

Christians are to live in purity and holiness
1 Thessalonians 4

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

- Christians abstain from sexual immorality.
- Paul now begins to address the rest of the urgent issues.
- Paul spent the first three chapters thanking God for the Thessalonians, with narrative/background interspersed. Now he will address specific issues.
- Scholars call this the “paraenetic” part of the letter, the moral and ethical teaching or “how you ought to walk and to please God” (4:1).

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

- In Paul's letters, the ethical teaching typically follows doctrinal teaching as an application of that doctrine, but not in the case of 1 Thessalonians.
- Here the apostle was reminding the recipients of what they had already been taught and what they were already doing (4:1).
- It is less correction than encouragement to stay on the narrow path, to continue to live in a way that pleased God even "more and more" (4:1).
- The phrase "more and more" describes "sanctification," found in verse 3.

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

- Sanctification (becoming holy) is not a one-time event. It is a lifelong process of becoming more and more like Jesus every day.
- This is the “will of God” for our lives as Christians (4:3). No matter what He calls us to do with our lives, His will is for us to grow to be more like Him.
- God has called us to do things – make disciples, be His witnesses.
- But His will for us is not about our career or mission; it’s about our character. It’s not about our actions; it’s about our identity.

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

- Sanctification is the process of being changed by the Holy Spirit.
- These are not just rules to follow; they are descriptions of what a “new creation” person is like – sexually pure, living in brotherly love, hardworking, and minding his or her own affairs.
- The Greek word translated “sexual immorality” here is *porneia*, from which we get our English word “pornography.”
- It means any form of illicit sexual activity, not just prostitution.

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

- The apostles weren't calling out any specific behavior.
- The Thessalonians were already living in purity, so this was a warning, not a rebuke (4:1).
- Sex is mentioned often because the Christian sexual ethic was so vastly different from that of the Greco-Roman world around them.
- It was very common for men to have a wife to bear legitimate heirs, a mistress for sexual and intellectual companionship, as well as slaves to be concubines and prostitutes for casual encounters.

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

- Here they describe the Gentile sexual ethic as a “passion of lust” because they “do not know God” (4:5).
- Sensuality, greed, impurity and deceitful desires are part of the old self, not the new (Ephesians 4:17–24).
- Our bodies, as believers, belong to God to be used for His purposes, not for reckless self-indulgence (1 Corinthians 6:19–20).
- Sexual sin wrongs other people and God. The Lord will avenge it (4:6).

1 Thessalonians 4:9-10

- Christians love others as themselves by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Paul commended the Thessalonians for their brotherly love while also encouraging them to “do this more and more” (4:10), just as Paul had said about their pleasing God (4:1).
- Paul opened the letter with thanksgiving for the Thessalonians’ faith, hope and love (1:3) and for their example to all the other believers in Macedonia and in Achaia (1:7).

1 Thessalonians 4:9-10

- Paul wrote that the Thessalonians really didn't need to be told about brotherly love because they had been "taught by God to love one another." (4:9).
- Jesus said the world would know we are His disciples by our extraordinary, supernatural love for one another (John 13:35).
- This kind of selfless, agape love comes only from God, and we can only love other people this way because we know Him (1 John 4:7-19) and are filled with His Spirit (Galatians 5:22).

1 Thessalonians 4:9-10

- Every human being can love other people on a human level – the kind of love you have for your family and friends, those who you enjoy being around, and those who love you back.
- But God's kind of love?
- That is a love that loves your enemies and prays for those who persecute you (Matthew 5:43–48), that forgives an infinite number of times (Matthew 18:21–22), that lays its life down for others, even enemies (Romans 5:8).

1 Thessalonians 4:9-10

- This kind of love comes only from God, “taught” by God through the power of the new covenant.
- He makes us a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17) and renews us day by day (Colossians 3:10), sanctifying us every day to make us “more and more” like Him (4:1).
- It is not only divine communication; it is divine relationship.
- He doesn’t just teach us how to love, He enables us to love.

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12

- Christians lead a quiet life where they work hard to take care of their own needs.
- The early Christians were not individualistic; they lived in radical community where they all shared everything in common.
- If members were unable to provide for themselves, the whole community came together and cared for them (Ephesians 4:28; 1 Timothy 5:3–8).
- But a person who was perfectly capable of working and didn't was taking advantage of the Christian community, which is not brotherly love.

