

Do You Have “Blood On Your Hands?” 3 Questions About “Trans Rights”

(March 15, 2024)

FRANK:

Ladies and gentlemen, I got a very difficult question from Mark, who writes in, Frank, here's an article from my local newspaper written by the parents of a young man who committed suicide over his struggle with gender dysphoria. I would like to hear your response to their blame of the culture, and even Christians. Thank you, Mark. This is a difficult situation. Obviously, any suicide is a tragedy. It's very sensitive. If you read this article, the family wants some kind of political solution. Laws need to change. People need to speak up for trans rights. The column says we need to love trans people and support trans rights. Now, out of respect for the family at this difficult time, I'm not going to identify them. I'm not even going to identify the article or column they wrote.

It's hard to figure out who actually wrote this because there's a couple of academics that have their names on it. But it also seems to come from the parents. In any event, I'm not going to identify who this is. But their pleas for change need to be addressed. So, we're going to address their claims that opposing trans rights may lead or may have led to their son's death. That's essentially what this article or column says. And we don't want to shy away from the difficult issues here at I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist, ladies and gentlemen. So, we're going to address this. I believe that truth heals and error hurts. So, I'm going to try and deal with this question, which is a good question, by addressing three other questions.

The first question is, what are trans rights? The second question is, what does it mean to love? And the third is, what can we do about the suicide issue, the higher suicide rate of people who identify as trans? Now, if you're just tuning in, you're listening to I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist with me, Frank Turek on the American Family Radio Network. This is a radio program broadcast on about 180 stations around the country with the American Family Radio Network, and it is also a podcast. And we actually do two of these programs a week. If you're listening on AFR, you will not hear our midweek podcast that comes out every Tuesday. So, if you want to hear more of these kinds of programs, wherever you get podcasts, just look up, I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist, and you will find this podcast.

Alright, let's start with the first question. What are trans rights? What are they and who grants these rights? Now, we need to start from the very beginning here. Rights only come from God. There is no right to anything unless God exists. Because if there is no God, it's just human beings with their own opinions on what is good, and what is bad, and what is right, and what is wrong, and who has the so-called right to do X, Y, or Z. Only if God exists do rights exist at all. This means that if there is no God, there are no rights of any kind. There are no gay rights, trans rights, Christian rights, the right to life, the right to abortion, the right to same-sex marriage, the



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right to natural marriage. There are no rights to any of this or anything, if there is no God. So, we need to establish that right up front.

And as you well know, this is what our country began on. The Declaration of Independence clearly states we hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men were created equal and endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights. Among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. And of course, Jefferson goes on to say that governments are instituted among men to secure these rights. In other words, the government doesn't give you your rights as some people on CNN have said recently. The government simply recognizes the rights you already have.

If a government gives you rights, it's not a right. It's just a preference because another government can come in and then take it away from you. And by definition, a right is something no one can take away. You have it regardless of what somebody else says. So, governments merely recognize rights or don't recognize rights. And that's when you have a bad government. Rights only can come from God. And when Jefferson says they're self-evident and endowed by these rights, or this creator endowed us with these rights, we intuitively know this. It's written on our hearts. But the fact that these rights exist, they only exist because God exists. You can know you have a right if you're an atheist, but not be able to justify it because you're an atheist. So, we're saying only if God exists do rights exist.

So, let's start with what are trans rights? First of all, all people are made in the image of God and should be treated with respect. But does this mean that everyone needs to agree that a man is actually a woman and must be called a woman? Is that a trans right? Or that a man must be able to use a woman's bathroom, or shower, or locker room facility? Is that considered a trans right? Or that a man can play women's sports? Or maybe more aptly put, a boy can play girls' sports in high school? Are those considered trans rights that we must call a man a woman? That a man must be able to use a woman's shower, and that a man must be able to play women's sports?

