



ILLINOIS Family Institute

Promoting marriage, family, life & liberty in the Land of Lincoln

Newsletter | Fall 2015

*But be doers of the word,
and not hearers only...* — James 1:22



**PRO LIFE.
PRO MARRIAGE.
PRO FAMILY.**



from the **Executive Director — David E. Smith**

The summer of 2015 saw no slowdown in the malignant spread of cultural decay in our nation. In fact, progressive socialists, encouraged by the U.S. Supreme Court decision to redefine marriage, almost immediately began ramping up their transgender (trans-insanity) agenda. Predictably, the media, pop culture, and political elite have been quick to affirm and celebrate the deviant thoughts and behaviors that our grandparents recognized as a mental disorder.

I know I've said this before, but my convictions have not waived – I do believe that we are in the midst of a Samuel moment in our culture. In the book of 1 Samuel, the people of Israel demanded a king, *not* a judge. Samuel was personally offended, but the Lord told the prophet to give the people a king, “for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them.” The Lord also instructed Samuel to **warn** the Israelites of **the consequences of their demands**. So, in 1 Samuel 8:10-22 we read the many warnings that Samuel issued to Israel, a litany that concludes with a solemn and sobering promise: “in that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves, but the Lord will not answer you in that day.”

One can see how, in a similar manner, IFI has made many efforts to warn the citizenry today of the consequences of their worldly demands, and the election of politicians who do not fear the God of the Bible. In spite of our actions (and the actions of other God-honoring and like-minded groups and individuals) our culture has deliberately chosen to redefine marriage, legalize abortion, promote the vice of gambling, and ignore laws regarding pornography and illegal drug use.

In light of these disastrous choices, we must continue to prophetically speak words of admonition, saying, “Yes, you are **able** to choose, **but there will be consequences.**” Our response to the widespread confusion in our culture and the impending social chaos is clear: we need to faithfully advance the truth of the Gospel and the truth of natural law – the moral revelation of God which is inherent in nature. If we truly love our neighbors, as we are called to do, we must warn them and work to advance policies that will promote their welfare.

Those who follow Jesus Christ are perceived as odd and archaic in today's world and culture. As Christ followers, we have the opportunity and privilege to demonstrate to the people in our sphere of influence how to live rightly – righteously – as single adults, as married couples, as parents and/or grandparents, as community members. It is imperative that we uphold and live out, in the public square and in our homes, what we believe and profess, even though many within our churches have succumbed to the bewitching siren call of the world.

One might well ask, “How did we arrive at this point?” Eric Metaxas, IFI's banquet speaker in 2014, said that many German Christians asked themselves the same question during the rise of the Nazi regime. Sadly, he reminded us that the answer is, “All

.....
**“Yes, you are able to
choose, but there will be
consequences.”**
.....

(continued on page 6)



So-Called ‘Equality Act’ Endangers Liberty

by David E. Smith

Equality is imperative in a civil society, but U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR) and openly homosexual U.S. Representative David Cicilline (D-RI) apparently have a strange understanding of its definition.

These two lawmakers recently introduced a bill in Washington D.C. that is subversively titled the “Equality Act” (S. 1858 and H.R. 3185). If allowed to pass, it would act as a supercharged version of the failed—and likewise inaccurately titled—Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA).



There are two purposes for the “Equality Act” (better titled the “In-equality Act”). First, it will provide special additional legal rights to people who choose to place their homoerotic feelings and/or gender confusion at the center of their “identity.” This act would accomplish that goal by incorporating the terms “sex,” “sexual orientation,” and “gender identity” into laws regarding employment, like ENDA would have done.

But it doesn’t stop there. It would also encompass laws governing public accommodations, public facilities,

public educational institutions, private employment, housing, credit, and jury selection.

This special rights legislation would change more than twenty-five provisions of the U.S. Code. For example, it would effectively require high schools to allow boys in the girls’ locker rooms and strip elementary schools of the authority to dismiss a teacher for “transitioning” from a male to a female during the course of the school year. Furthermore, S. 1858 and H.R.3185 could force religious hospitals to provide “gender-reassignment” surgery and require family-owned businesses to affirm such behavior.

The second purpose for this sweeping legislation is to specifically limit the ability of people who object to its requirements from seeking accommodations based on their religious beliefs regarding homoerotic activity, or maleness and femaleness, or true marriage. In other words, it would be used to silence Christians into compliance.