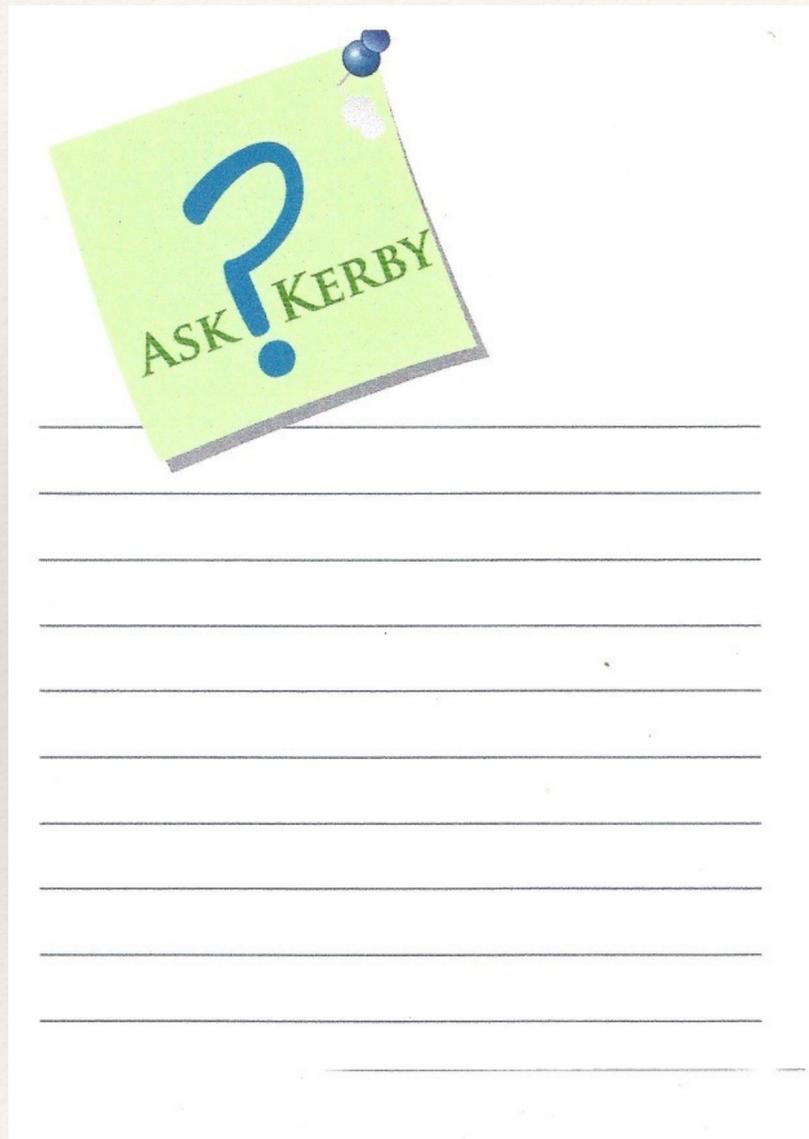
1 Thessalonians 4:11-12

- Paul's words here were more of a warning.
- If you don't work and take care of your own affairs, you will become a drain on the community and be a bad example to outsiders (4:11-12).
- Most scholars think Timothy had already seen the potential for this happening when he was in Thessalonica, so Paul warned them here.
- Paul wrote that not only would their laziness be a drain on the community; it would also be a bad witness to unbelievers.

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12

- Early Christian author Tertullian wrote that the pagans said about them, “See how they love one another!”
- This is the reputation we can have with outsiders when we live in holiness, purity and brotherly love in Christian community.
- A Christian community where people genuinely care for one another and live a life so strikingly different from the world.
- It is so unusual and so appealing, it will make others look at us and say, “I want to be loved like that.”

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Transgender Athletes

US judge blocks law banning trans athletes from women's sports

- **Transgender athletes now free to compete in college sports**
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▲ Idaho governor Brad Little signed the ban into law earlier this year. Photograph: Darin Oswald/AP

Transgender Athletes



Protecting Females in Sports and Just Telling the Truth

Since 2015, World Rugby, the international governing body of a sport with a lot of hitting but little protective