If those are trans rights, we have a big problem. Why? Because essentially, what the folks who are advocating for trans rights are saying is that all of society must give up their rights, be it their rights of conscience, their religious rights, or their health and safety rights to accommodate these new trans rights. I mean, think about it, ladies and gentlemen. If trans rights mean that biological boys can use the girl's bathroom in high school, or play on the girls' team in sports, we have a massive case of conflicting rights claims now. Because think about this, do girls have the right? Let's just think high school for a second. Do high school girls have the right to safety and privacy in restrooms, locker rooms, and showering facilities? I think they do.

But if you're a trans rights activist, you might be saying that we need to make all girls unsafe to make one or two students who are struggling with a mental health condition, we need to make all these girls unsafe so these few students can feel better. How is that respecting the rights of the girls in high school or the rights of a women at a health club? It doesn't. These rights are

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now conflicting, if they're rights at all. I mean, the writers of the column that precipitated this question that Mark sent me, in the column they talk about human rights and protection. But they are actually advocating violating human rights and protection by allowing boys into girls showers or allowing men into women's showers or restrooms.

And it's not just a man who identifies as a woman that can cause a problem. Any male can take advantage of this open bathroom policy. Even if you don't have gender dysphoria, you can just say, hey, today I identify as a woman and go into a bathroom, go into a woman's shower, go into a woman's changing facility. And according to the trans rights activists, the women who are put in danger over this have now lost their rights, apparently. And if you don't think this happens, and has happened, you probably haven't heard of Scott Smith and his daughter in the Loudoun County school system in Virginia.

In fact, back in 2021, this is exactly what happened to this man's daughter. And when we come back from the break, I will explain what happened. And then we'll talk about this issue of bullying and what does that have to do with this? You're listening to I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist with me, Frank Turek on the American Family Radio Network. Our website is CrossExamined.org. We also have an app (two words in the app store) CrossExamined. Check it out there. You can get the podcast and our TV show on that as well. And we're back in just two minutes. Don't go anywhere.

What about trans rights, ladies and gentlemen? That's a question we were asked by a listener who sent in an article about, tragically, a young boy apparently committing suicide over his struggle with gender dysphoria. And we're addressing this issue by addressing three questions. First, what are trans rights? Secondly, what does it mean to love? And thirdly, what about the suicide issue? What do we know about it? What can be done about it? And we're right in the middle of the question, what are trans rights? And we've pointed out that the problem is, if people are going to say they have a right to be called a different sex than what they actually are, or they have the right to use a restroom that is opposite their biological sex, or to say a man can play in women's sports, then we have conflicting rights.

We have the rights of safety, and the rights of privacy, and the rights of religion, and the rights of conscience being all violated by this push to say, you must adhere to whatever I want in the name of trans rights. And we were just talking about the idea that people even in high school. High schools have made accommodations for so-called trans students, particularly boys, to use girl's restrooms and shower facilities. And in Loudoun County in 2021, Scott Smith's daughter was raped by a boy wearing a skirt claiming to be a girl. She was raped in the bathroom, and this made the news. We'll put the link in the show notes. Because about a month after this happened, he went to a school board meeting, and it was denied that this happened and a scuffle took place as you could well imagine.

The school system apparently tried to cover this up. And you can read the whole story. I don't have time to get into all the details. You can read the story in the link that we'll put in the show

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notes. But they tried to cover this up. And then the student was actually transferred to another school where he did it again. And then he was finally put in jail. So, why are we saying that? The safety, and security, and privacy of girls, that those rights must give way to the apparent right of somebody saying look. I just feel like a girl, or I'm a boy but I feel like a girl. I have gender dysphoria. And so, the whole world must change because of this particular mental delusion that I have.

And that's really what it is. It is a delusion. You think you're a girl when you're really a boy. Or you think you're a boy, when you're really a girl. Why does the rest of the world then need to accommodate the mental condition that you have by changing everything they know about reality and even jeopardizing their own privacy and safety? It doesn't seem like that's a fair trade. Now, the article that was written about this tragic incident of suicide decries bullying. And we all ought to agree there's no place for bullying. The problem is people think that disagreement now is bullying. That if you just disagree with what they say about these new so-called trans rights, you're a bully.

