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# A Measure of Grace

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## Transgender Issues Part 2 *by Roger Jones*

In May's issue of *A Measure of Grace*, I introduced the topic of transgender. Since writing that article, the subject has continued to be in the news. President Obama issued a directive stating that schools should allow students to use the bathroom that corresponds with their sexual/gender identities (who they believe themselves to be) if they conflict with the genders indicated on their birth certificates. While not a law, the directive came with the implication that federal funding for schools that don't cooperate may be in jeopardy.

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As I stated in the previous article, I am not sure what the solution to this problem is. There are real people struggling deeply with their gender identities. At the same time, allowing bathrooms and locker rooms to be accessible to transgender people raises lots of fears and concerns for others. The fear is not necessarily of transgender people, but of others who might take advantage of the law and perpetrate violence and/or abuse against women and children. As a country, we seem to be at a standoff with no compromise in sight.

With so much that is out of our control, I think it helpful to do our best to try and understand the issues at hand. It helps to humanize the people on both sides of the debate: including those living as a gender other than their biology indicates and those who have an incarnational view of gender (that it should not be altered, because God created people male and female in His image). 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 discuss the integrity framework in this article.

Before I go further, I want to explain why it is important to understand these three different perspectives. Bottom line, they are so different that it is almost like they require us to speak different languages. For a Christian who has a strong belief that male and female are direct reflections of the intentions and character of God, the idea of messing with gender is a really big deal. For someone who sees transgender as another

of God’s unique creations to be celebrated, “male” and “female” may not be as connected to the essence of who God is to them. It can be a real challenge to communicate when the starting places are so far apart from one another. This is especially true when we don’t realize how far apart we actually are. Understanding that there may be a big disconnect

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Roger, Jill, and Julia Jones are pleased to introduce the newest member of their family!

### **William Scott Jones**

Born on Wednesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 at 1:01 PM. He weighed in at 6 pounds and 2 ounces and was 19 inches long. William is healthy and gaining weight. Jill and Roger (mostly Jill) are sleep deprived.

Julia (age 3) loves "her baby" and seems to be taking out all of her angst about the transition on mommy and daddy, rather than the baby.



*By Scott Kingry*

integrity (in-ti-grē-tē) *n.*  
 1. The state of being  
 honest, free  
 from hypocrisy,  
 dishonesty, or  
 duplicity. 2. The state of being  
 honest, free  
 from hypocrisy,  
 dishonesty, or  
 duplicity.

Net Nanny offers  
3 different pack-  
ages based on  
your needs-  
\$39.99 per year

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(Resources continued from page 4)

install and configure, it is usable on almost any device, and it's priced right.

LINK: [www.netnanny.com](http://www.netnanny.com)



### **X3 WATCH**

Offered through the XXX Church website, a Christian non-profit aimed at helping those who struggle with pornography. This monitoring software works on all devices, with one account and one report and is available on Mac, PC, I-phone, I-pad or Android devices. There are 2 packages available. A basic plan for \$24.99 year or a premium plan with bonus features for \$64.99. Be sure to check out all the available resources on the XXX Church website—there are some good ones.

LINK: [x3watch.com](http://x3watch.com)



**CovenantEyes®**

### **COVENANT EYES**

Covenant Eyes offers individual filtering and accountability (two separate programs). They carry 2 packages: A Personal account (for individuals or couples without kids) for \$10.99 a month or a family package (families with children) for \$14.99 per month. Covenant Eyes is useable on Windows, MacOS,

iOS and Android devices, though Android devices do not have access to the full range of features. One drawback with Covenant Eyes is that users pay monthly, which could get expensive over time.

LINK: [www.covenanteyes.com](http://www.covenanteyes.com)



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from the very beginning of the conversation makes moving forward possible.

In Yarhouse's words, one using 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."

Cross-gender identification is a concern in large part because it threatens the integrity of male-female distinctions .... [T]he theological concerns rest in the denial of the integrity of one's own sex and an overt attempt at marring the sacred image of maleness or femaleness formed by God.<sup>1</sup>

Those coming from the "integrity" perspective tend to be conservative theologically speaking. They may be quite compassionate regarding the deep struggle of a person trying to come to terms with their gender identity, but regard biological maleness or femaleness as the key factor in its

resolution. Most from this perspective would be concerned about cross-gender behavior, from minimal cross-dressing to the more more invasive, surgical options that attempt to match biology with gender identity.