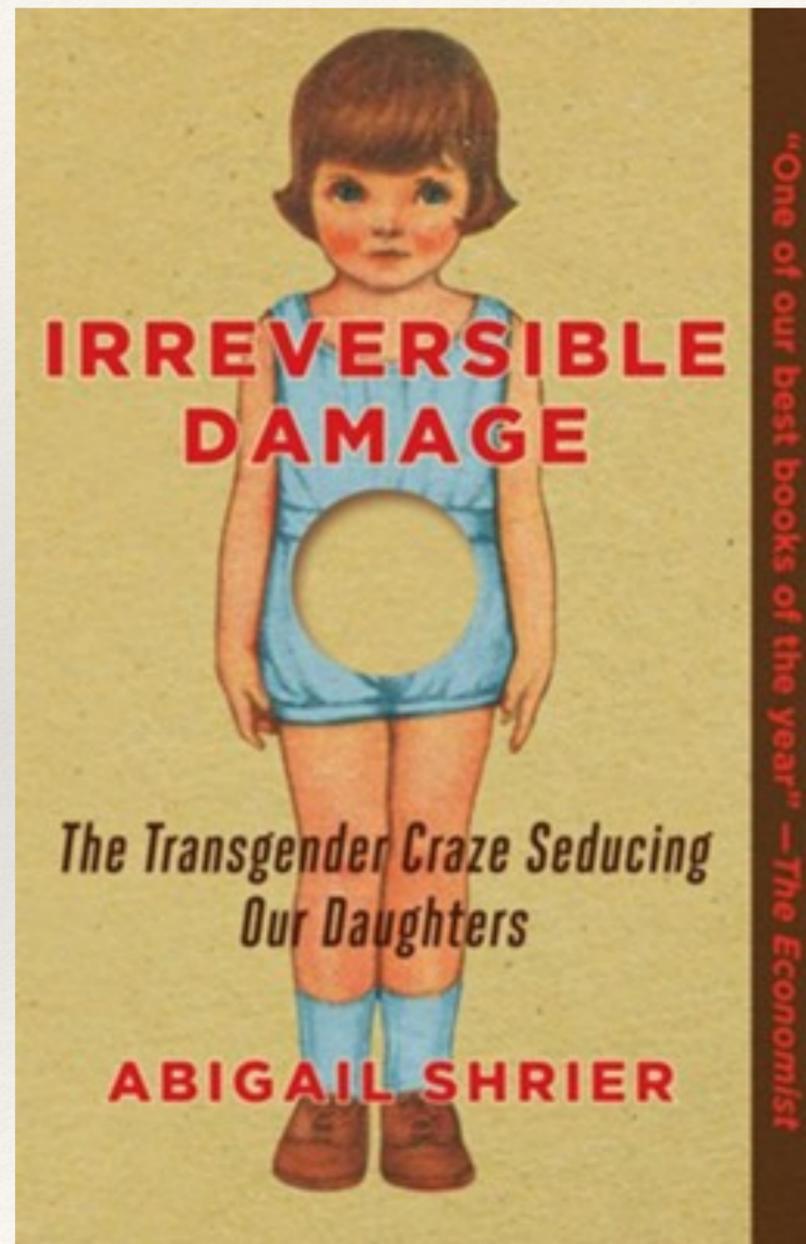
Transgender Athletes

Keeping Male Bodies Out of Women's Rugby

written by Linda Blade



Transgender Craze



- Abigail Shrier documents the phenomenon of transgender contagion.
- Girls who never experienced any gender discomfort rush to undergo irreversible treatment and surgery.