Well, if disagreement means bullying, then the people writing this article are bullying Christians and everyone who disagrees with them. Look, disagreement isn't bullying. And yet, that's what people seem to think. That if you just disagree with my newfound conception of trans rights, somehow you are a bully. But notice it never goes the other way. We never say that you're a bully if you disagree with me. Why would I say that? That's just disagreement. Let's have a conversation. Let's see if we can understand what the truth is here by having a conversation. So, we agree. Don't bully people. But notice the very right not to be bullied is violated when a biological boy goes into a girl's restroom or shower, or when he hurts or beats a girl in girls' sports.

That boy is bullying the girls in the name of trans rights. So, this works both ways ladies and gentlemen. For the people who are claiming you ought not bully, it sure seems they're bullying the girls, doesn't it? Whether intentional or not, the girls now suddenly have to give way. The girls are going to get beat up in sports. The girls may be sexually assaulted in the restroom, and that's just too bad. These are trans rights. You're just going to have to give way. Seems like there's some bullying going on there to me.

And by the way, it should go without saying that if a young person is struggling with gender dysphoria, the last thing you want to do is be unkind to them because they're already struggling. And it's not right to be unkind to people when you can treat them in a much better way. I'm not saying there aren't times when people need to be sternly talked to. They do. Jesus did that several times. I'm not saying you always need to be nice. But in this situation, if someone is struggling, probably through no fault of their own, kindness is probably the better way forward. Certainly not mocking them or bullying them, physically bullying them, or demeaning them is what should be done. Can we all agree on that? I hope so.

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Alright, the second question. We just talked about what are trans rights. And we can see that these rights are just purely invented, actually. Because there is no right to change your biology. It's impossible. There's no right to have somebody call you a different pronoun or treat you as if you're the opposite sex when you're really not. There's no right for you to play in a women's sporting event or go into a woman's locker room if you're a man. There's no right to that. But people are just claiming they have it. But now let's talk about the second question.

What does it mean to love? The people who wrote the article are trying to say we ought to love trans youth. They say we need to love and support them. Well, I agree. The question is, what does it mean to love and support? Does love mean approval? No. It means seeking what's best for someone. And every parent knows you don't approve of everything your kid wants to do. If you do approve of everything your kid wants to do, you're not loving. You're unloving. You're enabling kids who aren't old enough, or wise enough, or have enough life experience, or instruction to make these kinds of life-altering decisions at that age. They need parental guidance and wisdom.

The whole book of Proverbs is really a book where the writer is saying, my son, listen to me. Gain wisdom. And you don't have wisdom when you're 13, not the kind of wisdom you need to make life altering decisions. That's why parents are necessary. That's why instruction is necessary. That's why we have schools for goodness sake. Schools, at least theoretically, are supposed to teach wisdom. Tragically, instead of teaching that, instead of teaching what they really need to know in terms of instruction like reading, writing, and arithmetic, and giving them good ethics, good morality, we're teaching them tragically, to hate themselves. We're teaching them to follow their hearts, no matter what their hearts say. To tell them they can be another gender when they can't. That's not wisdom. That's absurd. And yet, that's what we're teaching in schools today.

So, love does not mean approval. And people like me who think that puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and surgery for children, that this hurts them. And the reason we oppose these things is precisely because we love and want to protect children. To suggest that, in order to love them we should approve of everything they want to do is not love. It's enablement. It's actually leading them down the wrong road. Somebody needs to be an adult and say, sorry, kid. This is not the way forward. This is not going to help you long-term.

I mean, think back to the time when you were in high school. If you're not in high school right now, did you want to do some things that really long-term are unwise, and stupid, and impulsive? You thought these things were right at the time. Did some adult stop you from your own frivolity? From your own foolishness? I sure hope so. If not, you're probably not going to make it to adulthood because we all are, at least many of us were apt to do stupid, unwise, and foolish things when we were young and maybe tragically, even now when we're older.

