

The Rise of Transgenderism in America

By Michael Kerns

“At least 2.8 million Americans—including 724,000 in the 13-17 age bracket—identify as transgender, according to a recent analysis of data from federal and state health departments by the University of California, Los Angeles.” [USAtoday.com 23 August 2025]

This recent widespread trend of “transgenderism” has planted itself into the American culture with terrible personal and national consequences. It dominates the media and acts as an indicator of our changing sexual morality, as many Americans, including well-known politicians, promote it. Let’s look at an overview of this rapidly-growing trend.

A Few Definitions

“Transgender” refers to a person with a gender identity “that differs from the sex the person was identified as having at birth.” [Merriam-Webster.com/transgender] A transgendered person decides that his/her birth gender identity does not match the gender that he/she desires. Such person thinks, “I am in the wrong body.” Subjective feelings deny what the physical body declares.

“Intersex” persons have “anatomy that is not considered typically male or female.” [isna.org/faq/transgender] “People who are intersex have reproductive or sexual anatomy that doesn’t fit into an exclusively male or female (binary) sex classification.” [my.clevelandclinic.org] Surgery at birth or later plus hormonal therapy and counseling contributes to a healthy life. [lgbtqtherapyspace.com] This term replaced the term *hermaphrodite*. “Yes, a tiny fraction of the populace is born ‘intersex’ ...but most people are either male or female.” [answersingenesis.org]

“Gender Dysphoria” (formerly called “gender identity disorder”) identifies a person with “strong, persistent feelings of identification with another gender and discomfort with one’s own assigned gender and sex.” [psychologytoday.com] *Psychology Today* reveals its progressive bias by using the word “assigned” instead of “birth” gender and sex.

“Gender Affirming Care” refers to “a range of social, psychological, behavioral, and medical interventions.” [aamc.org] According to the progressive World Health Organization, these interventions “support and affirm an individual’s gender identity when it conflicts with the gender they were assigned at birth.” [WHO.int]

“Transgenderism” as a social movement finds its roots in evolutionary and Marxist theory that denies the existence of a Creator God. Transgenderism promotes multiple genders. The “gay” community considers the term as a biased and hate-filled term since the “ism” characterizes the concept of transgender as sourced in ideology and not biology. [glaad.org/transgenderism]

Background

On June 23, 1972, President Nixon signed Title IX, “a civil rights law that prohibits schools or educational programs that receive federal assistance from discriminating against anyone on the basis of sex.” [ed.gov] Despite its primary goal to protect women, “nowhere in the law did the words *sport* or *athletics* or even *physical education* appear.” [SI.com] That changed in 1979 when universities had to give athletic scholarships “to male and female athletes proportional to their participation.” [CBSsports.com] In other words, “if half the student body is female, half the athletes should be as well (proportionate).” [reddit.com] Title IX also applies to schools at all levels, including elementary and high schools.

Almost heroic efforts by many over fifty years produced Title IX to protect women. Despite that effort, President Biden in 2024, via executive order, applied Title IX to “transgender females.” A biological man could declare himself a woman, dress in women’s locker rooms, and compete against them. Throughout his whole administration, Biden continued to oppose the obvious and undeniable ontological differences between male and female.

As an example, on Good Friday, March 29, 2024, “Transgender Day of Visibility,” President Biden proclaimed: “Today, we send a message to all transgender Americans: You are loved. You are heard. You are understood. You belong. You are America, and my entire administration and I have your back.” [O’Neil, *The Woketopus*, p.169]

On February 5, 2025, President Trump issued an order that “rescinds a long list of Biden-era policies, changes ‘gender’ to ‘sex’ on government forms and calls to end funding for ‘gender ideology.’” [NPR.com] Under threat of loss of federal dollars, the University of Pennsylvania on July 1, 2025, agreed to restore any swimming records and titles to its female athletes who lost to transgender males. NCAA still permits transgender females to compete. [USA Today]

Unfortunately, some states and universities still abide by Biden’s order. “Title IX was written to protect women based on biological sex—not self-identified gender. To lose that foundational truth is to lose the heart of the law itself.” [Riley Gaines, swimmer who lost championship to transgender Lia Thomas, Foxnews.com]

Fallout

Gender dysphoria among young people grew during the Covid shutdown. “All but one of the 50 states saw an average increase in diagnoses of 96% from 2018-22...” [thenationaldesk.com] Social media affects this increase. “Adolescents who had no history of displaying typical gender dysphoria characteristics go through a sudden change in identity following intense exposure to peers and/or media that heavily promotes transsexual lifestyles.” [ahca.myflorida.com]

Elementary and secondary schools in America promote transgender ideas without parents’ permission. [newsamerica.org] One family argued all the way to the Supreme Court to gain their right to excuse their children from LGBTQ-themed lessons. Justice Alito wrote in *Mahmoud v. Taylor* (6/27/25), “We reject this chilling vision of the power of the state to strip away the critical right of parents to guide the religious development of their children.” [*Mahmoud v. Taylor* No. 24–297, Argued April 22, 2025—Decided June 27, 2025] The decision included pages from an illustrated book in the curriculum that promoted transgender concepts for elementary children.

