

Midtown Messenger

Volume 1

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Issue 31

The Transgender Question

Ronnie Scherffius

On Friday, October 6, 2000, a son was born into the Bloshinsky family. His parents named him Jaron. In 2004, little Jaron was diagnosed with gender identity disorder (born one gender but identifying as another gender). Jaron Bloshinsky changed his name to Jazz Jennings. At the age of six, Jennings and his family began appearing on television (including programs of such notoriety as 20/20) to speak about the challenges of growing up transgender.

In 2007, Jennings and his parents founded TransKids Purple Rainbow Foundation to assist transgender youth. The television program *I Am Jazz: A Family in Transition* (a documentary about his life and family) premiered on the Oprah Winfrey Network in 2011, and in 2013 the Jennings founded Purple Rainbow Tails, a company which fashions rubber mermaid tails to raise money for transgender children. To add to the accolades, in 2014, *Time* magazine named Jennings as one of “The 25 Most Influential Teens of 2014” and in 2015, the Johnson & Johnson company announced a deal for Jennings to appear in Clean & Clear commercials (a skin cleansing product). In 2016, Jennings published a memoir, *Being Jazz: My Life as a (Transgender) Teen*, and in 2017, Robert Tonner and the Tonner Doll Company announced plans to produce a doll modeled after Jennings—which debuted at the New York Toyfair, Feb. 18, 2017.

One might wonder if such an incident is isolated. For the answer consider the following news headlines: The Mirror (Jan. 18 2017): **“World’s first transgender dad and daughter reveal how they are supporting each other through transitions”**. Note the

following a quote from this article: “When Corey House told her mum she was transgender, she finally felt free. Born a boy, she was suddenly able to wear female clothes outside of her home and begin transitioning into the girl she felt she’d always been. Her mother Erica was extremely supportive, even surprising the 14-year-old with her first box of estrogen.” Erica now goes by Eric. [mirror.co.uk/news/real-life-stories/worlds-first-transgender-dad-daughter-9647391]. NBC News (April 23, 2015): **Jacob’s Journey: Life as a Transgender 5-Year-Old** — When Jacob was born, his name was Mia. But by the time he was two, he was telling his parents, “I’m a boy.” Last year, when he was four, they made a decision: to let him live as he has always identified. [nbcnews.com/storyline/transgender-kids/jacobs-journey-life-transgender-5-year-old-n345131]. The Daily Caller (July 4, 2015): **“California Family Discusses 4-Year-Old Transgender Child”** — “Some parents are preparing to transition their children from one gender to the other as early as preschool.” [dailycaller.com/2015/07/04/california-family-discusses-4-year-old-transgender-child/]. Reuters (Dec. 23, 2016): **“U.S. parents accept children’s transgender identity by age three”** [reuters.com/article/us-usa-lgbt-parenting-idUSKBN14B1C8].

Sin-sickness and perverseness are reaching hyper-pandemic levels! But here is the real question - How do we respond to and how do we answer the Transgender Question? Over the next few articles we will address this dilemma noting Scripture that demonstrates clearly the sinfulness of such a life, as well as data from the scientific community

Since I Met You

contradicting popular theories and support for the perverse but popular trend of transgenderism. For those who are not up to date on the issue and by way of introduction, we will begin by defining exactly what transgenderism is.

Transgender is defined as “of, relating to, or being a person who identifies with or expresses a gender identity that differs from the one which corresponds to the person's sex at birth” [*merriam-webster.com/dictionary/transgender*]. The word is a combination of the prefix *trans*, meaning “to change in form or position,” and the word *gender*, which is defined as “the state of being a male or female.” In other words, transgender or transgendered is *the desire to be identified as the gender you are not*. But where is the harm in a man identifying as a woman if that is what he wants? And what is so perverse about a woman identifying as a man if that makes her/him happy? AND where, one might inquire, does it expressly state in the Bible that transgenderism is sinful? Did not God create man with a freedom to choose and therefore give man the right to identify as whichever gender he desires? Doesn't God desire man...I mean woman to be happy? Surely the God of heaven would allow the pinnacle of His creation to change his...I mean her “gender identity” if it made her...I mean him a more full, complete, and happy man...I mean woman (I'm so confused!!!).

The simple fact of the matter is that transgenderism is a perversion of nature which is created and governed by God **and** it is the epitome of one seeking to make himself or herself a god of their own bodies! Furthermore, the changing from one gender to another is an absolute impossibility! It is biologically impossible for a man fully to become a woman or for a woman fully to become a man! And any man who “identifies” as a woman or any woman who “identifies” as a man is not only lying to others but also to himself or herself (as the case may be)!

Next week we will continue our discussion of the Transgender Question demonstrating the sheer foolishness and perversion of nature this sinful trend truly is.