I mean, almost a perfect analog to transgenderism is anorexia. And by the way I write about all this in the book 'Correct, Not Politically Correct,' which just came out last May, the third edition.

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And this is not the biblical case against same-sex marriage and transgenderism. It is the natural law, moral case, medical case, common sense case that both same-sex marriage and transgenderism are not good for individuals, and they're not good for society. Anyway, I was saying that almost a perfect analog to transgenderism, or maybe better put gender dysphoria, is anorexia. When a young person has anorexia, we don't affirm them in their delusion. We get them psychiatric help to get them out of their delusion.

If they have a mismatch between their psychology and their biology, we don't tell them that their psychology is right. We tell them, you need to change your mind because you're dangerously underweight, not overweight. We would never affirm an anorexic and say, you know, you're right. We need to get you liposuction. We would say honey, your mind's playing tricks on you. We need to get you nutrition and we need to get you psychiatric care. We're not going to affirm you and your delusion. When it comes to gender dysphoria, why do we decide that the mind is right, and the body is wrong? We don't do that with anorexia. Yet, it's the same kind of thing. It's a delusion.

We're not loving people by affirming their delusion. We love people by giving them the care that helps them get out of the delusion. I mean, if your daughter said she was a mermaid, you wouldn't take her off the coast and drop her in the ocean, would you? You'd say no honey. Your mind's playing tricks on you. We need to get you help. We need to get you the kind of help that will help you recognize reality. And tragically, as our country continues to bifurcate politically, it seems to me more and more obvious, that although there are people on both sides of the issue that believe some crazy things, that generally conservatives want to change their desires to fit reality. Whereas leftists want to try and change reality to fit their desires.

Ladies and gentlemen, the latter is a fool's errand. You can't change reality to fit your desires. You can change your desires to fit reality. That's what wisdom says. But it's a fool's errand to try and do the opposite. A lot more. We'll talk about the suicide issue right after the break. Don't go anywhere. You're listening to I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist with Frank Turek. Back in two.

Ladies and gentlemen, if you want to know how to better understand the arguments for Christianity and even some of these cultural, apologetic issues, and you want to be able to present these issues and also answer difficult questions, you need to come to the CrossExamined Instructor Academy. There's two ways you can do it. You can sign up for online CIA, which starts this coming week. We have several instructors you'll see video of. But your live instructors online via Zoom will be myself, J. Warner Wallace, Alisa Childers, and Natasha Crain. If you want to be a part of that, go to CrossExamined.org. Click on online courses. You will see it there.

There are two tracks. There's the non-presenting tracks so you won't do a presentation. But you'll avail yourselves of about 15 or 16 hours of great instruction. And then there's the presenter track. And in the presenter track, you will actually present to two of those four

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instructors I just mentioned. And we'll give you feedback so you can improve your presentation skills. And then this August we have the live, in-person CIA. And you'll for three days be with me, and with Greg Koukl. You'll be with Natasha Crain, Alisa Childers, Brett Kunkel, Jorge Gil, Bobby Conway, Allen Parr, and several other instructors at our CrossExamined Instructor Academy, held this year in Charlotte, North Carolina. If you want to apply to that not everybody can come. But if you want to apply to that, go to CrossExamined.org. Click on Events. You'll see "What is CIA?" Apply for it there.

Also want to mention, I've got a bunch of events coming up. I'm going to be at Journey Fellowship Church in Slidell, Louisiana, not far from New Orleans on the 24th. That's a Sunday. We'll be doing the morning services. And in the evening, I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist. We'll take your questions there. The next night, Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond, Louisiana. I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist starts at 6pm. Details are on the website. Later that week, we'll be at Grant Community Event in Grant, Michigan. That's the 28th. It's a Thursday night. We'll be doing I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist. It's just north of Grand Rapids.