Thus, homoerotic and gender-confused feelings would trump First Amendment protections for the free exercise of religion. The Equality Act would strip conscientious objectors of their freedom and would, by law, require their compliance with the “LGBTQ” agenda.

This anti-freedom legislation has 39 cosponsors in the U.S. Senate, including

Illinois U.S. Senator **Dick Durbin**, and by 168 Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives, including Illinois’ **Cheri Bustos** (D-East Moline), **Danny Davis** (D-Chicago), **Tammy Duckworth** (D-Schaumburg), **Bill Foster** (D-Naperville), **Luis Gutierrez** (D-Chicago), **Robin Kelly** (D-Chicago), **Mike Quigley** (D-Chicago), **Bobby Rush** (D-Chicago), and **Jan Schakowsky** (D-Evanston).

Act now to ensure your constitutionally protected religious liberties are not trampled by the feet of “LGBTQ” activists. Contact U.S. Senators **Dick Durbin**

and **Mark Kirk** and ask them to vote NO on S. 1858. Also call your own U.S. Representative today, and tell them to oppose



H.R. 3185, the so-called “Equality Act.”

Call the Washington D.C. switchboard at **(202) 224-3121** and ask to be connected to your federal lawmakers. If you don’t know who your U.S. Representative is, please call the IFI office: (708)781-9328. We are glad to help. 🙏

Thank you for taking action.

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Islam in America
A CHRISTIAN RESPONSE

Now on DVD!

NEW

with Dr. Erwin W. Lutzer

If you missed our Islam in America with Dr. Erwin Lutzer forum on May 7th in Medinah, you’ll be pleased to know it is **now available on DVD for a suggested donation of \$15.**

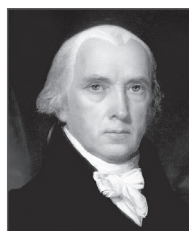
Show it at your church or to a group in your home or give it away. You can also call the IFI office at (708) 781-9328.



How We Lost the Tenth Amendment by David Fowler

As I continue to reflect on the U.S. Supreme Court's marriage ruling, I've wondered how we got to the point that the states lost control of an area of the law that, just two years ago, the Court acknowledged to be historically within their province. I have an idea, and the blame for it lies at our feet.

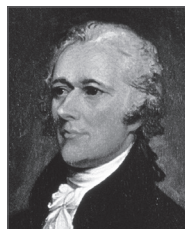
Recently, I was re-reading portions of the Federalist Papers to better understand the role of the federal judiciary as envisioned by our Founding Fathers. I was doing so that I might learn something from the past that would help me better understand what could be done in the present to reign in the Supreme Court in order to restore greater liberty to the people by returning more power to the states.



In Federalist Paper 46, **James Madison** said that "the powers proposed to be lodged in the federal government" (which includes the judicial branch) would be "as little formidable to those reserved to the individual States, as they are indispensably necessary to accomplish the purposes of the Union." Madison said this to silence "all those alarms which have been sounded, of a meditated and consequential annihilation of the State governments" by those opposed to the Constitution.

More particularly, Madison said the hope was that structure and limited powers under the Constitution would "partake" of a "spirit" such that the "new federal government" would be "disinclined to invade the rights of the individual States, or the prerogatives of their governments."

This was true even with respect to the judiciary. In discussing the role of the judiciary in Federalist Paper 82, **Alexander Hamilton** said, "the States will retain all PRE-EXISTING authorities which may not be exclusively delegated to the federal head," which "head" obviously included the federal Judiciary.



So, if that was the intention, we have every right to ask what happened. Were not the other two branches of the "federal head" — the Executive and the Congress — infused with that "spirit" which was to protect the "rights" and "prerogatives" of the states?

Of course they were. Unfortunately, they have failed to use them. But why?

I think the answer can be found, at least in part, in Federalist Paper 78, wherein Hamilton said that "liberty can have nothing to fear from the judiciary alone, but would have everything to fear from its union with either of the other departments."

In my view, that "fear" has been realized because expansive powers given by the Supreme Court to Congress (consider Obamacare, now known as SCOTUScare) and to the Executive Branch have given rise to the aforesaid "union," aggregating in "the federal head" great power by which their respective attentiveness to the governments of the states has been diminished.

