

July 19, 2020

**The Role of the church in this time of opportunity; COVID-19, racial unrest and political upheaval!**

**"Social justice and the gospel!"**

**1 Corinthians 7:17-24 (ESV)**

**17 Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him. This is my rule in all the churches.**

**18 Was anyone at the time of his call already circumcised? Let him not seek to remove the marks of circumcision. Was anyone at the time of his call uncircumcised? Let him not seek**

**circumcision. 19 For neither circumcision counts for anything nor uncircumcision, but keeping the commandments of God. 20 Each one should remain in the condition in which he was called. 21 Were you a bondservant when called? Do not be concerned about it. (But if you can gain your freedom, avail yourself of the opportunity.) 22 For he who was called in the**

**Lord as a bondservant is a freedman of the Lord. Likewise he who was free when called is a bondservant of Christ. 23 You were bought with a price; do not become bondservants of men. 24 So, brothers, in whatever condition each was called, there let him remain with God.**

Introduction

On July 5<sup>th</sup>

***Micah 6:8 (ESV) He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?***

In the midst of the virus, racial unrest, political upheaval what should the church be doing?

Do what is good

Love justice, insure that justice is being done

Love being kind, work hard on loving one another

Last week

What is going on in the "Evangelical" church?

The enemy is out to eradicate from society not a "god" but the God of the Bible

In order to do that they will have to get rid of this

"God's Holy Word" the "Ancient Word"

Now we are in the midst of fighting the battle for the "sufficiency" of the Word of God

Is the Bible sufficient to deal with the complex issues of the day? Racism, Misogyny, Homophobia

Beginning today and over the next few Sunday's I want to look at the history of "social justice" and the effect it is having on the church

Let me again read from God's Word that might help us prepare to look at "social justice"

**So what does the Word of God say?**

**1 Corinthians 4:7 (ESV) For who sees anything different in you? What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?**

**Mark 14:7 (ESV) For you always have the poor with you, and whenever you want, you can do good for them. But you will not always have me.**

**Proverbs 31:8-9 (ESV) Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute.9 Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.**

**Isaiah 1:17 (ESV) Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause.**

**Isaiah 58:6-7 (ESV) 6 "Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?**

**7 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?**

**James 1:27 (ESV) Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.**

**James 2:5 (ESV) Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him?**

**1 Corinthians 7:17 (ESV) Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him. This is my rule in all the churches.**

**1 Timothy 6:6-8 (ESV) But godliness with contentment is great gain, 7 for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. 8 But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.**

**John**

Biblical justice is as old as the law, Exodus 20:13-17, Matthew 22:37-39

We will see what "social justice" meant in the mid 1800's and what it means today

When you think of social justice what comes to your mind?

When most of us think of social justice this would be our thinking...from the obituary of a Franciscan sister, from Delaware who had worked as a missionary in different countries

She was described as being committed to "social justice work"

She helped feed the hungry, tend to the young, care for the ill

She lived the "Beatitudes", Matthew 5:1-12

We would all agree this is doing justice and doing what we ought to be doing

So what is social justice today?

Here are some definitions according to dictionaries and on line resources

so-cial jus-tice-is distribution of wealth, opportunities, and privileges within a society

Social justice is a concept of fair and just relations between the individual and society, as measured by the distribution of wealth, opportunities for personal activity, and social privileges. Wikipedia

United Nations. Social justice is the view that everyone deserves equal economic, political and social rights and opportunities. Social workers aim to open the doors of access and opportunity for everyone, particularly those in greatest need

What Is Social Justice?

Social justice is a political and philosophical theory which asserts that there are dimensions to the concept of justice beyond those embodied in the

principles of civil or criminal law, economic supply and demand, or traditional moral frameworks

Social justice tends to focus more on just relations between groups within society as opposed to the justice of individual conduct or justice for individuals. Historically and in theory, the idea of social justice is that all people should have equal access to wealth, health, well-being, justice, privileges, and opportunity regardless of their legal, political, economic, or other circumstances.

In modern practice, social justice revolves around favoring or punishing different groups of the population, regardless of any given individual's choices or actions, based on value judgements regarding historical events, current conditions, and group relations.

In economic terms, this often means redistribution of wealth, income, and economic opportunities from groups whom social justice advocates consider to be oppressors to those whom they consider to be the oppressed.

