

Boys in My Girl's Bathroom!?

Sacrificing God's Gifts to the Idols of Self and State

by Noel W. Sterett

My wife and I have three children—two boys and a girl. Male and female God created them. My little girl currently weighs about three pounds and spends her evenings kicking my wife, who is due in July. Right now my little girl knows nothing about her boisterous brothers or much of the world outside the womb. She probably doesn't even know she is a girl, but she is. The ultrasound and doctor confirmed it. And no preference, medical procedure, or even parental empowerment will be able to change her to a him or to a "nir" as the gender neutral lobbyists would demand. For now though, she knows nothing of the war on gender or of the tragic lives of a growing number of children who are being encouraged to identify as something, anything, other than how they were made—be it a different gender or even a different species. She will soon learn though that many parents are teaching their children, perhaps her future friends, to reject God and His gifts and to worship the idol of self—like they do. In their eyes, I am "a bad person" if I encourage my daughter to accept God and His gifts despite how she feels.

What my daughter also doesn't know is that she is mine. My wife and I are her parents. We are not surrogates for the state. My wife and I (and not the state) have the natural right, privilege, and duty to direct her care, custody, and education. Our parental rights are recognized and protected by, but do not emanate from, the Constitution. Many courts in this Country have noted that parental rights were God-given and not to be subordinated to the state's interests—except for "gross [parental] misconduct and almost total unfitness." As the Illinois Supreme Court said in 1870, the notion that a child is absorbed in and completely subject to the "despotism of the State is wholly inadmissible in the modern civilized world."

These days, however, the notion that the state may have a superior claim to my little girl is gaining traction. Take the state's interest in fixing failing public schools for example. Some are now openly arguing that you "are bad person if you send your children to private school. Not bad like murderer bad—but bad like ruining-one-of-our-nation's-most-essential-institutions-in-order-to-get-what's-best-for-your-kid bad."¹ In their eyes, I must sacrifice my child and her education to the idol of the state and to serve its interests—which are legion.

So what does all of this have to do with boys in girls' bathrooms? Everything now that the state has claimed an interest in supporting the idol of self in the arena of gender and sexuality. On May 7, 2015, the school board of Fairfax County, VA, despite overwhelming parental opposition, voted 10-1 to allow anyone who self-identified at any-time as a boy into the girls' bathrooms. The school board decided that parental rights, privacy rights, and the best interests of little girls had to be sacrificed at the altar of self and state. Three days later the Washington Post ran an article shaming the parents who dared to assert their God-given rights and fulfill their God-give duties to stand up for their daughters.

In closing, I can only think to paraphrase the words of Joshua. We must choose for ourselves this day whom we will serve. You and your household may consider it preferable to serve self or the state rather than God. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD. ■

¹Allison Benedikt, "If You Send Your Kid to Private School, You Are a Bad Person," *Slate*, August 29, 2013, http://www.slate.com/articles/double_x/doublex/2013/08/private_school_vs_public_school_only_bad_people_send_their_kids_to_private.html