I'm not necessarily big on conspiracy theories, but I am big on the fact that men are not angels, as Madison said in Federalist Paper 51. In other words, men lust for power and control and have since Adam and Eve decided to take things into their own hands. The Supreme Court gave Congress and the Executive powers beyond those envisioned by our Founding Fathers and, as they say, who wants to "bite the hand that feeds them"?

So, is the loss of our "rights" and "prerogatives" as a state the fault of our presidents and members of Congress over the years?

No, the fault is ours. "We the people" have failed to understand our own Constitution and how our compound form of government, a limited federal government and state governments, was supposed to work. As a consequence, we've given our votes to presidents and members of Congress who either did not understand it or who wanted to aggregate power to themselves.

We have met the enemy and it is us. 🐘

David Fowler is a former state senator from the state of TN who now heads the Family Action Council of Tennessee.

HOW FAITH INFLUENCES PERCEPTIONS OF SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

SUPPORT FOR SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

	By self-identified denomination / affiliation						By belief or practice	
	ALL ADULTS	PROTESTANT NON-MAINLINE	PROTESTANT MAINLINE	CATHOLIC	OTHER FAITH	NO FAITH	EVANGELICAL (BARNA DEFINED)	PRACTICING CHRISTIAN
Percentage of population represented	100%	28%	13%	22%	5%	15%	7%	42%
Favor the Supreme Court's decision (strongly or somewhat)	49%	31%	46%	53%	65%	72%	2%	28%
Believe legal same-sex marriage will have a positive impact on society (very plus somewhat)	37%	21%	41%	41%	43%	58%	5%	24%
Legal same-sex marriage was inevitable (total agree)	62%	55%	58%	66%	74%	75%	31%	51%
Extending marriage rights to same-sex couples was morally right (total agree)	52%	32%	49%	56%	66%	78%	10%	32%
Same-sex marriage rights are protected by the Constitution (total agree)	52%	39%	49%	57%	61%	69%	15%	37%

CONCERN OVER SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

	By self-identified denomination / affiliation						By belief or practice	
	ALL ADULTS	PROTESTANT NON-MAINLINE	PROTESTANT MAINLINE	CATHOLIC	OTHER FAITH	NO FAITH	EVANGELICAL (BARNA DEFINED)	PRACTICING CHRISTIAN
Not in favor of the Supreme Court's decision (strongly or somewhat)	43%	62%	47%	38%	32%	18%	94%	66%
Believe legal same-sex marriage will have a negative impact on society (very plus somewhat)	40%	59%	39%	37%	35%	18%	86%	59%
Same-sex marriage is morally wrong (total agree)	43%	63%	47%	37%	31%	18%	86%	65%
The Supreme Court's extension of marriage rights was unconstitutional (total agree)	38%	50%	33%	44%	21%	23%	72%	51%
Believe the comparison is not accurate between the movement for same-sex marriage and the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s (not too plus not at all)	55%	67%	57%	55%	54%	30%	89%	68%

EXPECTATIONS OF A SAME-SEX MARRIAGE SOCIETY

	By self-identified denomination / affiliation						By belief or practice	
	ALL ADULTS	PROTESTANT NON-MAINLINE	PROTESTANT MAINLINE	CATHOLIC	OTHER FAITH	NO FAITH	EVANGELICAL (BARNA DEFINED)	PRACTICING CHRISTIAN
Agree that Christians can support legal marriage for same-sex couples and also affirm the church's traditional definition of marriage between one man & one woman	54%	46%	58%	56%	66%	61%	24%	51%
Agree that religious groups must remain free to teach and practice the traditional definition of marriage	81%	93%	84%	81%	64%	63%	100%	88%
Concerned that religious freedom will become more restricted in the next five years (very plus somewhat)	56%	70%	63%	52%	39%	29%	93%	74%
Believe religious institutions should be legally required to perform same-sex weddings	19%	8%	23%	22%	33%	24%	0%	14%
Believe clergy members should be legally required to perform same-sex weddings	20%	10%	21%	21%	32%	27%	0%	14%
Say that private business owners should be legally required to provide services for same-sex weddings	38%	23%	40%	42%	52%	58%	2%	28%

Barna Group

Conducted June 27-28, 2015, N=1,012 telephone

www.barna.org



Planned Parenthood by Laurie Higgins, Cultural Analyst

Thanks to the release of a series of deeply disturbing videos by the Center for Medical Progress, we have a much better understanding of

Planned Parenthood's abortion "services" and immoral and possibly illegal trafficking of human baby organs.