Social justice is often associated with identity politics, socialism, and revolutionary communism. In reality, progressives have changed "social justice" from being equitable or fairness to uniformity. The original notion of social justice had very little to do with distribution.

Social justice today entails a "redistribution" of resources from those who have "unjustly" gained them to those who justly deserve them (these "unjust" and "deserving") are chosen as groups and not as individuals.

All this talk divides and alienates groups of people rather than encouraging us to cooperate and associate together for the good of the whole. For supporters of "social justice" it is usually intentionally undefined"

***What did social justice mean originally?***

The designers intent for "social justice"

Originally a Catholic term, first used about 1840 for a new kind of virtue (or habit) necessary for post-agrarian societies (recently the term has been hijacked by secular "progressive" thinkers to mean uniform state distribution of society's advantages and disadvantages)

Social justice in the early stages was intended to bring about association and cooperation with others to accomplish ends that would benefit the whole community

It was a discussion on how moving from a farming culture to an industrial society could be done and the needs of the family could still be met

Please listen very carefully to this quote, *"If people are to live free of state control, they must possess this new virtue of cooperation and association"*

We cannot be pressured into buying into all this separation, division and segregation

We must not be prodded and encouraged in the direction of group segregation

Michael Novak, a George Frederick Jewett Scholar in Religion, Philosophy, and Public Policy has helped with our discussion this morning with an article he wrote in 2009

This has been one of our greatest skills and all this cooperation and association is being intentionally taken away from us

Just consider these terms: racist, misogynist, homophobic, tribalism, white privilege, wage gap redistribution, reparations, critical race, LGBTQA+, oppression

They are all words that identify groups that we are placed in by others and in which we "are told" we cannot remove ourselves from

This an obvious attempt to separate and alienate

The first known usage of the term, social justice, was by an Italian priest, Luigi Taparelli D'Azeglio, who wrote a book about the need for recovering the ancient virtue of what had been called "general justice" in Aristotle and Thomas Aquinas, but in a new contemporary form

He gave it the term "social justice"

Taparelli was not sure what he was looking for but knew that the change from a agrarian culture to more of a city culture brought with it challenges  
The movement away from the country to the cities, moving away from the family food supply, becoming wage-dependent, family members going to work in different locations, it was huge strain on the family  
In 1891, Pope Leo XIII began to see this same situation

The stress on families to deal with this new lifestyle was real

Leo XIII wrote a paper, a letter to the churches throughout the world, entitled, "Rerum Novarum" (the evils of equality) in 1891

These were different times

He wrote to address the strain on families moving from an agrarian culture into an industrialized culture

What was a Pope doing writing about economic and social matters?

The crisis of the family already in 1890 was something the Pope knew needed to be addressed. He wanted to call attention to the fact that societies were now being organized on an entirely different principle than in the whole preceding history of Christianity.

Earlier, almost all Christians had been farmers or associated with farming.

When we read the New Testament, we see that quite vividly; the good shepherd, the sower of the seed, almost all of the parables are agrarian in background. But more and more people were not living agrarian lives.

That's when Pope Leo XIII started to address what was happening using what Taparelli had begun.

Let me read you from the paper:

The threat the Pope sees is socialism, the theory of giving the state total power.

Very early in his encyclical (*en sic la cal*), he writes first about "civil society."

For Leo, "civil society" is a good term; "civil" comes from the Latin for the town, the city, the citizen.

It gains its force from the experience of the medieval towns, centers of safety, commerce, craftsmanship, and prosperity--the highest prosperity and the greatest freedom.

That's where the universities were; that's where the new commerce was; and that's where people came from far and near to examine the goods that came from many regions and to set up trade arrangements. Next week we will look at why "social justice" is not Biblical justice

Here is Pope Leo XIII's attack on the very ideal of equality as a social ideal

Here are some quotes from Leo and his paper "Rerum Novarum" (the evils of equality)

That in civil society, the lowest cannot be made equal with the highest

There are truly very great and very many natural differences among men

Neither the talents nor the skill nor the health nor the capacities of all are the same

This leads to unequal financial success that are directly related to these God given endowments. Socialists can labor as they may and to the their best ability but they will be striving against nature and God's Word and their labor will be in vain

These words are in one of the older translations of the paper

But here is the more modern translation on the Vatican Web site:

"It must be first of all recognized that the condition of things inherent in human affairs must be dealt with and accepted"

