



Breakpoint: When Harry Became Sally:

Compassionate Response to the Transgender Movement

—By John Overstreet



What was once unthinkable has become unquestionable. And so, every Christian must know how to engage this transgender moment.

Imagine this scenario: Your 17-year-old daughter tells you she's trapped in the wrong body, is really a boy, and wants hormone therapy to begin the process of transitioning. As her parent, you love your daughter, but you disagree. You want to look at other options to help her.

She decides to take you to court. Even though she's a minor under your care, the judge decides your beliefs are a danger to your daughter, and takes her from your custody.

Well, imagine this scenario no more. That's exactly what happened in Ohio recently.

And we shouldn't be surprised. As Ryan Anderson, a Senior Research Fellow in American Principles and Public Policy at The Heritage Foundation warns, Americans can expect more cases just like this one.

Anderson's in-depth research of the transgender movement and sexual ideology is now available in his new book, "When Harry Became Sally: Responding to the Transgender Moment." And I don't say this lightly, this book is one every single Christian needs to read and understand.

This is a movement with considerable momentum—in popular culture, education, and even public policy. It's an evolving movement. Here's what I mean: as Anderson points out, gender ideology used to be based on the idea that our sex (in other words our physical natures, including reproductive organs and hormones) was biological, but our gender was socially constructed.

Activists challenged traditional gender roles as being oppressive and too generalized. But today the movement claims that sex is not biological, but assigned at birth. As if the doctor makes a random decision to identify a child as male or female. That's how, the popular theory goes, boys can be trapped in girl's bodies, and vice versa.

This is, of course, a scientifically indefensible position, and assumes that deep inside part of one's brain (though we're not sure where), our true gender identity is located. The theory is advancing, not on its merits, but on political power and name-calling: that only bigots insist on biological realities.

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INFOCUS



—By Amy Wilson, Editor

This issue is dedicated to the family, which is undergoing so many attacks in ways we would never have imagined just 25 years ago. The family has to stand strong against the enemy's whispers, such as, "It's okay to divorce ... a person can not help it if they are gay or lesbian" ...and so many more lies. Many of these issues are addressed throughout this issue.

The family is often beaten up when taking a stand on these issues, but we can be encouraged by

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What Anderson does so well in “When Harry Became Sally” is to articulate how transgender ideology is hopelessly tied up in contradictions. He’ll help you spot those contradictions and articulate them with clarity and kindness to others.

But even so, many Christians still wonder why they should care about this one. Maybe they are still wearied over the same-sex marriage battle, or like many of us, maybe this is one of those issue that hits a little too close to home.

Well, I think there are at least two reasons we should care. First, Christians have always proclaimed that our bodies matter. This is no trivial point of Christian theology. Scripture tells us that God made us in His image, male and female. That Jesus became flesh and dwelt among us, and that He was *physically* resurrected from the dead. We cannot go along with any ideology that denies God’s created order.

And the second reason we should care is, well, the children. Ideas have consequences, and bad ideas have victims. Transgender ideology is disproportionately aiming at children, teaching them that they are not the inherently valuable image bearers God created them to be. If we love our neighbors, especially the kids, we cannot remain silent on this one.

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John Stonestreet

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INFOCUS

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individuals who are willing to do so, such as Isabella Chow. Isabella is a student at UC Berkley who courageously stood up for God and His design for the family by being the one abstention vote as a Senator for the Student Government, where the students were trying to vote in favor of the LGBT movement on their campus. “As she cast her abstention, Isabella read a beautifully written statement sharing the love of Christ with everyone listening. Isabella poignantly condemned hate, bigotry, and bullies. At the same time, she stood firmly, yet compassionately, for truthsaying, ‘I cannot vote for this bill without compromising my values.’ She went on to say it was not love to silently concur with the choices of others that she believed with all her heart were harmful.” (As reported in the issue of *TheFamily Alliance Policy Team*, November 14, 2018).

Can we, as Christians, lovingly respond to those who oppose our values and try to impose their worldview into our lives? As we see from Isabella Chow, and many others who take stands such as this daily, the answer is “YES!” Will there be persecution? Yes, but God has told us to expect that when we take a stand for Him in this world. Jesus says, “I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world” (John 16:33, NLT). But remember, “Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man” (Luke 6:22, NIV). May we read this issue, pray, and be willing to take a stand for God and the family in 2019! ■

*Serving Him Together,
Amy Wilson, Editor*

Attack on the Family



By Nitin, a missionary in India



Family is divine in origin and has a specific place in God's plan for each individual. It was God himself who instituted the first family, and the first attack on man was an attack on his family.