Planned Parenthood representatives are recorded 'saying' that sometimes the baby is born alive, "...before we are able to see them for a procedure, intact." The Planned Parenthood doctor then says, "We'd have to do a little bit of training with the providers or something to make sure that they don't crush" the baby before they get the valuable organs. They also callously discuss procuring brains and other organs.

The Planned Parenthood representative also discusses how they would message the for-profit selling if the news ever became public.

In the wake of these revelations, U.S. Senators **Joni Ernst** (R-IA), **Rand Paul** (R-KY), and **James Lankford** (R-OK) introduced S.1881, which would do the following:

- Prohibit federal funding of Planned Parenthood Federation of America and any of its affiliate organizations.
- Protect federal funding for health services for women, including diagnostic laboratory and radiology services, well-child care, prenatal and postnatal care, immunizations, cervical and breast cancer screenings, and more.

On August 3rd, the U.S. Senate took a vote on this bill, and it unfortunately fell short of the needed 60 vote mark to pass. Both Illinois U.S. Senators **Mark Kirk** and **Dick Durbin** voted to continue giving a half billion of our tax dollars a year to Planned Parenthood, confirming they favor spending our hard-earned tax dollars for the heinous work of baby dismemberment and organ harvesting.

This legislation may come up for a vote later this year or

early next year. This undercover investigation has given us a rare moment we cannot let escape. Our nation has been exposed to Planned Parenthood's dangerous and deadly practices. Now is our chance to cut off their federal funding.

..... 3 Things YOU Can Do

1 Contact Senator Mark Kirk at 312-886-3506, and insist that he do his job of representing *you* by stopping your tax dollars from financing the barbaric practices of Planned Parenthood. He was the only Republican to vote against defunding Planned Parenthood and his vote is crucial.

2 Spread the word! Tell your friends and family to contact Senator Kirk. Tweet Senator Kirk using the hashtag #DefundPP and share this info on Facebook.

3 Pray! Please pray that our state and nation will repent from supporting this immoral, political, and financial evil. Pray that your "pro-choice" family members, friends, and neighbors will finally understand that abortion is barbaric and indefensible in every situation — not just when tax dollars are being spent to support it. Pray that our state and nation will mourn the legalization of abortion, which has eradicated 60+ million innocent lives.

Ultimately, while the legalities of selling the organs of the unborn babies just killed have been the center of much of the debate, the videos are really a window into the grim reality of abortion and the abortion industry. "And another boy" was a precious human life that was just taken. Anyone with any kind of human conscience that watches these videos has to be outraged.

With few exceptions, it's clear the mainstream media is not going to tell the truth about Planned Parenthood and the abortion industry. It is never going to tell the truth about abortion itself. So we must. People need to know the reality of what is happening inside these abortion centers and the truth about Planned Parenthood. 🙏

Truth Lost

In the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to redefine marriage, there has been a lot of rejoicing. Almost immediately after the decision came down, many same-sex "marriage" proponents proclaimed "love won" while others gleefully trumpeted "love triumphed."

Even President **Barack Obama** tweeted out an applause of the decision with the hashtag #lovewins. Listening to the dominant media, we would be lead to believe that this is the general consensus

of the nation: "why not let people love whomever they choose?" "Love is love."

As Christians, we should know better. In 1 Corinthians 13:4-6, we are given a biblical definition of love: **"Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth."**

True love, we are told, rejoices with the truth. True love, we are told, does not

rejoice at wrongdoing. Yet the culture around us is rejoicing with wrongdoing. This is NOT love. In fact, it is the opposite of love. And that is why so many Christians mourn the feckless marriage decision by five justices of the U.S. Supreme Court. Truth lost.

Since love wins only when truth wins, a biblical view of marriage requires that we understand that love lost. 🙏



First Amendment Defense Act — TAKE ACTION!

If you are one of the many who feel helpless in the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court’s marriage decision, here’s something you can do.



Urge U.S. Senators **Dick Durbin** and **Mark Kirk**, as well as your local U.S. Representative to co-sponsor and actively support the First Amendment Defense Act (S. 1598/H.R. 2802). The Washington D.C. Capitol Switchboard number is (202) 224-3121. Call the IFI office if you’re unsure who your U.S. Representative is: 708-781-9328.

