally exhausting. "I felt I got kind of another dysphoria trying to be male and male identified," she said. "My body doesn't fit into men's clothes. It's always frustrating trying to find pants. I'm just not the right shape. When I wear men's coats or sweatshirts, it just feels like I'm this kid trying to wear my dad's clothes. . . . I'm a curvy person, and it was making me unhappy to just think that maybe if I exercise or maybe if I change my posture—it became a thing I was thinking about all the time."

Each of the desisters and detransitioners I talked to reported being 100 percent certain that they were definitely trans — until, suddenly, they were not. Nearly all of them blame the adults in their lives, especially the medical professionals, for encouraging and facilitating their transitions.

"If you did make a mistake by transitioning, it's not like you blindly one day decided that this is what you wanted to do," Benji wants those considering detransition to know. "Probably, your guidance counselor, social worker, doctor, therapist, psychiatrist, parent, school teacher, told you that this is a good idea or supported that this is a good idea or helped you hash out why this would be good for you. This is not something that you came to the decision on your own — especially if you were under eighteen, you were like a child. Other people should have been looking out for

your well-being."

A big part of the problem is that eighteen may be the age of majority, but especially today, eighteen-year-olds are very immature. So many of these girls who are drawn into the transgender world are already battling anorexia, anxiety, and depression. They are lonely. They are fragile. And more than anything, they want to belong. Adults in their lives should realize this, but instead, the moment these girls voice the shibboleth "I'm trans," nearly every adult, even medical professionals, regard them with the awe owed to a prophet, not the skepticism usually applied to a suffering teen.

Benji offers this thought experiment:

"Imagine if there was a cult, and every single member of that cult wanted a gastric bypass because they needed to be skinnier because of the tenets of their cult.

It wouldn't be ethical for a doctor to give all these women gastric bypass just because it's their religion. So when I see these people who have like spent years on Tumblr, indoctrinating themselves, and then they go to the doctor — it's like, the doctor is the one who has the responsibility to be like, 'Can this person tell what is reality? Is this person making a decision that's good for them?'"

Many detransitioning young women have since come to believe



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they were just young lesbians who had internalized homophobia and been led to believe that not being typically feminine meant they were not female at all. Nearly all of them struggled with mental health and engaged in self-harm. As I spoke to each one, I wondered how much easier things might have been if — instead of turning to their iPhones — they had gone to the mall together and pierced their ears or smoked a cigarette.

Those who transition often assume that there is no going back. This is gender ideologues' favorite dogma, that epistemic access to one's gender identity is perfect: "*Kids know who they are.*" Because no one can be wrong about his or her gender identity, there is no reason ever to change your mind.

Parents who oppose their daughters' transitions unwittingly participate in the fiction that the daughter they once had is gone for good. Many parents I have talked to mourn their daughter's transition as a kind of death. But detransitioners exist. More are coming forward all the time.

Here is the important point: there is life after detransition.

The psychological struggles that lead a young woman to transition are often acute. More than likely, even after detransition, those struggles remain. At some point, we all have to face our pain.

There are also worse mistakes to have made than transitioning. You may have altered your body, and it may not, on its own, revert back. Laser hair removal exists for a reason — as does plastic surgery.

That hideous public diary that calls itself "social media" and mocks us with so many small-minded pronouncements and embarrassing images — it does not matter. Not really. Sooner than we think, we may all regard it as little more than humanity's

most colossal distraction, an endless ledger of wasted time.

We are, all of us, doomed to hurt those we love. Most of us disappoint our parents in some respect; or at least, we are not exactly who our parents would have designed, had they been granted just a little more say. Worse yet, we disappoint ourselves.

But then, each day, we awaken to a miracle: another chance to try again. To ask forgiveness. To call our moms.

To go just a little easier on ourselves.

If you believe you've made a mistake by transitioning, the best time to turn back is now. The further you travel toward that impossible horizon, the harder it is to retrace your steps and find the person you might wish to be once more. Then again, if anyone excels at reinvention, it's you.

Reports of your death have been greatly exaggerated. That's no small thing. It may even be everything. 

A SEX AND MONEY SCANDAL

by Anne Schlafly Cori, chairman, Eagle Forum

Taxpayers should not subsidize a social contagion. Social media and "LGBT" ideology has spread the unscientific idea that humans can deny their biology and magically change their sex. Vulnerable children have been swept up in this hideous craze that only serves to destroy their fertility. Unfortunately, medical professionals have joined the mass enthusiasm by prescribing powerful drugs and performing surgeries that have lifetime repercussions.

Male and female cannot be abolished and taxpayers should not participate in this experimental medicine that is being foisted on those who cannot make informed consent.

Congressman Doug LaMalfa (R-CA) has introduced two bills in the U.S. House in response to the growing push to normalize early and aggressive medical interventions on confused children who pretend to be "transgender".

The Protecting Children from Experimentation Act would prohibit doctors from performing experimental gender reassignment treatments on children. Puberty-blocking hormones followed by cross-sex hormones can cause irreversible damage to children's bodies, including an increased risk of cancer and permanent sterilization.

The End Taxpayer Funding of

Gender Experimentation Act would protect taxpayers' conscience by prohibiting federal funding for gender reassignment surgeries and treatments. Our religious liberties are at risk when the government supports this radical belief system that denigrates our sexuality.

Rep. LaMalfa said, "Our society has quickly 'normalized' gender experimentation under the guise of an 'accepting' political ideology rather than biological reality. Even more troubling, children are undergoing experimental treatments, like being injected with puberty-blocking hormones and cross-sex hormones, which have irreversible consequences, such as permanent sterility. As minors, children cannot vote, join the military, or open a bank account; it's our job as society, and especially parents, to protect them from making life altering gender experimentation decisions that they may likely later regret." 

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President: Colleen Holcomb

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