The following week, University of Buffalo on the 3rd of April. That's right after Easter, resurrection day. Then the 7th, Calvary Chapel Star in Idaho. That's out in Boise, Idaho near Boise, Idaho on the 7th of April. Next night, Boise State University. That is the 8th of April. I hope to see you all out there. Check the website for more. We're talking about this issue of transgenderism, transgender rights, and transgender suicide because I got a question from Mark. Mark wrote in and said that someone wrote an op-ed in his local paper because their son had committed suicide, an obviously very tragic situation.

The parents were saying, hey, we need to support trans life and trans rights. We need to support our trans youth. And we're addressing those hard questions here. So far, we've covered the question, first of all, what are trans rights? Do they even exist and how do they conflict with existing rights that we know are true? And what does it mean to love? That was the second question we just dealt with. Love doesn't mean you approve of everything that people want to do, but that you seek what's best for the other person. And we're about to see that seeking what's best for the other person is not affirming them in their delusion, in their gender dysphoria.

So now, let's talk about the suicide issue. Are people really committing suicide? And for this, there's a lot of research that has been done committing suicide because of gender dysphoria. A lot of research has been done on this. And new research is coming out all the time. I'm going to read a section from the book 'Correct, Not Politically Correct: About Same-Sex Marriage, and Transgenderism.' A book that I say I just updated just several months ago. And this is a section starting on page 184. We're talking about suicide and gender dysphoria.

And what we say here is that few want to talk or think about suicide, but it's a tragic reality among teenagers with gender dysphoria and other mental health conditions. Two Harvard Law School graduates compiled data, which showed how different mental conditions increased the

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suicide rate among youth. And here's what they found. Anorexia, (we just mentioned that before the break) increases suicide risk by a factor of 18 to 31. Depression multiplies it by a factor of 20. Autism raises the risk by a factor of eight. And being trans identified increases the suicide risk by a factor of 13. Okay?

So, actually anorexia, someone who has anorexia which is, as I say, almost a perfect analog to gender dysphoria, their suicide risk is 18 to 31 times the normal rate. Whereas a trans identified increases the risk by 13. Now the question is, why do trans identified have a higher suicide risk to begin with? Let's keep reading. Well-meaning activists like to suggest that those with gender dysphoria are driven by or driven to suicide by social disapproval. That's what this article has said by this family that tragically lost their son. Anyway, I continue. Therefore, anyone who expresses anything less than outright celebration for trans ideology and transition is contributing to the problem.

If you in any way oppose transgenderism, you have blood on your hands. Even poor, desperate parents have been met with what can only be described as emotional blackmail from psychiatrists and counselors saying, "you can have a dead daughter or a living son." The same can be said to those who oppose anything LGBTQ. Certainly, social disapproval or approval can affect one state of mind as appears to be the case with the transgender craze itself. Let me stop right here. The reason I say approval is because I think it's well-documented that the dramatic increase of girls claiming to be boys in, say, middle school and high school is largely a social media contagion.

In other words, they're just doing this because they're getting approval for it. And they have other mental health conditions, as we'll say here in a minute. So, the approval, the applause you get by claiming to be true trans is driving this craze among particularly girls claiming to be trans. I mainly go back to the text. But if social disapproval is the driving force behind trans suicides, then why have there not been similar suicide rates in minority groups that were treated as bad or worse? Dr. Michael Brown, he's a friend of mine here that lives in Charlotte and has a great ministry.

Anyway, here's what Dr. Brown says. Dr. Michael Brown observes that blacks were treated much more horribly in this country than gays or transgender people have you ever been. Yet during slavery and Jim Crow, there was no epidemic of black suicide. Nor were there black leaders claiming that slavery or race and racism lead to suicide. Moreover, in communities with countries that celebrate all things LGBTQ, the trans and gay suicide rates are still higher than heterosexuals. So clearly, there must be factors other than social disapproval for these higher suicide rates. And I say look again above at the suicide rates, the rates we mentioned earlier. Anorexia, these kinds of things, autism. Notice, the other conditions listed, anorexia, depression, and autism are all mental health conditions.