Those who espouse the "integrity" perspective need to be cautious on several fronts. While in most cases biological gender is

clear (with the exception of intersex people, whose biology is ambiguous), the definitions of gender roles and gender behaviors can be quite subjective and vary wildly from culture to culture. Our own cultural ideas of what it means to be a man or a woman have changed significantly over the past 50 years. For ex-

ample, whereas men were once the primary or sole wage earners, now most families have two working parents, often with the female earning more money. Many cultural norms have been turned on their heads since WWI. Another reason for caution is that we live in a fallen world. The perfection we were designed for has not existed since sin entered the world. It stands to reason that

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conversation  
makes moving  
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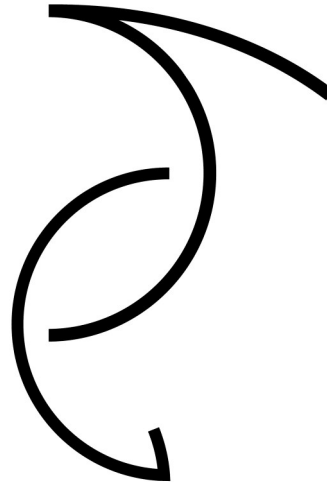
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even our DNA is affected sin. We don't know enough about what causes gender dysphoria, but it is likely a mixture of genetic and environmental elements.

Here are some final thoughts to consider before I wrap this up. Amongst the LGBTQ+ community, the rate of suicide is the highest for those dealing with transgender issues. These people are often the targets for bullying and violence. Many believe that if transgender people would simply stop cross-dressing and live out their biological genders, violence would subside. Perhaps this would reduce violence against them. But consider this: all of the behaviors associated with transgender are about reducing anxiety. Despite the very real threats of violence and harm they face, they feel less anxious when cross-dressed or pursuing gender reassignment. I don't know if a person who is not gender dysphoric can fully understand the level of discomfort a transgender person lives with just being in their own skin.

Next month, we will look at the "disability" framework and explore what it means and how it relates to the "integrity" framework.

<sup>1</sup>Mark A. Yarhouse, *Understanding Gender Dysphoria: Navigating Transgender Issues in a Changing Culture* (Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2015), 46.





## June In Review

**June 21-23<sup>rd</sup> – Scott and Steve attended the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC) General Assembly in Detroit. They hosted a table and spoke at a luncheon there.**

**June 22<sup>nd</sup> – William Scott Jones born**

## July And Beyond

**July 3<sup>rd</sup>: Mary speaking at Buffalo Creek Church**

**July 13<sup>th</sup>: Scott and Roger teaching at Rocky Mountain Youth Camp**

**August 4<sup>th</sup> – Mary will be at the Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends**

**August 6<sup>th</sup>: Intercessory Prayer meeting, 8:00 am at the WGA offices. Come join us as we pray for the needs of the ministry**

**August 11-13<sup>th</sup> – Mary will be at the Rocky Mountain yearly Meeting of Friends**

**October 16<sup>th</sup> – WGA participating in the Cherry Creek Presbyterian missions event**

**October 16<sup>th</sup> – WGA participating in the Denver Friends Church missions event**

**October 21-23<sup>rd</sup> – WGA Leadership retreat**

### **Thursday Night Group**

**June 2<sup>nd</sup>: No Group**

**June 9<sup>th</sup>: 30 people**

**June 16<sup>th</sup>: 24 people**

**June 25<sup>th</sup>: 23 people**

**Orientation meeting: 2 new people**

### **WGA Staff**

**Roger Jones**  
Executive Director

**Scott Kingry**  
Program Director

**Mary Heathman**  
Founding Director

**Steve Huston**  
Chaplain/Church Liaison

**Jill Huston**  
Family & Friends Coordinator

*A Measure of Grace*  
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Elodie Ballantine Emig

*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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