

# Midtown Messenger

Volume 1

October 21, 2018

Issue 32

## *The Transgender Question (part 2)*

*Ronnie Scherffius*

One of the most popular trends among those of the world is transgenderism (identifying as the gender other than the gender of one's birth). Supporters of the transgender movement posit such defenses as "what is harmful in a man identifying as a woman" or "where does the Bible expressly state that transgenderism is sinful." Some even go so far as to suggest that since God created man with a freedom to choose, man has the **right** to identify as whichever gender he desires.

As for those who stand in opposition to transgenderism, on what do they base their opposition? Other than a personal feeling/opinion that it is immoral what is the standard for an objection? Ultimately, any opposition to the immorality of the world must be the Word of God! How then does transgenderism violate Scripture?

First, it should be noted that God created man and it is the Creator who governs His creation. Moses recorded: "And God said, **Let us make man** in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So **God created man** in his own image" (Gen. 1:26-27a). Not only did God create man He created them with separate distinct genders: "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; **male and female** created he them" (Gen. 1:27). Not only did God create man with separate distinct genders He created them for separate and distinct purposes (1 Cor. 11:1-12; Eph. 5:33). AND, not only did God create man with separate distinct genders and with separate distinct purposes,

but looking upon His creative work, God was pleased and satisfied: "And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, **it was very good**" (Gen. 1:31).

In addition, it is a principle agreed upon by all that the owner/possessor of a thing has the right to do as he sees fit with his possession. This is not simply a principle of man but a divine principle clearly established by God. "Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker! Let the potsherd strive with the potsherd of the earth. Shall the clay say to him that fashioneth it, What makest thou? or thy work, He hath no hands?" (Isa. 45:9) Writing to the Romans Paul instructed, "Nay but, O man, who art thou that replest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus? Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?" (Rom. 9:20-21) Jesus also demonstrated this timeless truth saying in a parable, "Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own?" (Mt. 20:15) Even Peter, when speaking to lying Ananias affirmed "Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power?" (Acts 5:4) Without question, that which belongs to a person is in their power to do with as they see fit.

The principle being established the question to be considered is "To whom does my body belong?" If my body is my possession, can I not do with it as I see fit?! Who formed or created my body? Isaiah by inspiration declared, "Thus saith the Lord, thy redeemer, and **he that formed thee from the womb**, I am the Lord that maketh all things; that

stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself” (Isa. 44:24). The benevolent attitude of Job toward his servants is highly instructive for our discussion: “If I did despise the cause of my manservant or of my maidservant, when they contended with me; What then shall I do when God riseth up? and when he visiteth, what shall I answer him? **Did not he that made me in the womb make him? and did not one fashion us in the womb?**” (Job 31:13-15) Just as the pot belongs to the potter who formed it out of the clay, man belongs to his Creator who formed him in the womb. Thus, Isaiah would write, “But now, O Lord, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand” (Isa. 64:8).

How does this affect the Transgender Question? In the beginning God created and in the beginning God set forth HIS order of things. Man no more has the right to change God’s natural order than he does to change God’s spiritual order! It is God who rules all things according to His will and pleasure (Isa. 46:10-11; Eph. 1:11). God is the potter - man is the clay. God is the Creator - man is the creation. Transgenderism is no more than 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!

We will consider the Transgender Question further next week noting what makes a male a female and addressing the transgender argument that hormones and surgeries can transform one gender into another.

## MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

FALL ONE DAY MEETING

**Sunday, October 21, 2018**

**Presented by Cody Westbrook**

9 a.m. Bible Class

♦ *Keeping First Things First*

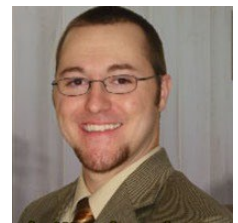
10 a.m. Morning Worship

♦ *Three Devine Obligations*

Potluck meal

1 p.m. Afternoon Worship (conducted by the young men of the MidTown congregation)

♦ *He Came To Make Us Rich*



### What Is The Sermon For?

“How did you like the sermon?” This has become a habitual question as we inquire of strangers concerning the impression that they have of our services. But, after all, is this the important thing? Sermons are preached, not to be liked, but to be accepted and put into action in lives. John the Baptist, Jesus, Peter and Paul were never concerned that their sermons

were “liked”. The crucial question is, “Did the sermon give you a new vision of your duty?”, or “Did it bring you nearer to the Lord?”. The real worth of a sermon is measured not by the enthusiasm or the delight of the hearers, but by their response in action to its challenge, and its conformity to truth and righteousness.

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## PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of October 21, 2018

### **Sunday Morning:**

Announcements: Bryant Siegel  
Scripture Reading: Isaac Jobes

### **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: Bryant Siegel  
A.M. Closing: Ronnie Scherffius  
P.M. Opening: Young Men  
P.M. Closing: Young Men

**Ushers:** Don Lynn  
Allen Clifton

**Wednesday Devotional:** Kevin Sheeran

**Open/Close Building:** Willie & Hellen Cannady

**Sound System:** Curtis Scherffius

### **Greeters:**

Allen Clifton  
Don Lynn

**Prepare Communion:** Millie Jamison

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**To Our Visitors:** We welcome you to our service. Perhaps this is the first time you have visited us. It is our desire to have you return often and give us a chance to become better acquainted with you. You will find visitor cards on the back of the pew in front of you. Please fill one out.

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Everyone is welcomed to participate in our Trunk or Treat, Sunday, October 28th after evening worship. There will be a devotional and pizza for the children while adults decorate and setup their vehicles.



## IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

TOM PITCHFORD, who was in the hospital and is now recovering at home; MIKE MCVEY, who is recovering from a medical procedure; LES DALTRY, who is at DeTar Hospital Navarro, Rm. 327 with back pain.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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: Pam Stryker (22); Desmon Flonnory (24); Mary Jo White (24).

Happy Anniversary: Ronnie & Athena Scherffius (21); Dennis & Sandy Bryson (22); Adrian & Melissa Cannady (24)

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## 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

**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 14, 2018

Bible Class.....105  
A.M. Worship.....149  
P.M. Worship.....100  
Wednesday Bible Study.....104

Offering      \$5,067

## QUICK REFERENCE

Use this quick reference to help you grow in knowledge:

### Hope

Anchor of soul.....Heb. 6:19  
Rejoice in hope.....Rom. 12:12  
Rom. 8:24-25; 15:13; 1 Pet. 1:21



## 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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