Could it be that mental health is a bigger factor driving trans suicide than social disapproval? Dr. Lisa Lipman's research study found that 63% of young people had pre-existing mental

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conditions before announcing they were transgender. Let me stop right here. About two-thirds of people essentially, who claim to be transgender, have a pre-existing mental condition. Did you get that? Okay, I'll continue. Moreover, almost half had self-harmed, and 50% have suffered a traumatic event in their lives, such as their parents divorcing, being bullied, or suffering sexual abuse. These factors are already known influences in suicide rates, regardless of any trans stigma.

Again, this trauma happened before they claimed to be transgender. So, identifying as transgender did not lead to mental health issues. Mental health issues lead to identifying as transgender. Did that make sense? I hope. I'll read it again. Identifying as transgender did not lead to mental health issues. Mental health issues led to identifying as transgender. Now in many cases, childhood trauma produced the mental health issues which led to the person identifying as trans. This is what Walt Heyer, a former transgender, found. Heyer lived for eight years as a trans woman and later detransitioned to affirm his biological sex before leading the website SexChangeRegret.com.

By the way, ladies and gentlemen. That's a good resource for this topic, SexChangeRegret.com. Heyer now provides resources to help people detransition. According to 100 international medical studies, up to 20% want to detransition. Heyer said childhood traumatic events triggered him to want to leave his biological sex, which he found true of many people who contacted him. Heyer has asked thousands of trans people who reached out to him, when did you or your child first feel or express gender discomfort? What was happening in your life up to that time? And why do you want to destroy who you are? Heyer said 100% of the people have been able to pinpoint exactly what happened to trigger the urge to escape into an alternate gender identity.

Their childhood events run the gambit of abuse, abandonment, and neglect. Something always happened. And he goes on to write more about this, that this trauma has led them into gender dysphoria, essentially. And he says the bottom line is that mental health issues often produced by childhood trauma appear to be at the root of dissatisfaction with one's biological sex. This is me now talking. It's medical malpractice to dismiss that possibility and jump right to hormones and surgeries. That approach often causes doctors to miss the underlying factor. This means they are treating the symptoms while ignoring the core of the cause. And that is bad medicine.

In fact, let me just divert here. Later in the book, and again, I'm reading from the book 'Correct, Not Politically Correct: About Same-Sex Marriage and Transgenderism, a book I updated and released back in May of 2023. The book was originally written in 2008, updated in 2017, and again in 2023. In any event, Chloe Cole, who you may have seen, tried to transition as a teenager. Actually, she now claimed she was forced to do so essentially because she couldn't give informed consent. She had her breasts cut off when she was 15. And she was only diagnosed after she had the double mastectomy, with autism.

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In other words, doctors did not do their due diligence to figure out why is this woman unhappy with her biological sex? They didn't try and figure out the underlying mental health condition. They immediately went to puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and surgery. And now she's suing her doctors at 19 years old. She's saying, what did you do to me? You have committed Nazi-like experiments on me. Now, there's more to this issue that we're going to cover right after the break. You're listening to I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist with me, Frank Turek on the American Family Radio Network. Check out our website CrossExamined.org. Also, our app (2 words) Cross Examined. Several online courses we teach as well. Check the website for that. We're back in two minutes.

Ladies and gentlemen, we're talking about so-called trans rights today. But as this election year heats up, there are so many other issues that are going to come up as well. And we're about to run the 'Jesus Versus the Culture' course that can help you navigate these issues during this difficult year that is before us. And in this course, we answer, what's the purpose of life? Socialism versus capitalism? Which one works and why? What does it really mean to be free? What about cancel culture? How do you find your true identity? Can the Bible be trusted? Does love require approval?