The states of California, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Illinois, Connecticut, Oregon, and Washington ignored the Trump executive order on sports. [outpsports.com] Oregon will allow students to participate in sports according to ‘their consistently asserted gender identity.’ [outpsports.com] That definition permits any male student who chooses transgender to compete as a female even without any “gender affirming” protocol. Declaration as a female meets the criteria to compete as a female. These states represent one-fourth of the population of America. [50states.com]

Transgenderism moves along the same lines as the “MeToo” movement that gained global recognition in 2018 through social media. [foreignaffairs.com] That social movement to stop abuse of women soon evolved into a political campaign to smear all men as abusive. The transgender movement supposedly began to help those with gender dysphoria but soon evolved into a campaign to promote a political movement.

Social media has promoted gender dysphoria and medical companies have taken notice. Bright Path Behavioral Health, a national leader in treatment of adolescent mental health, has added gender dysphoria to its list of adolescent mental health issues. “From 2017 to 2021, 17,683 American youth diagnosed with gender dysphoria began treatment with either puberty blockers, hormones, or a combination of both.” [brightpathbh.com]

Perspective

Transgenderism now lives as one of the cultural streams in America. The largest abortion organization in America adds to their revenues by promoting transgendered children. “Only an individual can define their gender identity. Gender identity is separate from what body parts a person has.” [plannedparenthood.org] The “T” in LGBT political movement dominates the rest of the letters in the news. No Presidential executive order can turn back what many in the culture now accept. President Trump controlled the federal funds and used that as leverage to protect women in sports by threatening to withhold money from universities, but he cannot control education in the states where laws have overridden his order.

The Supreme Court has contributed to these moral changes. On June 26, 2015, it held that the Fourteenth Amendment gave same sex couples the fundamental right to marry. [Obergefell v. Hodges, 576 U.S. 644 2015] On June 15, 2020, the Supremes decided that employers could not fire employees because of their sexual or gender orientation. [Bostock v. Clayton County, Georgia No. 17-1618] These two decisions have irreversibly transformed the moral landscape of American by protecting homosexuals, lesbians, and transgenders because of their sexual orientation from discrimination.

Social media like YouTube influencers, networks and kids’ friends promote this misalignment between sex and gender as a medical problem that deserves “fixing” with dangerous, life-threatening treatment but they err in their conclusions. “A large new longitudinal study from the Netherlands proves that rather than subjecting children suffering from gender dysphoria to irreversible surgeries and powerful chemicals, the best treatment is time itself...” [Drjamesdobson.com]

“Transgenderism is the mark of a world that has swapped Christian morality for modern angst.”
“Transgenderism is taking our world by storm. The idea that men can transition into women or women into men defies logic, sanity and history. It creates a world where defining *woman* has become the domain of biologists instead of kindergartners.” [Rosaria Butterfield, *Five Lies of Our Anti-Christian Age*, 2024, p. 193]

Response

Social and news media consider transgender normal behavior. Schools expose transgenderism to naïve, trustworthy minds of young children. A recent small pushback came from the Supreme Court when it “announced a landmark decision upholding Tennessee’s law restricting gender-transition interventions for minors and affirming the State’s authority to protect kids from risky and unproven medical practices.” [Tn.gov *United States v. Skrmetti*, 605 U.S.(2025). June 18, 2025] That Tennessee law denied “gender affirming” treatment to minors.

We in the Church certainly have truth on our side. God did not create us in 72 genders as others argue. [Medicinenet.com] Man comes in a binary fashion with only male and female as the choices. The Lord has uniquely created each of us for His purposes and glory.

Moses made that clear when he wrote,

God created man in His image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them (Genesis 1:27)

Jesus affirmed what Moses wrote in the Old Testament, when He said,

And He answered and said, "Have you not read that He who created them, from the beginning made them male and female" (Matthew 19:4)

The Psalmist reminds us of each person's unique creation,

I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well (Psalm 139:14)

Some adolescents do sense this misalignment between sex and gender. We find such behavior so repulsive because it directly opposes the Lord's design and a sacred one at that. We ought not to identify ourselves according to our gender or our sex. Nonetheless, for those caught in this cultural trap, we must listen, not panic, and explain the lie of transgenderism.

Only the Gospel will change these self-deceived people. We ought to exercise compassion and patience with those who deny what God has created. We cannot affirm their unbiblical beliefs, but we must also not desert them.

Whether the "trans" angst come in our own children or other friends, we pray for them and listen to their struggle. Change may come only when they embrace the Savior through faith. Finally, trans sexuals may require tough choices about their future.

Our citizenship lies in heaven. The Lord has given us the privilege to live in a nation wonderfully designed by some very wise men. That should bring out our gratitude and, for many of us, our patriotism. Despite that privilege, we live as aliens or pilgrims here. Our hope comes in Jesus and not in our nation. America, like other great nations, will eventually decline and exit the stage of history. As we rush to Gomorrah, the demise of America may come sooner than any of us would desire.