



A Measure of Grace

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Transgender Issues Part 1

by Roger Jones

Over the past months, the word “transgender” has been given more airtime than perhaps ever before. While there have been a few transgender celebrities in the news, Caitlyn Jenner (formerly Bruce) brought the issue to the forefront of the American conversation. The latest topics are 1) a law in North Carolina (and other states) mandating that people use the public restroom that matches their biological sex and 2) Target’s restroom policy that states, “...we welcome transgender team members and guests to use the restroom or fitting room facility that corresponds with their gender identity.”

And then the boycotts began. On one side of the debate, Bruce Springsteen canceled a concert in North Carolina to express his opinion that law the passed there is discriminatory. A number of businesses

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have followed suit, including Paypal, which was planning

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an expansion office to be built in the state. On the other side of the debate, almost 1.2 million people and counting have signed petitions stating they will not shop at Target, because they feel unsafe using the restrooms there. Protesters have shown up in Target stores to express their concerns in a variety of ways.

Once again, it almost seems that the two sides of the argument are speaking completely different languages. Certainly they are coming from very different world views and have different priorities. One side is trying to make the point that transgender people have the right to safety and comfort, just as anyone else does when going to the restroom. The other side is concerned about having someone of a different gender in a restroom, locker room, or changing room with them or their children. They are also worried about perpetrators who may take advantage of the situation and pose as transgender persons to gain access to women and children in vulnerable situations. Given such differing perspectives, there does not seem to be the possibility of a “meeting of the minds” any time soon.

How should we respond to all of this? Is a boycott the right solution? I don’t know. I do know that in the midst of all the shouting and chaos, there are real life people who are being affected by the “conversation.” When we forget about the individuals and only talk about the “issues,” I think we take a step away from what Christ is calling us to do, to love others as He does. There are individuals who

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experience a deep schism within themselves regarding their biological gender and their gender identity (the gender they feel themselves to be). We do not know why this is a reality for some people. There are also individuals who have been abused and or raped who are traumatized and re-traumatized by the possibility of some-

one of the opposite gender being present with them in a restroom, changing room or locker room.

For the purpose and length of this article, I cannot solve these problems or fully address all of the conflicting priorities. I can, however, urge us to pray and seek to understand the issues better.

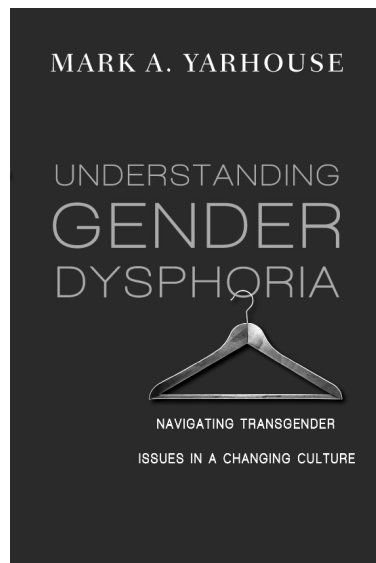
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Over the next few months, I will be addressing some of the different approaches to transgender issues. In his book *Understanding Gender Dysphoria: Navigating*

Transgender Issues in a Changing Culture, Mark Yarhouse has identified three “frameworks” or “lenses” that people use when thinking about this topic. They are 1) the integrity framework, 2) the disability framework, and 3) the diversity framework. I will explore each of these frameworks in more depth in the coming months, but will explain them in brief here. It is helpful to understand where someone else may be coming from and make sense of why some conversations seem to go nowhere.

The integrity framework “views sex and gender and, therefore, gender identity conflicts in terms of ‘the sacred integrity of maleness and femaleness stamped on one’s body.’”¹ The disability framework views gender dysphoria “with reference to the mental health dimensions of the phenomenon For Christians who are drawn more to this framework, gender dysphoria is viewed as a result of living in a fallen world in which the condition --like so many mental health concerns--is a nonmoral reality.”² The diversity framework views transgender issues as “something to be celebrated, honored or revered”³; being transgender is just



another variation of God’s wonderful creations.

I would like to take the time to explore each of these frameworks, the pros and the cons, in an effort to better understand where those with a different perspective than mine are coming from. This will be a good exercise/learning experience for me. I hope it will be helpful for you too. My prayer is that we can see through the “big cultural issues” to the persons who are at the core.

¹ Yarhouse, Mark A., *Understanding Gender Dysphoria: Navigating Transgender Issues in a Changing Culture*, IVP Academic, Downers Grove, Illinois, 2015, pg. 46.

² Yarhouse, pg. 48.

³ Yarhouse, pg. 50.



We will be having a picnic potluck. Please bring your favorite dish to share according to the list below.