The weakest in the family, the unborn, have been under attack by one name or the other. Some where the unborn is eliminated for it impinges on the women's right to her body. Elsewhere it is policed abortions under the one child policy. The above two constrictions on the life of the unborn have garnered sufficient attention worldwide, the female genocide in India, perhaps has not.

India's Child Sex Ratio, the ratio of boys to girls between the ages 0 to 6, has been declining for the last 60 years [1] This decline is primarily attributed to the rampant sex-selective abortions. This female-gendercide, or premeditated killing of girls, has eliminated at-least 63 million girls and women from the population of India. [2] To put the numbers in perspective, 63 million is more than the entire population of Italy and 170% of the population of present-day Canada.



To many parents, girls are economically and socially unviable. Unlike sons, their daughters need to be protected and then married off with a dowry that can even take up to a lifetime of savings. The sons take care of aging parents and bring home a daughter-in-law along with a hefty dowry. The parents “reap no fruits by raising a daughter,” besides losing money (in dowry) in getting her married.

A complex social base of Indian families, age-old beliefs that assign a subservient role to women, inadequate enforcement of law (against dowry and protection of girls) and other similar factors foment an aversion to daughters. As a result, many families are unapologetic about ill-feeding, mistreating, and under-educating their daughters. These girls, without education or skills, get married, often at an illegal young age and undergo sex-selective abortions of their own. If they somehow end up giving birth to daughters, they raise them with the same subjugated identity and beliefs about girls and women with which they were raised and are themselves subject to now.

This aversion of daughters is not limited to the economically disadvantaged. Low-income parents give cows in dowry, the affluent ones give BMWs. While the poor may lack means to access ultrasound facilities (to determine sex of the unborn), the rich get it done blithely in state-of-the-art hospitals.

Implications:

A family is the fundamental unit of a society. A family where girls and women are treated as an expendable commodity is at odds with God's design of a family, and further more project the systematic abuse of girls to the society at large. The living God is not a stoic observer of the death of the innocent and undefended. He is intimately mindful of the mass murders of girls and women in India. This is “an issue he cares about and a problem he wants solved.”[4]

Nitin is a consultant contributing to many projects that empower girls and women. He works with many missions groups in India to help educate the population and restore the family to God's proper design.

[1] <https://www.economist.com/graphic-detail/2011/04/04/sons-and-daughters>

[2] <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/63-million-women-girls-miss-dowry-every-hour-in-India.html>

[4] <https://www.crosswalk.com/blogs/christian-trends/sex-selection-abortions-in-india-leading-to-massive-gender-ratio-crisis.html>



“The Church” A Threat to Families in the “Bible Belt?”



By Rob Connelly



Despite “churches” on nearly every corner, families are in crisis in the so-called “Bible belt” of the United States. Why? This is partly because the church has failed to genuinely love those whose family situations are less than ideal. Ironically, this very dynamic—because of the deep cultural influence of the church—has led to increasing disconnection from the gospel of grace and the person and way of Jesus for individuals and families who are perceived to be non-conforming.

The disconnect for many is that they have been taught that there are only two ways that “moral” issues can be viewed: 1) legalism (we earn our salvation and one another’s acceptance through our performance and successful behavior modification—“rules without love”), or 2) antinomianism in which there are no moral standards. Many in the “Bible belt” south seem stuck in one camp or the other.

The effect of this is disastrous. We who claim to follow and be redeemed by Jesus end up communicating that we are righteous in and of ourselves. This is damaging to those who are lost, hurting, and in need of that same salvation. Those who are in Christ were once dead in sin—and yet we act like we are not daily in need of a savior? The only reason we who are in Christ strive to live righteously is in response to what Christ has done for us. The truth is that so many feel judged by the legalistic church that they want nothing to do with Jesus. And this is how the church becomes a threat to families.

I would like to suggest a different way, and I think it is the way of Jesus. Love, welcome, and accept those who, like us, are struggling, but unlike us have yet to be re-made by the redeeming power of Jesus. Jesus himself welcomed “sinners”—the socially unacceptable—and spent intentional time with them. His harshest criticisms were not for these folks, but for the religious who believed they had it all figured out. This is not unlike many church folk. Jesus ultimately called them all to repentance and faith in Him, not on a platform of judgment, but rather through acceptance (not of their sin, but of them). If we do not genuinely love families, how can we expect to influence them to repentance and faith in Jesus?