It is impossible to reduce civil society to one dead level

There naturally exists among mankind manifold differences of the most important kind; mental

capacity, skill, health, strength; and unequal financial success is a product of this inequality  
It is a simple thing to see and understand  
This inequality is not a disadvantage to the individual or the community

Society benefits from the various capacities and affinities for enterprise they have been given  
Each person operates in the gifts and in the station of life that God has given them and placed them in  
What a great benefit to the community

Community life requires varied aptitudes and diverse services (in Nashville we have 2 Surgeons, 5 veterinarians, to many lawyers, 100's of teachers, 100 of farmers, 100 of timbers workers, 4-5 electricians, 4-5 plumbers, and many productions workers that provide the food and things that we need to live our daily lives

In my circle, how many Spurgeon's, Whitefield's, Moody's, MacArthur's are there?

Leo XIII did not mean by "social justice" equality  
Leo held that it's good that there's an unequal society

Some people are fitted for different kinds of work, and it's wonderful to be able to find the work that fits our talents and to use them for God's glory wherever He has providentially placed us in life

## The plague of unsatisfiedness

(Thomas Brooks, "The Crown and Glory of Christianity, or, HOLINESS, the Only Way to Happiness", 1662)

"Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of **covetousness**; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." Luke 12:15

Covetousness is . . .  
a very great and grievous sin;  
a mother sin;  
a breeding sin;  
a sin which has all sin in its womb;  
a very vile and heinous sin;  
the root of all evil.

Covetousness makes the soul *earthly*--which should be *celestial*.

Covetousness is an evil which subjects men to the basest and vilest evils.

Covetousness makes a man a fool! "You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?" Luke 12:20

Covetousness robs a man of all true peace, comfort, contentment and quiet.

Covetousness brings men into *snares* which drown their souls in perdition.

Covetousness renders men **unsatisfied** under all their outward enjoyments. Though a covetous wretch has enough to *sink* him--yet he can never have enough to *satisfy* him. First he wishes for a *bag* full, and then a *chest* full, and then a *room* full, and then a *house* full, etc.

--is the great plague which covetous men are under. Certainly you shall as soon fill a triangle with a circle, and a chest with grace-- as you shall be able to fill and satisfy a covetous mind with money.

A covetous man is like a **swine**--which is good for nothing while it lives.

The *horse* is good to carry,

the *ox* is good to draw,

the *sheep* is good for cloth,

the *cow* is good to give milk,

and the *dog* is good to guard the house--

but the *hog* is good for nothing while he lives!

Just so, a covetous man is only serviceable when he is dead. That scripture often proves true, "the riches of a sinner are laid up for the just." Job 27:17

No sin lays men under greater woes!

"People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs!" 1 Timothy 6:9-10

Surviving the great COVID-19 deception, Tuesday, July 14, 2020 | Gary Heavin -

When it comes to safe, effective, and affordable therapies for COVID-19, large pharmaceutical companies and some medical professionals appear to have an agenda of deceit. What could possibly be the motive behind this great deception? Money.

I've been speaking with my friends, which includes medical doctors and other highly educated people, about the treatments that they would seek if they were diagnosed with COVID-19. Most of them had no idea what course of treatment they or their families might seek. This conundrum is due in part to the massive volume of information that is being thrown at us, much of which is deliberately deceptive.

This article has two purposes. First, to help you understand the deceit that large pharmaceutical companies, their enablers at the FDA, CDC, NIH, WHO, the MSM, and officials in high government positions are perpetrating on you, your family, and likely your doctor.

The second purpose is to arm you with the necessary information to ensure that you receive the best treatment options from your health care provider. Knowledge is power.

Let me begin by stating that I'm not a medical doctor and I'm not offering medical advice. I do have a Bachelor of Science degree in health, nutrition, and counseling. I've written two NY Times bestselling books on women's health and fitness and I have been awarded an honorary

doctorate degree. However, you will need to determine your treatment options with your personal physician.

When it comes to safe, effective, and affordable therapies for COVID-19, large pharmaceutical companies, medical professionals like Dr. Fauci and Dr. Birx, and many others appear to have an agenda of deceit.