If your last name begins with:

A-G Please bring an Appetizer

H-L Please bring a Side Dish

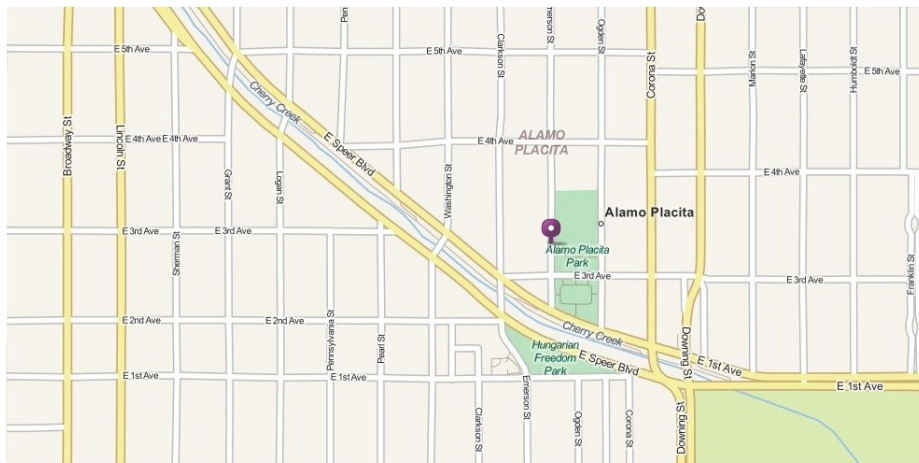
M-S Please bring a Salad

T-Z Please bring a Dessert

**Fried chicken and beverages will be provided
Lunch will be served beginning at noon**

**RSVP by Wednesday, May 25th to
Nancy at 303-863-7757 or
nancy@wheregraceabounds.org**

- Please bring a blanket or chair to sit on
- There is a playground area for the kids!
- No alcoholic beverages or glass allowed in the park



**Alamo Placita Park, 300 Emerson St.; Denver CO 80218
In the event of inclement weather, celebration will be held at the
WGA Offices at 1532 Emerson Street**

By Scott Kingry

By Scott Kingry



Sometimes when I step back and think about it, I'm sincerely constantly amazed at the Internet and how it's changed life over the last 20 years. I remember thinking of an old cartoon theme song from the 70's—how'd that go again? Then punching it in the search engine and it suddenly came up—seriously? When I'm not doing important stuff like that, I can do my banking, virtually tour muse-

But it's always good to come across resources that are helpful, healing and protective against the darker forces of life in the digital world. Here are a few that have recently crossed my path that I'd like to share with you:

According to I-Tunes—"Brain Buddy is designed to help you re-wire your brain from the effects of pornography and masturbation, freeing you from sexual addiction so become stronger, smarter and happier"

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For a small weekly or monthly fee, the Brain Buddy App will offer you a daily morning checkup which learns from you and tracks your progress. Based on 3000 hours of patient study, the app monitors the factors that lead to dopamine cravings and protects you from relapse. Each day you'll receive a new mission card. Every mission you complete rewires your brain to seek out healthy sources of dopamine, instead of unsatisfying porn. Rebooting your brain has immense psychological and physical benefits. Brain Buddy unlocks achievements as your brain, body and life get better. It will track your progress, learn your strengths and weaknesses, and will show how far you've come by the daily growth of a small tree icon. It's fun to watch that tree grow! This would be a great thing to do together in community for mutual support.

For more information go to <http://www.brainbuddyapp.com>

BARK **MONITORING SOFTWARE**

According to the website—"How

to protect your children online? Our solution helps keep your children safe from cyberbullying and online predators without you having to spend hours reading their activity."

For a free month to start and then a monthly fee of \$9.00, Bark monitoring software:

- Intelligently analyzes your child's social activity behind the scenes
- Sends you and your child alerts about possible issues
- Provides recommended action on how to deal with issues
- Doesn't interfere with safe behaviors
- Uses data science and machine learning, and is far more accurate than just looking for keywords

For more information go to www.bark.us





April In Review

April 15th: WGA presentation at Issachar Center for Urban Leadership

April 21st–23rd: Roger and Scott attended the National Q Conference, held in Denver This year

Thursday Night Group

April 7th: 18 people
April 14th: 21 people
April 21st: 27 people
April 28th: 23 people

Orientation meeting: 3 new people

May And Beyond

May 20-21st: Circles of Support and Accountability volunteer training

May 28th: Memorial Weekend Picnic—see inside newsletter for details

June 4th: Intercessory Prayer meeting, 8:00 am at the WGA offices. Come join us as we pray for the needs of the ministry.

June 15th: Monthly Orientation Meeting required for participation in WGA's Thursday Night Group—invite a friend!

July 13th: WGA presentation to youth at Rocky Mountain Youth Camp

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A Measure of Grace
is edited by
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Where Grace Abounds exists to guide and support men and women who seek to understand sexuality and relationship, and to inspire all people to know and personally appropriate God's plan for their sexuality and relationships.

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