What's the difference between equality and equity? What about Jesus and politics? Does Jesus trump your politics? What about critical race theory? Biblical justice, social justice, evolution, intelligent design? What does God and the Bible say about sex and love? What about progressive Christianity and the trans issue? We cover that all in 'Jesus Versus the Culture.' It's a very robust course. It's actually 23 hours of video. So, if you want to be a part of that, and particularly the premium version where I will be your instructor live during live Zoom Q&A's. In other words, we have these sessions where we all come together on Zoom, and you can ask any question, and we can learn from one another.

If you want to be a part of that, go to CrossExamined.org. Click on Online Courses. You will see it there. It's called 'Jesus Versus the Culture.' The issue we're dealing with today is this trans issue, particularly the trans suicide issue. And let me pick up where I left off before the break. We pointed out that the main factor in trans suicide does not appear to be social disapproval, but poor mental health that is typically triggered by childhood trauma. In fact, 90% or more of all people who die by suicide had at least one mental health condition. And a politicized medical establishment now only makes matters worse by ruling that diagnosis out of bounds and immediately prescribing cross-sex hormones and surgery. And by the way, I'm reading from the book 'Correct, Not Politically Correct' in this little section here.

This does not mean that social disapproval has no effect. That is why speaking the truth on this issue, like all issues of great personal consequence, should be done with great care. We are all made in the image of God and should therefore be treated with respect. Attitudes of condemnation, insults, and bullying are never right and only contribute to a person's fragile mental state. It is not their fault they were traumatized. People identifying as trans need friends who will be loving and truthful enough to get them the appropriate help that they need.

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Now, ladies and gentlemen, this also doesn't mean that we must agree with one another on every moral and political issue. The LGBTQ community doesn't agree with conservatives on most issues. However, conservatives don't claim that this is driving them to suicide. And even if they did, that would not mean that LGBTQ people should shut up or keep their opinions and insights, especially helpful ones, to themselves. If we attempt to censor or shut people up, as the left often does, we will lose a vital foundational brick in our civilization, the opportunity to learn from one another and make moral and political progress.

If you notice this, ladies and gentlemen, most attempts at censorship are implicit claims of omniscience and infallibility. "Shut up because I already know the answer. There's nothing I can learn from you!" That's obviously not the way forward, friends. That's not what a free society does. The hard truth is this. If a person is so fragile that a contrary opinion drives them to suicide, it is not the contrary opinion that is the problem, but the person's pre-existing mental state. They need good mental health care, not the censorship of people who may be saying exactly what will help them solve their problem. Yet, even if social disapproval was the main factor in trans suicide, that would not make agreeing with everything LGBTQ the solution.

As we'll see in the next section, the data shows that transitioning only makes matters worse. People need to follow the evidence where it leads, not where ideology demands. And then in the next section, I don't have time to read it here. But in the next section in the book, 'Correct, Not Politically Correct,' I go on to point out that people who have the surgery who go through it, the biggest study ever done shows that there is a honeymoon period where they feel better. But at the 10 year mark after the surgery, the suicide rate skyrockets to 19 times higher than the general public. So, it actually gets worse. It's 13 times higher prior to surgery. It's 19 times higher after the surgery. So, this is not the solution, ladies and gentlemen.

Now, since I updated the book, 'Correct, Not Politically Correct,' there's been more studies that have come out. And we'll put a link to an article on one of these studies in the show notes. Here's the bottom line. What's going to reduce suicide? Affirming transitioning kids or opposing transitioning kids? What's going to help? You know what the data shows? That so-called gender affirming care has no effect on the suicide rate among kids. No effect. And a massive Finnish study has just pointed this out. It just came to light, just a couple of weeks ago.

In fact, let me read from the article in The New York Post on this about this study. Here's the quote. "Researchers concluded two things. One, that suicide deaths were higher, but still rare in gender-distressed, young people. And two, that this group's higher suicide rate was tied to the fact that they had a higher rate of severe psychiatric problems, not to their gender distress."