The most obvious example is their ongoing effort to ridicule the treatment option of hydroxychloroquine, azithromycin, and zinc. We all heard the harsh criticism that President Trump received when he promoted this protocol for COVID-19. Hydroxychloroquine has been around for almost 70 years as a treatment for malaria, lupus, and rheumatoid arthritis. The WHO [World Health Organization] has designated it as a safe and effective medication akin to taking aspirin. Moreover, a survey of 6,000 medical doctors affirmed it as their treatment of choice for COVID-19.

Hydroxychloroquine is an ionophore, which means it can transport material through the cellular wall. Zinc is a mineral that stops the replication of the COVID-19 virus within the cell. Hydroxychloroquine transports zinc into the cell so that it can stop the replication of the virus. The Z-pack antibiotic [azithromycin] is given to prevent opportunistic bacterial infections like pneumonia from occurring while your immune system is engaged in fighting your viral infection. The key to its effectiveness is to start this treatment at the early onset of COVID-19 so that it has time to work.

How much effort have big pharmaceutical companies put into subverting this treatment regimen? In addition to denouncing its effectiveness, from Dr. Fauci and company, constant MSM hit pieces, the censoring of medical doctor's articles and videos from the internet, there has also been a number of "studies" done that were literally sabotaged from the onset.

The VA hospital system reported in March that they had given hydroxychloroquine to a number of patients. Following their release of information, the MSM ran the story with the headlines, "VA hospital found that Hydroxychloroquine doesn't work and increases the fatality rate of COVID-19." However, if you actually read the study you will find that only the sickest of the cohorts were given the drug. They got the drug only after they were so far along that it would not have a chance to work and they were not given zinc. None of these details made the MSM articles.

Another example of orchestrated deception came from the British medical journal, The Lancet. It reported that a meta-study showed that hydroxychloroquine was ineffective. As a result of this published study, France, Italy, and other European countries immediately prohibited the use of this treatment option. Within a few weeks, it was found that the study was badly designed and the results were literally fabricated. The Lancet was forced to make a retraction. Of course in the meantime, the MSM ran the original Lancet story and misled millions of people and their physicians.

So what could possibly be the motive behind large pharmaceutical companies' Great Deception?

Money.

Now we are getting to the reason that drug companies are promoting remdesivir. This experimental drug costs above \$3,000 per regimen and must be given intravenously in a hospital, (five days stay around 15 grand). Yet evidence shows it doesn't really work.

The other treatment option is the promised COVID-19 vaccine that is alleged to be forthcoming. The NHS in Great Britain has committed to purchase a vaccine for the entire population of Great Britain. That's a commitment of 65,000,000 doses at an agreed price of around \$600 for each vaccination. That's about \$40,000,000,000 (40 billion) which is a lot of incentive to mislead people. A U.S. pharmaceutical company recently received \$1.6 billion dollars towards its efforts to make this vaccine, which in the opinion of many experts, won't work on COVID-19.

How do large pharmaceutical companies have so much control over the dissemination of this information or should I say propaganda? Again...money. The pharmaceutical industry gave \$2 billion dollars during the last election cycle to U.S. politicians. Agriculture, the military/security complex, and the oil industry each gave only a paltry \$1.0 billion dollars to buy the votes of our political leadership. The MSM counts pharmaceutical advertising revenue at up to 80% of their income. The internet's "masters of the universe" also kowtow to the drug industry's influence and advertising dollars by

censoring anyone who tries to tell the American people the truth about COVID-19.

### What You Need to Know

Now, for some good news. There are several therapies that are being offered that appear to be safe, effective, and affordable. However, these therapies must be utilized early in the disease progression.

### Budesonide

Japan, Taiwan, and other Asian countries have maintained a much lower fatality rate with COVID-19 than here in America, in spite of the fact they live in densely populated communities. Many believe that it is due to their preferred method of treatment. They use a steroid medication that is inhaled in a mist through a home use nebulizer. I'm familiar with this since my 2-year-old granddaughter needed this treatment with a similar drug for an upper respiratory issue that she had recently. That speaks to the safety and the commonality of this treatment. Watch this YouTube video of a Texas doctor who shares his patient's experiences with this therapy method using the drug budesonide and a course of antibiotics. (See related article from OneNewsNow)

### Ivermectin

Another treatment option that appears to be safe and effective is the use of the antiparasitic drug ivermectin used in conjunction with the antibiotic doxycycline. Just one ivermectin pill and then the course of antibiotics for ten days resulted in a 100% cure rate for COVID-19 patients according to this study on [worldhealth.net](http://worldhealth.net).