The story is told of a noble Christian woman who befriended a wayward girl who was stricken with disease. She brought the girl to a place where she could have rest and nourishment and comfort and love. Knowing that the girl had only a short time to live, the woman asked her if she ever thought about God. “It has not been hard to think about God,” said the girl, “Since I met you.”

At the funeral of another saint many were speaking words of praise for the deceased. One said with deep earnestness, “It was easy to be good when she was around.”

Is this the effect of your life upon others? Herein lies the secret of Christianity's power. No power on earth can overcome the influence of one life dedicated to God's service.

Edgar A. Guest caught the idea in a little poem that has been widely quoted through the years:

“I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day, I'd rather one would walk with me than merely tell the way. The eyes a better pupil and more willing than the ear, Fine counsel is confusing but examples are always clear. The best of all the preachers are the men who live their creeds, For to see good put into account is what everybody needs.”

It is God's will that all members of his body so live before others that neighbors will say of the church, “It is not hard to think about God since I met you.”

-Selected-

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of October 14, 2018

Sunday Morning:

Announcements: Bryant Siegel
Scripture Reading: Isaac Jobs

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread: Mark FitzSimmons
Fruit of the Vine: Clifton Rutherford
Offering: Dennis Bryson
Assist: Kirk FitzSimmons, Sammy Scherffius, BJ Davis

Sunday Evening: Mark FitzSimmons, Clifton Rutherford

Prayer

A.M. Opening: Tom Pitchford
A.M. Closing: Jeff Harris
P.M. Opening: Tom Pitchford
P.M. Closing: Wayne Martin

Ushers: Don Lynn
Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devotional: Doug Jobs

Open/Close Building: Willie & Hellen Cannady

Sound System: Curtis Scherffius

Greeters:

Will Cleveland
Allen Clifton
Don Lynn

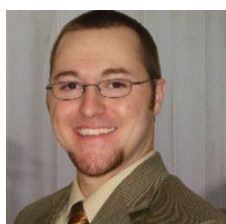
Prepare Communion: Millie Jamison

FALL ONE DAY MEETING

Sunday, October 21, 2018

Guest Speaker: Cody Westbrook

Cody will be preaching the Morning Adult Bible Class, Morning Service and 1pm service. The 1pm service will be conducted by the young men of our congregation.



There will also be a potluck meal after morning service. Please bring a potluck dish to feed your family and a visitor.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

EMILY DEDEAR, who came forward last Sunday; JULIA SWIRE, wife of Ronnie Swire, is at DeTar Rm. 340. (Ronnie Swire recently came forward a month ago and has been studying with Ronnie Scherffius). Cards can be sent to: Julia & Ronnie Swire, 7734 State Hwy 185 S, Victoria, TX 77905.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct. 14: Jr./Sr. high devo hosted by the Pitchford's at the building
Oct. 16: Ladies/Men's Bible Classes
Oct. 21: Fall One Day Meeting with Cody Westbrook
Oct. 23: Ladies/Men's Bible Classes
Oct. 28: Trunk or Treat
Oct. 30: Ladies/Men's Bible Classes

IN THE AREA

Oct. 26-28: Fall Retreat @ Peach Valley

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Clark Withers (14); Pam Clifton (15); Rex Horst (17); Mickey DeDear, Debra Sanchez (19), Corinne Flonnory (20)

KEEP IN PRAYER

MIDTOWN MEMBERS

Jeff Cannady Della Rampley
Dee Gilpatrick Clark Withers
Ann Pantel

SHUT-INS

Faye Henderson Sandy Malone

FRIENDS & FAMILY

Victor Benitez Vikram Gottam
(brother of Virginia Escojido) (brother-in-law of Archana Verma)
Kim Neel-Farthing Antonio Benitez
(daughter of Joyce) (brother of Virginia Escojido)

If you would like to add or remove a name on the "Keep in Prayer" List, please see Nina Siegel.

MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

Elders:

Will Cleveland
Tom Pitchford

Deacons:

Adrian Cannady
Mark FitzSimmons
Doug Jobs
Bryant Siegel

Minister: Ronnie Scherffius**Secretary:** Nina Siegel**TIMES OF SERVICES**

Sunday Bible Class: 9:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00AM
Sunday Evening Worship: 5:00PM
Wednesday Bible Class: 7:00PM

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Week of October 7, 2018

Bible Class.....112
A.M. Worship.....151
P.M. Worship.....87
Wednesday Bible Study.....86

Offering \$4,860

QUICK REFERENCE

Use this quick reference to help you grow in knowledge:

Holy Spirit

Person in Godhead.....John 14:26
John 16:7-8,13; 20:31; 2 Peter 1:20-21

**SUPPORTED WORKS**

India - Mani Pagidipalli
New Zealand - James & Emily Cammock
Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore
Southwest School of Bible Studies - Cody Kilgore

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