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Big Idea: The Bible Stands for Clear Gender Boundaries

House Bill 2. This **one law**, written to invalidate a Charlotte ordinance, has sparked a **firestorm of controversy**. It went **all the way** to the **White House** where the Obama Administration, via a joint statement on May 13th by the Justice and Education departments, **threatened withholding funding** from schools, based on an expansion of Title IX protections, if schools didn't change their policies and give special rights to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender students. A lawsuit, by thirteen states, stopped that action as the battle now wages in the courts.

The whole issue started in Charlotte, NC when activist members of the city council, after years of failed attempts, voted on February 22, 2016 in favor of an ordinance that states (among other things) that transsexuals may use the bathroom they choose based on whatever gender they feel that they are. The term *chosen gender identity* has surfaced to describe this state of mind.

Proponents of the change use terms like *fairness* and *inclusiveness* to argue their case. Entertainers, including Bruce Springsteen, pulled out of scheduled performances in North Carolina in protest of House Bill 2. Major corporations -- Apple, Target, and PayPal -- also piled on. Most recently, college and professional sports organizations have moved tournaments out of North Carolina to **punish** the state. Even Duke's basketball coach, Mike Krzyzewski, **chimed in** with his opposition to the law.

Most recently, the North Carolina governor proposed that Charlotte repeal the ordinance and then North Carolina would repeal House Bill 2. Monday night, the Charlotte City Council had their first opportunity to act. They remained defiant, and the battle rages on.

On the other side of the coin, people with traditional values feel the changes passed by the Charlotte ordinance violate their moral sensibilities and discriminate against **them** in favor of a **tiny minority** -- making public bathrooms and locker rooms unsafe and magnets for voyeurs and sexual predators.

They assert that these laws attempt to move the moral boundaries of our society further away from Biblical standards, absolute truth, and even objective, observable truth. They also **reject the moral authority** of entertainers, certain CEOs, sports organizations, and politicians -- none of which are known to be **paragons of virtue** -- quite the opposite actually.

Who's right? What does the Bible say about these things? Today, we'll explore these questions as we continue our study of the Dispensation of Law.

You may recall last time we saw how the human heart is **desperately wicked**. Just a few weeks after receiving and pledging to obey God's law, the Israelites made a golden calf as their idol and "sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play."

Our first stop drops back into the Dispensation of Promise, to pick up a classic story that we passed over previously.

Genesis 19

*[1] And there came **two angels** to Sodom at even[ing];
and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom:
and Lot seeing them rose up to meet them;
and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground;
[2] And he said, Behold now, my lords, turn in, I pray you, into your servant's house,
and tarry all night,
and wash your feet,
and ye shall rise up early,
and go on your way[].*

*And they said,
Nay; but we will abide in the street all night.*

Lot knew what happened at night in Sodom and didn't want these angels, his guests, exposed to that. When Lot **chose** this land back in Genesis 13, the Bible made this commentary:

*[13] But the men of Sodom were **wicked** and sinners before the LORD **exceedingly**.*

Returning to Genesis 19:

*[3] And he pressed upon them greatly;
and they turned in unto him,
and entered into his house;
and he made them a feast,
and did bake unleavened bread,
and they did eat.*

*[4] But before they lay down, the men of the city, even the **men of Sodom**, [surrounded] the house,
both old and young, **all the people** from **every quarter** [of the city]:
[5] And they called unto Lot, and said unto him,*

*Where are the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may **know** them.*

This word *know*, as is in English, is a broad term but here refers to an intimate physical relationship as a husband with a wife (Genesis 4:1). Clearly, the men of Sodom were homosexuals looking to feed their lust.

*[6] And Lot went out at the door unto them,
and shut the door after him,
[7] And said,
I pray you, brethren, do not so wickedly.
[8] Behold now,
I have two daughters which have not **known** [a] **man**;
let me, I pray you, bring them out unto you,
and do ye to them as is good in your eyes:
only unto these men do nothing;*

Why?

for therefore came they under the shadow of my roof.

Lot proposed to give his virgin daughters to them to appease their lust to protect these two guests. That indeed is very strange.

*[9] And they said, **Stand back.***

They then told Lot that he (an outsider) had no right to judge them.

*now will we deal **worse with thee**, than with them.*

These were sexual predators of the worst sort.

They shoved Lot to the point of nearly breaking the door.

Then the angels inside grabbed Lot, pulled him inside and shut the door.

*[11] [Then] they smote the men that were at the door of the house with blindness, [] so that they **wearied themselves** to find the door.*

The angels told Lot to take all of his family and get out of Sodom.

*[13] For we will **destroy** this place,*

Why?

*because the cry of them is [] great before the face of the LORD;
and the LORD hath sent us to **destroy** it.*

Then Lot warned his sons-in-law (likely betrothed to his two daughters), but they didn't take him seriously.

At daybreak, the angels hurried Lot to take his wife and daughters and run for their lives.

*[16] And while he **lingered**,
the men laid hold upon his hand,
and upon the hand of his wife,
and upon the hand of his two daughters;
the LORD being merciful unto him:*

Don't miss that. The LORD's salvation demonstrates his mercy.

and they brought him forth, and set him [outside] the city.

*[17] And it came to pass, when they had brought them [out], that he said,
Escape for thy life;
look not behind thee,*

*neither stay [] in [] the plain;
escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed.*

Lot was not comfortable living in the mountains and begged them to let him go to a small city named Zoar. The angels honored his request, and they fled to Zoar.