In April, Justice **Samuel Alito** asked Solicitor General **Donald Verrilli**, the federal government’s top lawyer, if the government could strip religious schools that believe marriage is the union of husband and wife of their tax-exempt status should the Court redefine marriage. Verrilli responded by saying “[i]t’s certainly going to be an issue.”

Of Illinois’ 18 Congressional members, only two have stepped up to co-sponsor this important legislation thus far: U.S. Representatives **Dan Lipinski** (D-Chicago) and **Randy Hultgren** (R-Campton Hills).

If you do contact a legislator, would you just let us know by sending an email to contactus@illinoisfamily.org and putting “FADA” in the subject line? Thank you! 🐾

Most Obamacare Enrollees Are Dissatisfied



A new poll finds that only 30 percent of people on Obamacare are pleased with it. This is a satisfaction number that is significantly lower than any other insurance plan or available coverage. The vast majority of Obamacare enrollees also say that they worry that they will not be able to get adequate care when they need it even though their plans are taxpayer subsidized. 🐾

Marijuana Factoid:

Marijuana impairs learning and motor coordination, perception, judgment, thinking, and memory.

Marijuana use can lead to poor attendance, dropping out of school, delinquency and behavioral problems.

It can take up to six weeks to regain normal functioning.



Support IFI

Despite the cultural rot around us and in the face of the widespread acceptance of sexual immorality, Christians have an imperative duty to faithfully model for the world the picture of marriage and family. We must also speak up and work to protect what we hold sacred. For both God and our country we need to strengthen and solidify the foundation upon which we stand.

We need you to stand with us. Your prayers and financial support are vital for us to continue to boldly articulate truth in the public square.

Almost every summer, we see a drop-off in financial support. With summertime activities and vacations, that is understandable. This year was no different. But to make matters worse, many Christians have become discouraged with the state of our nation in the wake of the marriage redefinition. Yet our team at Illinois Family Institute is determined to keep working with our national allies and other pro-life, pro-family, pro-religious liberty groups to advance biblical principles. We have a job to do. We are called to be faithful. It is our duty.

And we have hard work ahead. We are going to have to continue to battle in the public square to stop the government from discriminating against people of faith. We are already seeing an erosion of religious liberties, and the Left is dedicated to punishing anyone or any group that fails to fully accept and celebrate their agenda.

Our adversaries are not taking time off to enjoy their achievements. They are pressing ahead, full speed.

Now that same-sex marriage has been forced on the nation by five unelected justices, we must answer this crucial question: Is there any tolerance left for the Americans who live by the faith that built this nation, one that still teaches that marriage is the union of a man and a woman?

For those of us who self-identify by our faith in Jesus Christ, nobody has the right to demand that we violate our deeply, genuinely held religious beliefs. The First Amendment safeguards this liberty.

Churches, pastors, Christian schools and non-profit ministries should be free to recognize and act according to God’s design for marriage, without government interference or loss of their tax-exempt status. Now that same-sex marriage is the law of the land, these things are priority targets of the Left.

IF WE DO NOTHING, YOU CAN BE SURE THE OUTCOMES WILL BE DISASTROUS!

Your support of the work and ministry of IFI is vital. Please give now to protect family and freedom! 🐾

Thank you.



from the **Executive Director** — **David E. Smith**

(continued from page 1)

too easily. . .”

In America today, far too many Christians have turned their backs on matters of politics and public policy, declining to become informed or involved. Metaxas relates that there were also many Christians in Nazi Germany who said, “I don’t want to be political, I will just have my prayers here . . . I don’t want to get involved in that.” Likewise, in 2015 in the United States of America, Christians are **able** to make the choice to remain silent and not engage the culture in the public square, **but there will be consequences.**

Throughout history there have been many heroes of the faith, role models who stood up and spoke out, in spite of the overwhelming odds against them, but our ultimate example of conviction and boldness is Jesus Christ. He not only represents Truth, but He is the embodiment of love. Our Lord was able, in fact compelled, to boldly speak the truth, because He knew what was at stake — the eternal souls of men. Jesus wasn’t concerned with popularity or worried about damage to His reputation. In John 18:37 He tells Pilate, “In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth.”