It is my firm belief that the anti-gospel legalism of the “Bible belt church” is one of the greatest threats to the family in this part of our nation. But it is also my firm belief that the church that is primarily concerned with living out the gospel as a grace-filled community of redeemed sinners can reverse this dynamic and invite families of all kinds and situations to follow Jesus with us.



Rob Connelly is married to Ashley and they have four kids. He is the pastor of a community of believers called Uptown Church in Martinsville, VA and is Vice President of Sales for ActioWall -also in Martinsville, VA.



Children of Addicts in India

If an adult is suffering from an addiction, and if that adult is a parent, that means that somewhere there exists a child in-crisis... Sadly, all over the world, there are adults who have been "captured" into the world of drug or alcohol addiction. For a child, life as he knows it is severely altered, the day his parent becomes an addict...

Children of addicts are more likely to be *depressed* and *anxious* than their peers because of an unpredictable home environment; in school they tend to *struggle academically and socially*. They are very willing to *blame themselves* for their parent's problem (which leads to *intense guilt*) while simultaneously feeling *anger* toward the parent for not making better choices. These children, even when very young, find themselves needing to *care for their parents* rather than receiving care from them. Thus, they often grow up in *less than a nurturing environment*, suffering from *neglect* and sometimes abuse while yet *living in denial* that there is a problem. As adults, they are more susceptible to *addictive behaviors*, *neglect* of those closest to them, denial of anything painful and the development of *chronic health conditions*. ■



Please Pray!

For a ministry in India that offers rehabilitation and a Christian witness to drug addicts and which has taken in some of their children.



The Children's Prayer Bulletin seeks to encourage intercession for at-risk and in-crisis children, youth and their families all over the world. Thank you for participating in the restoration of the Earth's most vulnerable communities through prayer. Information contained in the Bulletin may not come from any one source or agency. To receive the Bulletin in Spanish in your inbox, write to eneidarr19@gmail.com. Write to ayharvey62@aol.com to receive the bulletin in English or German.



OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES



The Lord Will Deliver

By Caleb Wilson

The black menace sped behind me, getting closer, and CLOSER. I was in the Amazon rainforest where I lived as the son of an American scientist who studied the many exotic plants and animals that lived here. We hadn't lived here long, and already, my future looked grim. A massive panther, black as a starless sky, raced after me as I wished I had never decided to take a walk alone in the vast rainforest. My pursuer chased me with the vigor of ten panthers, and the speed of a comet. The only reason that I existed to this point was thanks to the many twisted and damp roots interlocking the floor of the rainforest, the panther had trouble weaving his legs through all the roots. As I looked behind me, I began to sweat, for the panther started closing in. Closer and closer he got until he stood right in front of me. We stood, facing each other, me realizing that I had nowhere to run, and the panther, seeming to know this, grinned maliciously. As I looked into the dark, evil eyes of the beast, I prayed one simple prayer, "Lord, please deliver me from this malice." I stared back at the panther, but even as he crouched, ready to pounce, I felt no fear. The creature suddenly gave a great tremor, and then fell at my feet, dead. As I stared incredulously at the body of the beast, my mind thought back to a verse I had read that morning in devotions, "Many adversities come to the one who is righteous, but the Lord delivers him from them all," Psalm 35:26. As I thanked God for His deliverance, I became even more grateful for the life He had given me. ■



Caleb Wilson

Caleb is a 12-year-old homeschooled student who recently wrote this as an assignment for his 8th grade Literature class. May we all be encouraged to see how God can use children to do great things when they grow up knowing Him and His word!





**CAREGIVERS
TIME-OUT**

*As 2018 rushes to its end, may the Lord encourage
you that He is an **EAGER** God.
Maybe that is why it seems
time is flying!*

*Composed by Ann Harvey,
missionary with Rainbows of Hope,
a ministry of WEC and sister
ministry to CCTI.*

2 Chronicles 16:9

For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His.

Luke 13:34

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, just as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not have it!

Jeremiah 29:14

“I will be found by you,” declares the Lord, “and I will restore your fortunes and will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you” declares the Lord, “and I will bring you back to the place from where I sent you into exile.”

James 1:5

But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

Revelation 22:20

He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming quickly.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

***Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance,
but laying hold of His willingness.
-- Martin Luther***

Making it easier to bring healing and hope to children in crisis

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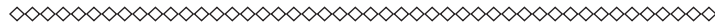
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Interested? Please email Amy Wilson at awilson@ccti-wec.org for an application and/or information. All applications are due by Friday, January 4, 2019.



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Happy New Year



For Information On:

- CCTI Curriculum—

Offering Healing and Hope for Children in Crisis

- Other Resources

Go to : www.crisiscaretraining.org



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