*[24] Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah **brimstone and fire** ... out of heaven;
[25] And he overthrew those cities,
and all the plain,
and all the inhabitants of the cities,
and that which grew upon the ground.
[26] But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.
[27] And Abraham [got] up early in the morning ...
[28] And he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah,
and toward all the land of the plain,
and beheld,
and, lo, the **smoke of the country** went up as the **smoke of a furnace**.*

Okay, so based on the story of Sodom, God views wanton homosexual behavior as wickedness worthy of severe judgment.

What **else** does God have to say about this. First of all, there's the matter of clothing:

Genesis 3

*[20] And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living.
[21] Unto Adam also and to his wife **did** the LORD God make coats of skins, and **clothed them**.*

So there's an **aspect of modesty** regarding covering **nakedness** that God sanctioned.

With that, we arrive back into the Dispensation of Law.

Leviticus 18

*[6] None of you shall approach [] any that is near [] kin to him,
to uncover their nakedness:
I am the LORD.*

That is, sexual activity and interbreeding with near family members is forbidden. We know now through genetics that inbreeding results in expression of recessive genetic defects. We also know that near relatives are responsible for a high percentage of sexual abuse cases including of children.

*[22] Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is **abomination**.*

Here is an explicit prohibition against homosexual relationships. For the LGBT crowd that at least excludes the LGB part.

*[29] For whosoever shall commit any of **these abominations**, even the souls that commit them shall be **cut off** from among their people.*

God says to purge your land of people committing these things. The way he directs them to be purged is described in Leviticus 20. But let's pick up a few more verses first.

*[30] Therefore shall ye keep mine ordinance,
that ye **commit not any one** of these **abominable customs**,
which were committed before you,
and that ye **defile not** yourselves therein:
I am the LORD your God.*

Leviticus 19

*[28] Ye shall not make any **cuttings in your flesh for the dead**,
nor **print any marks upon you**:
I am the LORD.*

Have you ever noticed that many of the same people who advocate for homosexual causes also disfigure their bodies – most frequently with piercings and tatoos?

Then Leviticus 20 declares the **death penalty** for the sins just mentioned. We'll just look at just two:

*[10] And the man that committeth **adultery** with another man's wife, even he that committeth adultery with his neighbour's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress **shall surely be put to death**.*

And then for homosexuals we have:

*[13] If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an **abomination**:
they shall surely be put to death;
their blood shall be upon them.*

Now let's skip to Deuteronomy 22:

*[5] The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man,
neither shall a man put on a woman's garment:
for all that do so are **abomination** unto the LORD thy God.*

So there's at least a big part of the *T* in the *LGBT* world. Cross-dressing is explicitly forbidden. And we have one last verse from the Torah:

Deuteronomy 23

*[17] There shall **be no whore** of the daughters of Israel, nor **a sodomite** of the sons of Israel.*

With the death penalty for these sins, clearly prostitution, adultery, and homosexuality cannot flourish, grow, or be accepted under God's law. The New Testament reinforces these laws:

Matthew 19

*[4] And he [that is Jesus] answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that **he** which made them at the beginning made them **male and female**,*

*[5] And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they **twain** shall be one flesh?*

That's a clear picture of traditional marriage and a clear statement of distinct male and female genders.

Romans 1

*[18] For the **wrath of God** is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, ...*

*[26] For this cause God gave them up unto **vile affections**: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is **against nature**:*

*[28] And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God **gave them over** to a **reprobate mind**, to do those things which are **not convenient**;*

*[32] Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are **worthy of death**,*

We read about that death penalty back in Leviticus 20.

*not only do the same, but **have pleasure** in them that do them.*

Hence, we have not only gay **nightclubs**, but also gay **pride**, gay **rights**, and now even gay **marriage**. Our culture indeed has descended far from God's standards.

Application

Have you heard that New York City has identified 31 so-called *gender identities*? As **absurd** as this sounds, that's where ungrounded, godless thinking leads – to confusion: Pandora's box – you might say.

We learned earlier, even sports organizations and coaches are speaking out in favor of special rights and accommodations for people suffering from transgenderism. They want to **blur** the **clear** lines the Lord has drawn relating to gender, gender differences, and the family. Satan hates the family. All of this is against nature.

I Corinthians 4

*[19] For the wisdom of this world is **foolishness** with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.*

*[20] And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are **vain**.*

Of course, the end result of this kind of ungrounded thinking will actually eliminate the distinction between men's and women's sports that they embrace.

But from from the beginning, **God created us with clear gender boundaries**.

Genesis 1

*[27] So God created man **in his own image**, in the **image of God** created he him; **male** and **female** created he them.*

The DNA of each cell of our bodies declares we are either male or female.

*[28] And God **blessed** them, and God said unto them, Be **fruitful**, and **multiply**, and replenish the earth, ...*

That's what husbands and wives do.

There's a **beauty** and **majesty** in how God made man and woman in the very **image** of their Creator – with complementary roles and the ability to reproduce.

Satan is doing everything he can to disrupt, distort, disfigure, dismantle, and destroy that image.

The songwriter says:

*O to be like Thee!
full of compassion,
Loving, forgiving, tender and kind,
Helping the helpless,
cheering the fainting,
Seeking the wand'ring...*

*lowly in spirit,
Holy and harmless,
patient and brave;
Willing to suffer, others to save.*

*O to be like Thee! O to be like Thee!
Blessed Redeemer, **pure** as Thou art;
Come in Thy sweetness, come in Thy fullness;
Stamp **Thine own image** deep on my heart.*

What a contrast!

Matthew 5 puts it this way:

[16] Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

And I Timothy 2 says this specifically to ladies:

*[9] In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in **modest** apparel, with [decency] and [propriety] ; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;
[10] But (which becometh women professing godliness) with **good works**.*

May the beauty of holiness shine brighter through each of us in this increasingly dark and defiled world.

Benediction

The LORD bless thee, and keep thee:

The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee:

The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

(Numbers 6:24-26)

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