Motivated by obedience and love, Jesus fearlessly testified to the truth. If we truly love, trust, and fear God, we won’t feel personally offended or rejected by the culture, as Samuel initially did; instead, we will be freed from the fear of human rejection and empowered to articulate the truth of the Gospel with certainty and clarity. When we choose to model our lives on Christ’s example, our testimony to the truth will astonish and amaze the world, and our actions and interactions will have the power to

BE FEARLESS

bring about radical change. Believing in His Word, and being doers of His Word, we know that if God is for us, no one can be against us. Therefore, trust God, take a stand, speak out — **be fearless!** 🐣

Health “Benefits?”

Continuing to advance a progressive socialist agenda, Chicago Mayor **Rahm Emanuel** proudly announced that taxpayers in the City will be required to contribute to the funding of a new so-called “health” benefit: sex reassignment surgery.



It is difficult to see how sex reassignment surgery is a health benefit since gender dysphoria is still considered a mental disorder and surgery mutilates bodies and renders patients sterile.

According to **tgender.net**, the average cost for a male-to-female reassignment procedure averages about \$20,000. 🐣

Anti-Family Attacks Continue

According to a *Dallas Morning News* article, homosexual activists want to change Texas state law without approval of the state lawmakers. The story says:

“The Supreme Court’s ruling in favor of same-sex marriage prompted changes to the Texas marriage-license application. Now, some gay and lesbian couples have turned their attention to birth certificates. They want the state to remove gender-specific language from the document and its application forms.”

Progressive Socialists are now working to remove “Mother” and “Father” from birth certificates. This not only denies biologic reality, but also a child’s identity. It also directly takes away the rights of all parents to call themselves mother and father on their child’s birth certificate.

This craziness will inevitably raise its ugly head here in Illinois. When it does, IFI stands ready to vigorously oppose it. 🐣

“

To be a **follower** of Christ

is to be an alien, a sojourner,
a stranger in a strange land.

**Embracing
that identity is liberating.**

No longer fretting
about what the culturally cool kids
think of you frees you up to
speak TRUTH to worldly powers.

”

— Laurie Higgins, *Cultural Analyst*



The Deformation of Public Education

by Laurie Higgins,
Cultural Analyst

As the school year begins, those with children in public schools need to be vigilant about the indoctrination of their children, particularly with ideas related to homosexuality and gender confusion.

Now that “LGBTQIAAP” activists have won their quest to deform civil marriage, aided and abetted by five moral outlaws on the Supreme Court, parents should expect a full-court press to use public education to foist their deformed notions about homosexuality, marriage, family, equality, gender confusion, compassion, and justice on other people’s children.

Parents of middle and high school students should expect English, social studies, world language, theater, and health teachers to use curricula and supplementary resources and activities to promote “progressive” assumptions about these topics, and parents of elementary school students should expect their little ones to see picture books and sex education that portray perversity as good.

Also expect that any bullying prevention programs will suggest that moral disapproval of homoerotic activity and disapproval of cosmetic, chemical, or surgical attempts to conceal biological sex constitute “homophobia” and “transphobia” respectively. In other words, anti-bullying programs intend to castigate true moral beliefs, thereby fostering hatred of Christians.

Increasing numbers of school boards and administrators will be pressured to change school policies to allow restrooms and locker rooms to correspond to the sex students wish they were rather than to their objective biological sex. Such policies will teach all students the lies that objective biological sex is non-essential, that sexual identity need not correspond to biological sex, and that the desire to be the opposite sex is rational and healthy. Such policies will teach all students that compassion requires them to subordinate their properly ordered feelings about modesty and privacy

to other students’ disordered desires to be the opposite sex.

While there is an argument to be made for using the name that gender-confused students assume, no one should use opposite sex pronouns when referring to someone who suffers from gender dysphoria. Christians have no moral right to participate in a destructive lie or even *appear* to affirm such a lie. Pastor and theologian **John Piper** offers this instruction about pronoun-use:

.....
[I]f in the office where we worked, I was compelled to identify every so-called transgendered person by the pronoun they preferred in all of my emails, or conversations... or I would get disciplined..., at that point I would say to my superiors, I cannot treat he’s as she’s and she’s as he’s....I would be lying to call a he a “she.” I am not lying to call a male “Sally.” That is a culturally arbitrary weird fluke. But I am lying if I say about a true Jim who wants to be called Sally, “she.” And it would be contrary to my understanding of sexuality and I would start looking for another job.
.....