Ivermectin has been widely used on the continent of Africa for many years as an anti-parasitic and is believed to be a primary reason that COVID-19 has not severely impacted the African population.

### Hydroxychloroquine and Zinc

As we've seen above, this therapeutic regimen should be considered simply due to the efforts to prevent you from knowing the truth about it. As Shakespeare wrote, "The lady doth protest too much, methinks." The challenge with this therapeutic is both finding a doctor who will prescribe it and a pharmacy that will sell it. This should be between you and your doctor. Not the governors of certain states. Considering that 20% of all drugs are prescribed "off label" meaning that they are prescribed for a use other than intended, you and your doctor should have the liberty and the responsibility to make this health care decision.

(Author's note: I've received a number of questions regarding supplementation with vitamins and minerals. I regard these as preventative rather than therapeutic. As for me and my family, we are going to make informed and responsible decisions regarding our health care. I hope the information I've given to you today along with the links for further information will help you, your family, and your doctor make the best decisions as well.)

Gary Heavin and his wife Diane are the founders of Curves, the world's largest fitness franchise. Gary is a pro-life libertarian and serves on the advisory board of Dr. Ron Paul's Institute for Peace and Prosperity. He and his wife are philanthropists who feed 10,000 children a day in Haiti and operate an orphanage outside the slums of Mumbai. Most importantly, they are Bible-believing Christians.

## The Cripplegate, The Church Boy Who Never Grew Up

Posted: 02 Jul 2020 12:02 AM PDT

Over the years I have had the privilege of being in a local assembly that is brimming over with godly leadership. I have been able to observe our longtime shepherds labor and pray to see a culture of strong leadership flourish. Seeing the strength, protection, and joy that comes when godly men lead at home and in the church has only increased by desire to see biblical masculinity galvanized in more men.

This last year I was preaching through Psalms 127–128, the twin psalms written to the nation of Israel about biblical masculinity. These psalms teach God's people what type of man in his home truly knows the blessing of God. During that study, despite all the fruit I have witnessed in our assembly, I was still grieved at how often chronological men remain boyish in their habits and convictions.

As a result of that burden, I spent one afternoon writing out all the ways over the years I have observed church boys not grow up to become biblically masculine men. Below is an essay that came from that time of reflection. I pray it encourages and challenges your heart, as it does mine, to be the leaders God has called us men to be.

He wakes up each morning later than he planned because of his lack of discipline the night before. He opens his eyes unprepared for the day and immediately hits snooze. He looks at the responsibilities and leadership opportunities that each day could bring as obstacles to his happiness rather than opportunity to

grow as a man of God. He spends his days mostly avoiding risk, fearful at the thought of having to make a leadership decision that could expose his weaknesses.

Discouragement and pride are his necklaces. An overpowering fear of man and unchecked sexual lust remind him he doesn't battle his sin like he should. Where he should be courageous he shrinks back in order to protect his image. He thrives on the path of least resistance. His sexual cravings rage, and, rather than fighting the war within, his selfish desires eclipse any recent pledge to overcome those lusts.

He is known for doing the bare minimum, constantly hitting the status quo, but never pushing forward to excellence. When others are watching, he can put on a show, but when only the Lord sees, apathy, inactivity, and love for comfort are his idols of choice. He lives for his hobbies and for his down time. He can't wait to come out from under pressure. He works for the weekend rather than God. Stressful days that call for greater faith in God and growth as man become for him days he nurtures contempt for God's unfolding providence.

He thinks with no urgency. He ignores the long-term impact of his current habits. Nothing awakens him to his need for preparation and conviction-building for future battles. He figures he will cram when he needs to be spiritually minded, but sees little need to get too intense just yet. His excuse is, "God is sovereign"—a theological smokescreen to veil his sluggish heart. He is lazy on every front except in crafting excuses.

Free time is dedicated to his amusements: sleep, video games, social media, TV, shallow friends, YouTube, and hobbies. Good books, deep sermons, robust discipleship, and hours in the Word get only honorable mention for him. His time with mentors at church is only a box to be checked. Sure, he tolerates counsel from godly men, endures strong preaching, puts on veneer of godliness, but ignores putting off indwelling sin. Repentance to him is a term he uses, but not a habit he practices. His hypocrisy grows.

