

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

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The Bible on the Importance of Being a Boy or a Girl

When a child I learned from Mother Goose stories and poems. One of these, originally written by English poet Robert Southey (1774-1843) was entitled What Folks are Made Of. The entire poem is some 13 stanzas long.

A segment of that rhyme is: “What are little boys made of? Snips and snails [or rusty nails] and puppy dogs’ tails...What are little girls made of? Sugar and spice and all things [everything] nice.” There are variations in the phrases and words that have been offered over the years but the above is the gist of Southey’s writing.

It seems that there are some of our societies in the 21st century that have either lost or want to lose their identity of being male or female. We hear of gender changes, sexual perversion, and physical operations. Moral walls and lines have tumbled and fallen to the prey of non-biblical thinking philosophers.

The Bible, however, is explicit on the importance of the male or female gender. Masculinity and femininity are addressed in so many biblical stories.

From the beginning in Gen. 1:27 the Pentateuch author said, “And God created man to His own image: to the image of God He created him: male and female He created them. Continuing to Gen. 5:2 Moses wrote, “He [God] created them male and female; and

blessed them: and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created.”

Surely it is clear; God made both male and female. Did you know, however, that there are people, allegedly intellectuals, who argue that frogs, that’s right, frogs, are amphibians and therefore are neither male nor female. Such philosophers deduce that since frogs are neither, God did not describe every kind of human; and, that he created non-binary people! [Space here does not permit any further explanation on this dogma, e.g., eunuchs, celibacy, Matt. 19:12, DNA, sperm, eggs, castration, mastectomy, etc.)

After the creation evidence in Genesis there is never a later scriptural reference outside male-female genders. If there is another type of human, why does not God give us at least one reference?

Postulations predicated on using a modern-day theory to apply to ancient biblical accounts is to practice eisegesis, i.e., one starts with his/her own idea and attempts to put it into a text. Exegesis is drawing out the meaning by what is found in the text. E.g., transgenderism, lesbianism, homosexuality are foreign to the scriptures except that they are condemned for their practice. (Read Rom. 1:18-23).

When God destroyed the earth by water and restarted mankind, He commanded Noah to preserve his wife, sons, and their wives. Isn’t it interesting that He also said, “You shall bring two of every kind into the ark, to keep them alive with you; THEY SHALL BE MALE AND FEMALE.” (Gen. 6:18-19). He preserved BOTH male and female, distinctive classes, in mutually the human and animal kingdoms.

Be that as it may Christians are to LOVE even the perverted and deviant. They have souls to save no matter how woeful their practices and misunderstandings are. They can be converted!

✍ Gary L. Fiscus

Almost Doesn't Count

One of the most disappointing words one can ever hear is the word "almost." You see, the word "almost" means "very nearly, but not exactly" and when one tells someone that they almost did this or that, they are simply expressing a failure in their attempt to achieve something.

For instance, we often hear athletes say "we almost won the game." However, being close to, or nearly winning a ball game does not provide a tally in the win column for the team, but rather a mark in the loss column.

In Acts 26:28, King Agrippa told the apostle Paul, "You almost persuade me to become a Christian." Again, it's important to note that the word "almost" means "very nearly, but not exactly or entirely." So, to be simply put, King Agrippa had believed what Paul had said pertaining to what the prophets had said in reference to Christ, but he was not willing to go all the way (i.e. submit himself in obedience) and do what was required of him to be a Christian.

Sadly, this is often the case with many today who hear the gospel of Christ. Many, like King Agrippa, will hear the gospel message, they will believe it, but they will fail to humbly submit themselves in obedience to it. However, my friend, when it comes to being a Christian, you must know that "almost doesn't count" (Acts 26:28-29).

You see, it has been said that "almost" only counts in two things, hand grenades and horseshoes. So, always remember, my friend, if you want to someday inherit a home in heaven, you are going to have to be totally committed to going to heaven (Luke 13:23-27).

Therefore, be one who fears God and keeps His commandments (Ecclesiastes 12:13). Be one who always put's God and His will first (Matthew 6:33, 26:39). Be one who submits yourself in obedience to the Lord and His will (Matthew 7:21), and be one who does all that you do to the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31), and remain faithful to the Lord unto death, for by doing so, you will someday inherit eternal life in heaven (Revelation 2:10).

Once more, when it comes to being a Christian, almost doesn't count! Therefore, be totally committed to being a Christian, and never forget that Divine vengeance will be taken upon those who do not know God, and upon those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Thessalonians 1:8-10). Knowing that, if you have not obeyed the gospel, do not be almost persuaded to become a Christian, but rather obey the gospel, and become a Christian today!

✍ Brad Phillips

Belleville church of Christ

5635 S County Rd 200E - Belleville, IN - (317) 539-5258

www.bellevillechurch.net

Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	4:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

Elders

David Lockhart (317) 714-6213

David Thomas (317) 945-8539

Evangelist

Brad Phillips (765) 720-2816