That's exactly what we just said earlier. That's exactly what I have in the book, ladies and gentlemen. It's not the fact that the people who are opposing so-called gender affirming care, which is a misnomer. You're not really caring for people when you're mutilating them. But let's leave that aside for a second. The issue here is not people opposing gender affirming care. It's

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the fact that people who also have gender dysphoria have other severe psychiatric problems. That is the likely reason for the higher suicide rate. Look, the harm from gender affirming care is medical and mental. Including, as I just mentioned, among adults, a higher suicide rate. It's 19 times higher than the general public.

So, they have increased self-harm if they go through the so-called gender affirming care as adults. Now, we haven't done studies on children because this just started 10 minutes ago with children. That people are actually saying children ought to be able to do this. And I think that's just madness. I agree with Jordan Peterson, who says, if any doctor does this to a child, they ought to go to prison. These are children. Leave the children alone. By the way, 80% of kids who have gender dysphoria when they're children, grow out of it by the time they're 18. In other words, by the time they hit 18, they're back to affirming their biological sex.

Why would you mutilate a child, sterilize a child, do something that is going to affect them negatively for the rest of their life when the problem is going to fix itself anyway just by going through puberty? In fact, puberty is one big, long transition. It's normal to feel odd when you're going through puberty. It's normal to feel odd. We ought to show kids it's normal to feel odd. We ought to tell them that instead of saying, oh no. You might be in the wrong body, which is silly. You're not in the wrong body. You're having a delusion. You're having a psychiatric problem. You're having a mental health issue that needs psychiatric care. You don't fix mental health problems with surgery in most cases. You fix it with psychiatry, with counseling, sometimes with medication, with prayer.

Now look, if you do nothing to a child, the only threat is self-harm. If you do gender affirming care, you won't fix the self-harm problem, and you will harm the kid in numerous other ways, by making them sterile, by mutilating them, by giving them osteoporosis, and heart conditions, and so many other things that cross-sex hormones and surgery will bring them. In fact, the problem is, in our society, people don't want to talk about this issue. They want to sweep it under the rug.

Dr. Phil was just on the Jordan Peterson podcast, the most recent one. Here's what he said. He said, I would rather have questions that I can't answer than have answers that I can't question. Let me say that again. I would rather have questions that I can't answer, than have answers that I can't question. And if you notice, most of the bullying isn't being done by people trying to protect children from being mutilated. But it is being done by trans activists who say you can't question our answers. If you do, we will cancel you. Notice that? It's not generally speaking. There are exceptions.

It's not people on the right who are trying to cancel people. It's not people on the right who are bullying people. Although, you've got to admit there are some and you ought to stop it if you're bullying people. You ought to have conversations. You ought to look at evidence and data. But it's the people on the left who are saying I have answers you can't question. One more thing on this. Abigail Shrier has a new book out. I haven't read it yet. But I hear it's quite good. Natasha Crain recommends it. It's called 'Bad Therapy.' And in an article, which I will put in the show

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notes, she says this. Well, let me set it up first. Yes, childhood trauma is a problem. And that can lead kids to have these mental health conditions. And they think the way out of their mental health condition is to claim they're trans. That's essentially what's going on.

But sometimes we put too much in the trauma category. Here's what she says. Here's one form of trauma, she says, is constantly telling kids they've been traumatized and constantly making excuses for them or getting them out of responsibilities we know they can handle. Yes, sometimes we can over traumatize things. And we can say, oh, kid, the reason you're feeling this way is because you have had trauma when they really haven't. So, that's the other side of the pendulum we need to avoid. Anyway, I'll put that article in the show notes as well. And you can maybe get Abigail's new book, 'Bad Therapy.'

There's so much more we could talk about on this issue, friends. But if you really want to go further, get the book 'Correct, Not Politically Correct: About Same-Sex Marriage and Transgenderism.' It's not the biblical case, not Bible verses in there. It's the data case, the natural law case, the medical case, the commonsense case that we need to come back to sanity on this issue to help kids that actually do have gender dysphoria. All right, friends. Great being with you. See you next time.

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