When sin brings consequences—especially when it threatens his precious reputation—he sprints for a season. But his zeal fades as his consequences become less intense. His motivations for holiness are earthly and self-absorbed. He lifts his sword to battle, but once the fight proves difficult, he lowers it and then swings the flag of self-pity. When worldliness shows up in his favorite hobbies, he ignores the warnings of his conscience. He craves to be able to sin like the world, but since too much worldliness would bring exposure, he finds subtle ways to feast on worldly morsels under the disguise of “Christian liberties.”

His self-orientation plagues his life in the local church. He attends regularly, but he does not love the bride of Christ. When questioned about his lackluster approach to church life he replies with, “I am committed, but just real busy in this season.” This only compounds his guilt as he adds lying and excuse making to his current neglect. Self-sacrifice is eclipsed by selfish ambition. He takes no initiative. He’ll serve in the body if you push him but often with a grumbling spirit. And even when smiling on the outside during service opportunities, he is usually

standing up within. Critical thinking about truth is not his thing. He has conditioned his mind to think on the lowest spiritual frequencies in order to spare himself the pain of being honest before God. People around him who strive to mortify their lusts just irritate him. Because he won't learn from the Word, God has to put in a bit and bridle to teach him by experience.

His friendships consist of sparring about unimportant things and brief moments of shallow biblical generalities to relieve his guilt-ridden conscience. He treats people as resources to consume rather than precious souls he can serve. He gravitates towards relationships that cost him little and hovers around people who don't meddle in his character weaknesses. Sure, he is as chatty as soccer mom with her latte when discussing his favorite hobbies, his job, or his political views, but the moment deep discussion about Christ and His Word is the topic, he turns his face on screen saver mode, smiles and nods.

Nobody trusts him to stand on God's Word alone or to suffer for a conviction. He has no stomach to fight for Christ because his loyalty is not to Christ—it is to himself. He will stand for truth occasionally, but only when he decides the cost is not too great. Convictions that would cost him are too much for his lust for man's approval to endure.

He wastes his late teens and 20s and is a husband and father now. He wants the benefits of marriage, but without the cost. His wife suffers under his neglect. She married a boy in a man's body. She tries to prod him, but he has nurtured self-love for too long to listen to her burdened pleas. He is full of excuses of why he can't lead

like way she wants him to. He thickens more smokescreens to hide his heart of hypocrisy. She wonders where they guy went who seemed to be striving for holiness while they were dating, but now rarely talks with her about the truth. His mask is now off at home, though this does not stop his quest to protect his reputation in church.

She eventually gives up, self-feeds from the Word, struggles, and is often discouraged. The kids begin to grow up under the influence of a boy-dad. He needs his down time, his man-cave, and his hobbies. He salves his conscience by providing financially and claims that he is "around more than most dads." He strives to become their friend but neglects their soul. He never sits down to prepare them for the battles ahead. Frankly, he rarely helps them work through heart issues in the moment. They are constantly caught off guard when facing temptation because of his neglect. His boy tendencies remain.

By the time the kids hit their teen years, his outbursts of anger and neglect of a godly example has cost him his credibility. His hypocrisy is acute, unmistakable, and undeniable. In his anger, he hammers his kids to strive in areas he neglects, driving their exasperation to full strength. He is too proud to seek their forgiveness in the moments they need to see humility. When they get in the way of his desires, he shouts them down rather than shepherd them. They conform and smile for a while but rebel inside. They grow up and leave him home resenting Christianity because their dad demanded they live what he would not. His relationship with his children is strained

all their adult years. If he represents real Christianity, they want nothing to do with it.

On his deathbed—if he is even in Christ—he reflects with grief and sorrow on his life poorly spent. As he looks with longing eyes at a wife he never shepherded and upon kids who resented him, his final words are, “Oh, how I hated instruction and spurned reproof! I am ashamed before all. Forgive me!” So ends the tragic biography of the church boy who never grew up to be a biblically masculine man.

May the reader be warned.

## Irreversible Damage: A Warning We Can't Ignore

July 10, 2020, By Tony Perkins

"They are our future, these girls. If we don't safeguard them and give them a promising [life], we have no future."

--Abigail Shrier

One by one, they started calling. These weren't conservative parents or even particularly religious ones -- some were liberal, progressive, "open-minded" moms and dads desperate for help. Their stories, Abigail would find out, were eerily the same. Their daughters had started hanging out with friends who'd decided to come out as transgender together. Suddenly, these sweet teenage girls -- who'd never shown a hint of gender confusion -- were demanding breast reduction, hormone treatments, new names and pronouns -- and their parents were beside themselves for someone to intervene. No one, they found out quickly, would.