When it is age-appropriate, talk to your children about this issue, preferably before school starts.

Don’t expect much help from conservative Christian teachers in public schools. It is regrettable that many conservative Christian teachers working in public education display an ignoble, cowardly willingness to acquiesce to the evil that has been percolating within our schools. They don’t speak up in department meetings or in professional development contexts. They don’t refuse demands to call boys by female pronouns or resist requests to purchase perverse picture books for their libraries. They conform because non-



conformity is costly.

Act preemptively

If you have elementary or middle school students, email their teachers as soon as possible, informing them that under no circumstances are your children to be exposed to any resources or activities that address homosexuality or gender confusion. Ask that these teachers let you know via email whether they will honor your request. If a teacher tells you that he or she will not honor your request, then ask for a teacher change. If there are no teachers who will honor your request, then you have a difficult decision to make because they will have tacitly admitted that they are going to present perverse materials to your child.

If you have high school students, there are two options: You can either follow the prior suggestion offered to parents of middle school students or tell your children’s teachers that your child is not to be exposed to any curricular or supplementary resources or activities that address homosexuality or gender confusion *unless* equal time is spent studying resources from dissenting resources—which will likely not happen because many public school teachers are more committed to indoctrination and censorship than to diversity and intellectual inquiry.

“Educators” who advocate subversive sexuality ethics in the classroom view themselves as self-appointed “agents of change” charged with steering the moral and political views of other people’s children in a “progressive” direction. And they arrogantly expect autonomy in the pursuit of their transformative vision.

Please don’t be complacent. Resist the temptation to conform. There is far too much at stake to ignore what is being taught to our children with our money. 🐉

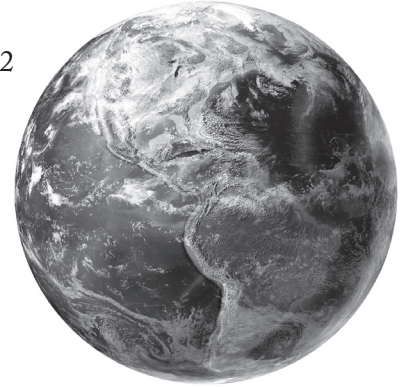
.....
For help with drafting an email or letter to your child’s teacher, please visit: illinoisfamily.org/education/opt-out-templates/

Prayer Requests

— 1 Peter 3:12

For the *eyes* of the *Lord* are on the righteous,
and his ears are open to their *prayer*.

But the face of the Lord
is against those who do evil.



Please Pray...

... for our Lawmakers

- Pray for those leading our state and country. Pray that they would not be swayed by liberal special interests but would stand firm and do what's right in the eyes of God even if it means standing alone. Pray they would seek Godly wisdom in their decision-making.

... for our Country and our Military

- Pray for our country's safety as reports of terrorist incidents increase. Pray that God would keep His hand of protection on our men and women serving in the military and their families while these courageous men and women are away from them. Pray that God would expose and thwart the plans of the enemy.

... for the Sanctity of Marriage

- Pray that legislators and judges would awaken to the true definition of marriage as God's perfect design. Pray that a firestorm of opposition would begin in the halls of Congress and there would be a push back against the recent SCOTUS decision.
- Pray that husbands and wives would recommit themselves to their marriages for the sake of their children and betterment of society. Pray that divorce wouldn't be an option even during tough times in spite of the recently passed law that makes divorce easier.

...for Parental Authority

- Pray that parents, pastors and other community leaders would not be afraid to express their opinions and moral outrage at the godless philosophies that are promulgated in public schools.
- Pray that parents would take seriously their God-given role to teach Biblical values to their children.

... for the Church

- Pray that God would awaken His Bride. Pray for more pastors to assume the role of shepherds and teachers; teaching not just what people want to hear, but the entire Word of God and how it applies to today's culture. Pray that God would embolden and strengthen them, minister to them, and encourage them.
- Pray for a return to prayer and godly values in our families, churches and neighborhoods — that Biblical wisdom would permeate Illinois communities, culture, and public policy.

... for Illinois Family Institute

- Pray for strength and God's wisdom for the IFI Team as we stand for Truth in a culture where it's becoming irrelevant.
- Pray that IFI continues to develop strong lasting relationships with pastors and church communities to reach many like-minded people with IFI's mission. 🙏

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. — 1 Timothy 2:1-4

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