



Church Connection August 2021

Strengthening, Preserving & Promoting Marriage, Family, Life & Religious Freedom

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth...so God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

Gen. 1:1 & 27.

And [Jesus] answered and said unto them, "Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female...."

Matthew 19:4

Please Pray...

- For those struggling with God's "very good" design for them as male or female.
- For parents helping their children navigate today's culture.
- For pastors and youth pastors as they minister to families dealing with serious issues and concerns.
- For marriages in our churches.

When Autonomy Collides With Reality

Reality is revealed in the opening statement of the Rinerrant, unchanging, eternal Word of God: *"In the beginning God...."* It's not *"In the beginning I."* Functionally, however, many people operate today as if *"In the beginning I"* is truth. They believe they are autonomous beings, self-made and self-determining.

Our public schools, the media and the culture have promoted evolution as fact for decades now, along with humanism, which views man as existing without a creator and as ultimate. Having banned Bible reading

and prayer from our schools, the view that we are autonomous beings naturally followed.

Believing humans are autonomous is at the root of abortion and the sexual revolution. The oft-repeated mantra of pro-abortionists is "my body, my choice." The argument is that as an autonomous person, a woman is the only one who gets to determine what happens to her body.

There is a very limited measure of truth relative to this concept of autonomy. We all make choices every day. But our choices are always limited by reality. A person can walk into a Culvers and demand hand-dipped strawberry ice cream. That may be our choice, but it won't change the reality that Culvers sells exclusively soft custard, not hand-dipped ice cream. Reality trumps autonomy.

Autonomy relative to abortion is trumped by the reality that it's not just the woman's life and body that is involved, but also the unborn baby. And what about the unborn child's autonomy? Of course, pro-abortion advocates never acknowledge the personhood of the unborn

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To Tell the Truth

Speaking the truth today often means saying things that make us unpopular. In this current cultural moment, many reject the idea that there is absolute truth. We often hear others say “truth is a myth” or “truth is relative” or “speak your own truth.”

The fact is, there is absolute truth. It is that which corresponds to reality. Jesus told Pilate, “To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth” (Jn. 18:37).

We may expect people to be offended when we speak the truth, even if we speak that truth graciously, as we should always seek to do (Eph. 4:15, Col. 4:6, etc.). We may also expect them to just walk away.

Praise God that in His providence, we know some people will respond to the truth with repentance and faith (Cf. Acts 17:34).

A young woman who lived as a transgender for 9 years testified: “When [you] get tired of the lies, [you] turn to the people who told [you] the truth, even when [you] didn’t want to hear it.” *From inhisimage.movie*

May God help us, as His people, to consistently live and tell the truth, (II Tim. 2:24-26).

baby. By referring to the unborn human as a clump of cells, the product of conception, or the fetus, they are doing their best to deny the reality—the truth—that there is another human being involved in this life-taking decision the woman claims is hers and hers alone to make. That’s a reality that rightly should limit the mother’s autonomy.

Relative to the sexual revolution, reality also rears its head. For instance, biological reality is that one’s sex is determined at the moment of conception. A person is either XX or XY, female or male. That’s an unchangeable reality. Men can claim to identify as women or women as men declaring they are acting on their autonomy. They can even autonomously demand doctors give them hormone therapies and perform irreversible surgeries in an attempt to change reality, but nothing will make a man a woman or a woman a man.

Another reality that trumps autonomy in the sexual revolution is that it takes both male and female to create new life. Egg and sperm must get together to make a new human. That’s a scientific reality. A same-sex couple, acting autonomously, cannot create a new human being on their own. It’s just not possible. They have to go outside themselves and involve the opposite sex in some way to do that. That’s an uncomfortable truth and reality for those who want everyone to believe that same-sex “marriage” is the same as heterosexual marriage. It’s not.

In every area of life, our proclaimed autonomy will be met with reality. And when that happens, autonomy must ultimately yield to reality. Simply put, as humans, we can make our choices, but our choices won’t alter reality.

“In the beginning God” is the ultimate reality. We are created beings, created by a wise, loving God, Who is incapable of making mistakes. We assert our autonomy against the Creator to our peril. Lucifer asserted autonomy—and he ran right smack into the reality of a holy, righteous God. We do well to live our lives in obedience to our great God and to lovingly showing and sharing the truth to those around us who are so very often on a collision course with the reality He created.

About Wisconsin Family Council

Wisconsin Family Council is a 501 (c)(3) organization that has been advancing Judeo-Christian principles and values in Wisconsin since 1986. We have largely done this by informing Wisconsin citizens, policymakers and churches about the important legislative and cultural issues so that they can be involved in strengthening, preserving and promoting marriage, family, life and religious freedom in our state.

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