Abigail hadn't planned on telling their stories. That all changed when a mom tracked her down at the Wall Street Journal and said, "I can't get any journalists to take this on, but my daughter... decided with her friends out of nowhere that she was transgender. And they're all pursuing hormones and surgeries together. It doesn't seem right. I'm a progressive person, [but] this doesn't seem like it fits her at all. She had no childhood history." Abigail tried, initially, to get another investigative journalist to cover it. She couldn't. So she started looking into it herself and found out that this mother was right -- there were thousands of parents all across the country

who were experiencing the same thing: girls coming out with their friends under social media's influence.

When she wrote a column about it, Abigail told "Washington Watch's" Sarah Perry, "It sort of exploded. It was the biggest article in the mainstream media about this phenomenon. And all of the sudden, parents from all over the country and actually all over the [Western world] were writing to me to tell me that this was happening to their daughters, too." At that point, Abigail decided, she couldn't turn back. Two hundred interviews later, she's published a book: *Irreversible Damage: The Transgender Craze Seducing Our Daughters*. And if its revelations don't rattle a reader's world, I'm not sure know what will.

She talks about researchers like Dr. Lisa Littman, an OB-GYN now working at Brown University. Littman, she said, is a "progressive, [so] she doesn't have a political axe to grind here... She just noticed [as] she was scrolling through her social media feed that it didn't make sense that so many adolescent girls were coming out as transgender with their friends." She decided to investigate, since true gender dysphoria, she knew, was "a very, very rare condition of discomfort in one's biological sex. It's extremely rare -- .01 percent, so one hundredth of one percent." Turns out, her hunch was right. These girls weren't doubting their biological sex, they were "sharing and spreading their pain."

Littman's statistics, meanwhile, shocked everyone. In friend groups where one girl identified as transgender, the prevalence rate was 70 times what would be expected. "Which meant," Abigail explained, "that this

was a lot more like anorexia." In the same way eating disorders spread or cutting or other peer pressures this wasn't a gender issue. This was a social contagion. What they have, she said, "is a lot of anxiety and, in some cases depression... So the transition does not alleviate their distress." Which would explain the high levels of regret from them later on in life.

It's one of the reasons, Littman, Abigail, and others deep in this world of debate, are pleading with the medical and therapy communities to stop fast-tracking these radical interventions like puberty blockers. "These girls are self-indoctrinating," Abigail insists, "[thinking] that if they just try it, all their problems will go away." And it's not just the medical community who are reinforcing that lie, she warns. It's the education system. "[The] part of the book that I'm proudest of is my investigation into the California public school system," Abigail explains, "because I was able to learn that the gender identity indoctrination is so radical and so thorough -- it begins in kindergarten." California's activists, she warns, are very clever. "They took [gender identity] out of sexual education curriculum, so your parents are not even aware it's there. It's not part of the curriculum they're allowed to opt out of. And they put it in anti-bullying curriculum. So, of course, most parents don't want to take their kids out of the anti-bullying program, and they can't."

She's talked to parents who've flat-out asked their schools, "What's the policy if my kid were to decide she's a boy?" And at least in in California public schools -- and I've heard from New York [and] New Jersey parents -- the policy is not to inform the parents. And this applies to

kids who are 12 years old. So, very often, I will talk to parents who say that their daughter went a whole year being addressed as a boy and talked about as a boy and [using] the boys' bathroom [at school], and the parent didn't even know."

Don't think it can't happen to your daughter, she says. It can. But there are things every parent can do. Pay attention to your kids' friend groups. "It becomes very trendy to come out as one of these exotic identifications and want to change your body. Then, their friends are more likely to do it as well. But the thing to really look for is the social media indoctrination. That's a big one if they're spending a lot of time online. And the last thing is: find out what gender ideology is being pushed in your child's school." Or, I would argue, reconsider if public school is even the right decision at all. With the virus forcing families to take a long hard look at learning, maybe now is the time to make a move away from these dangerous and destructive influences.

Either way, get a copy of the book that Amazon refuses to advertise and learn what the activists, doctors, and teachers aren't telling you about the secret suffering of the transgender craze.