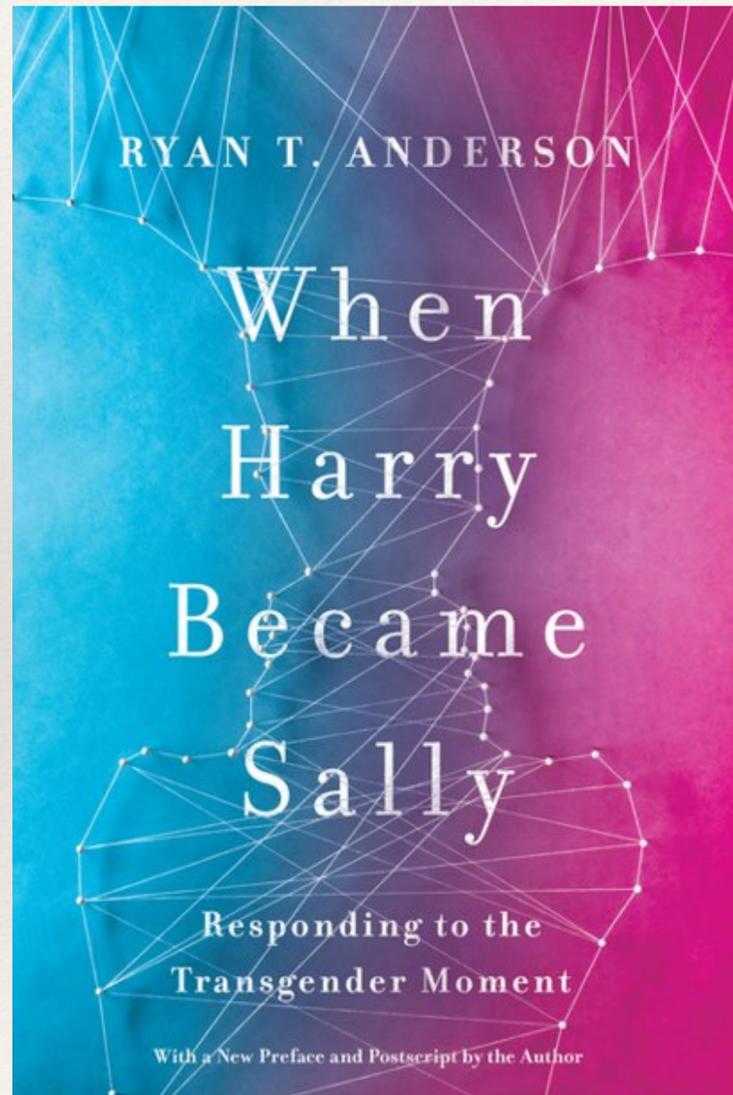
Transgender Craze

- Gender dysphoria, formerly known as “gender identity disorder” is characterized by severe and persistent discomfort in one’s biological sex.
- It typically begins in early childhood and afflicted a sliver of the population (roughly .01 percent) and mostly boys.
- Before 2012, there was no scientific literature on girls (11-21) every having developed gender dysphoria at all.
- The Western world has seen a sudden surge of adolescents claiming to have gender dysphoria and self-identifying as “transgender.”

Transgender Craze

- In 2016, Lisa Littman (ob-gyn, public health researcher) noticed that several adolescents (mostly girls) from a small town all came out as transgender.
- She interviewed 256 parents whose kids had not met the criteria of gender dysphoria in childhood, but suddenly identified as transgender.
- The vast majority has zero indicators of childhood gender dysphoria. A majority had one or more psychiatric diagnosis and almost half were engaged in self-harm prior to the onset of dysphoria.
- Over 60 percent said the announcement brought a popularity boost.

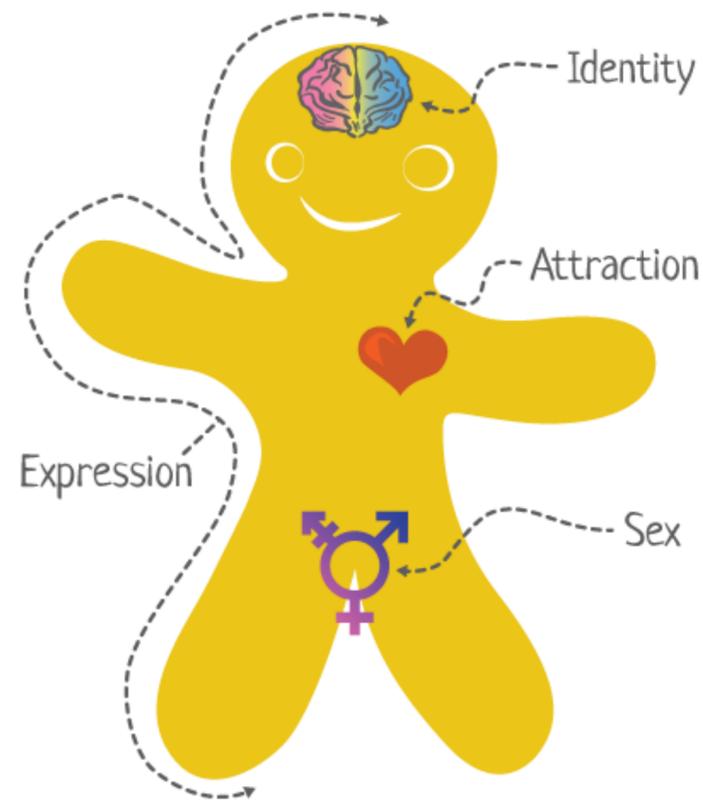
Transgender Moment



- Dr. Ryan Anderson believes we are in a transgender moment.
- His 250-page book (30 pages of endnotes) provides a comprehensive look at the transgender movement.
- The claim that someone is trapped in the wrong body emphasizes a body-self dualism found in Gnosticism.
- It implies that a person is not the body, but inhabits it and uses it as an instrument.

Transgender in Schools

The Genderbread Person v3.2 by its pronounced METROsexual.com



Transgender In Schools

The Gender Unicorn

Graphic by: **TSER**
Trans Student Educational Resources



Gender Identity

- Female/Woman/Girl
- Male/Man/Boy
- Other Gender(s)

Gender Expression

- Feminine
- Masculine
- Other

Sex Assigned at Birth

- Female
- Male
- Other/Intersex

Physically Attracted to

- Women
- Men
- Other Gender(s)

Emotionally Attracted to

- Women
- Men
- Other Gender(s)

To learn more, go to:
www.transstudent.org/gender

Design by Landyn Pan and Anna Moore

Transgender in College

- Imagine dropping your daughter off at a Christian college and then learn that her roommate is a male.
- That is the scenario that attorney Julie Marie Blake describes. She, and other ADF attorneys, are representing Missouri's College of the Ozarks.
- Their lawsuit is challenging the Biden Administration rule that added sexual orientation and gender identity to the Fair Housing Act.
- The case is now before the 8th US Circuit Court of Appeals.

