

“Do not be afraid of those who can kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can kill both soul and body in Gehenna.”

The soul and body. From time immemorial, philosophers and Jews and Christians all knew and taught the truth that human beings are ensouled bodies. This means that we have souls which were created by God, souls which were joined in unity. They cannot be separated from each other and when we are resurrected at the end of the world, we will be resurrected both body and soul.

We often carelessly say that Jesus came to “save souls.” But the truth is that Jesus came to save human beings, human beings which are a unity of body and soul. This is why He had to be born as a human being from Mary. As St Gregory of Nazianzus taught, “that which He has not assumed, He has not healed.” Therefore, in order to redeem the human being in our totality, Jesus had to take on a human soul and human flesh so that He might free us from our sins.

This truth has been challenged throughout the centuries by those who teach that our souls, our minds if you will, are separate from our bodies. This flawed understanding sees our minds as who we truly are while our bodies are just empty vehicles for the soul, vehicles which can be changed and modified as we see fit since they are nothing but an object we possess. While this heresy, this misunderstanding of the human person, has taken many names through the centuries, it has arisen again in our lifetimes under the flag of transgender ideology.

This ideology teaches that who we are is separate from our bodies, and therefore we can and should remake our bodies to match who we are in our minds. They are saying that God somehow joined the wrong soul to the wrong body. This is contrary to the truth of the human person because we cannot be “in” the wrong bodies because our bodies are an integral part of who we are. This understanding negates the truth that our Lord became man to set us free.

And yet, many people try to argue that science has proved that transgenderism is real. This could not be more contrary to the truth. Many recent scientific articles only serve to prove that human beings are binary, male or female, in every respect down to the smallest cell. In a certain sense, we could also loosely argue that science has proved that human beings are a union of body and soul because we can have a psycho-somatic illnesses. This means that a problem in our mind can causes illness in our body and vice-versa. In the end, what science truly proves is that those who suffer from gender dysphoria are suffering from true psychological distress which needs treatment and counseling, not affirmation.

For some of you, this topic might be coming out of left field, but it is a necessary discussion because there is a trillion dollar campaign across the globe saturating our children with this ideology on the tv and internet and in the schools. What they hide, however, is the dark truth, the truth which facts tell us. They hide the fact that 41% of those who embrace the transgendered lifestyle end their lives in suicide. They hide the fact that those who go on cross-sex hormones are sterilized for life. They hide the fact that many people who transition after many years go into deep depression and regret.

These facts that I am stating do not come from Christians or Catholics because sadly, few if any of us have begun to speak about these issues. These facts come from doctors and psychologists and scientists who are themselves supporters of Gay and Lesbian issues but are seeing the horrible effects this ideology is having on children. The transgender movement is completely contrary to the true understanding of the human person and contrary to our faith. And therefore, in the end, it is contrary to true human happiness and flourishing.

So if this is the case, why are so many people supporting it? There are many different reasons. Some support it for ideological reasons. Some support it thinking

that it is the compassionate response, not knowing that the true compassionate response is getting their loved ones real help. There are many reasons, but at its very roots, this is a demonic attack against the human person, against the family, and against the faith.

I want to make a direct appeal to anyone who might be suffering from gender dysphoria. Our God did not make a mistake with you. You are loved as you are, and you do not need to change yourself to be loved. Life is difficult and confusing and sometimes we aren't sure who we are and don't feel like we fit in. I beg you to not believe these ideological lies, however, because while they might make us feel happy at first, eventually it only leads to even deeper darkness and despair. Come and let us love you as you are, with all of your struggles so that we can get you the true help that you need. Even if you do transition, we are still here for you here with open arms when you are ready to come.

My brothers and sisters, we must respond to this growing issue. We must love those who are suffering from gender dysphoria while we must also proclaim the truth about the human person. We must take time to discuss these with our family and friends, especially with our children. I must admit, the fight ahead of us terrifies me because it seems overwhelming. The words of Jeremiah from today's first reading ring in my ears. "Terror! Terror on every side! Denounce! Let us denounce him! All who were my friends are on the watch for any misstep of mine." If we stand up for the truth, we will be denounced as bigots. And yet, if we truly love our brothers and sisters, we cannot stay silent. We cannot stand aside and watch an entire generation destroy itself. While it will be difficult, we must stand up as witnesses, martyrs for the truth, knowing that in the end the victory is our God's.

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