## It Was Bound To Happen

John W. Ritenbaugh Given 17-Jun-17; Sermon #1384c

This article appeared in my email inbox on Tuesday following Martin's Sabbath commentary on transgenderism ["The LGBTQ Cultural Revolution (Part Two)"]. I am going to read you just a small quote from it at the beginning here:

The United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights is sanctioning a sexual revolution that will culminate in the legalization of whole-hearted support of transgenderism but will also support the legalization of pedophilia.

Later on, the article states, "We are on our way in this country to allowing and even encouraging sex with children. The last taboo is being eliminated." (That is the end of that.)

Anybody who follows sports even fairly loosely must have wondered when and where it was going to happen first and then hit the nation's news broadcasting systems. It happened in the Connecticut State Track and Field Championships within the past month.

What is it that happened once permission was given by a ruling body, empowered by the state, to decide such a thing? Here it is: A male transgender entered the female competition to compete against the top female track and field competitors in the state in the 100 and 200 meter races. And of course, this person (who says he is a she) won both races rather easily. This episode pictures clearly first what an attitudinal mess this sinful character defect is imprinting on American life.

Why did I say "first"? Because one of the first steps toward a culture accepting a sin as "normal" is the greater than normal willingness to live with it. I point to the Bible's example of Lot's pretty strong unwillingness to leave corrupt Sodom, and his wife's total intransigence to leaving, which

resulted in her being executed by God. Thus in that one episode, we see two people on the same declining path into the moral corruption of their environment but one was simply in a more advanced stage of total acceptance than the other.

Do you understand that transgenderism is a direct attack by Satan against God using people already caught up in his web of moral ambiguity? It is God who purposely created the male and female genders, doing so in order to create families for the goal of maintaining His purpose.

Satan's ultimate target is the destruction of the family God Himself is creating, and he is succeeding almost marvelously in Israelitish nations. All of them except, the United States, are experiencing declining birth rates. In some of them, the decline is quite steep.

God is not only a singular person; God is a family with similar characteristics. God is the Father and Jesus is the Son, and Jesus said, "The Father and I are one." God's Kingdom is a family kingdom. According to God's promise, the children of Abraham will number like the sand of the seashore.

Here is a question for you to consider: What glory has accrued to this man because he allowed himself to be persuaded to being displayed like this racing against the girls? The picture shown of him displayed his long hair like a woman normally has. But he in no way appeared feminine to this observer, despite the long hair. Every feature I saw in that photograph of him was masculine.

Did the women who raced against him think of him as a real woman like they are? Or did they think of him as a rotten, low-down, cheating man who competed unfairly with a distinct advantage over them?

In this case, the advantage was not drugs but the design of the Creator. This is another deceitful attack designed to create a small advance in undermining what little faith in the Creator and His standards of morality that exists in many people. It does so by means of increasing the social pressure on people in every social system in every nation.

What is happening by means of the transgenderism lie is the open attempt by Satan to convince people that gender is not biologically determined as God created it, but psychologically achieved. We are getting to the point of this talk. It is an attempt to twist people's minds that what is false is true and what is true is false.

It predicted this in the Bible. It is as old as Adam and Eve's sin. Didn't Satan challenge what God said to Eve? With a bit of paraphrasing, this is what Satan said: "You will not surely die; in fact you will be just like God. So you see, Eve, there is a benefit to your eating of the tree." Satan is still at it, convincing people there are positive, enjoyable, life-enhancing benefits to sinning.

We are living in a period of history during which the strongest attempts since before the Flood are being made to achieve a society in which people never engage in a conversation about sin, because sin is openly and forcefully being redefined and then repeatedly broadcast by anti-God humanists through entertainment, news broadcasts, and the government's educational systems. And brethren, they are succeeding almost marvelously at making the public at large think, just like Lot and his wife did, that sin really doesn't matter.

What it is succeeding to destroy? It is destroying the American public's virtue.

Do we even know what virtue is anymore? Was the male who unfairly competed against the girls virtuous?

Virtue is a term we hardly hear anymore, but my *Reader's Digest Great Encyclopedic Dictionary* has a great deal to say about it. Let me make this clear: Virtue is just plain flat-out goodness. We are losing our goodness.

Virtue consists of more than one quality. It is an entire package of qualities that, taken together, become what we call virtue. In the listing of the fruits of the Spirit, I believe the term Paul used that comes closest to defining virtue is "goodness." The commentaries state that the Greek word underlying goodness is *agathosuni*. They say it is hard to define in English. They say it is related to kindness, but its usage in Greek suggests it is more aggressive

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than mere kindness and appears to be given to serve others even though they do not deserve it.

Joseph Shipley, one of America's better-known word researchers, says of the term "virtue" that for a thousand years it was used by writers to indicate *courage* when applied to a man, *fidelity* when applied to a married woman, and *virginity* when applied to a single woman. Thus, strength of character—virtue—goodness is implied in each application. This is what we are losing.

Former Missouri State Senator Jim Lembke stated this. Now listen carefully. What he said is simple but it is also true wisdom. Mr. Lembke said:

- 1) If there is truth, there must also be a higher authority that establishes what that truth is. (That is simple to understand.) We must personally decide whether it is God or man.
- 2) If everything is true, then nothing is true.
- 3) If there is *not* a set of standards that are objectively true, then truth is relative and subject to change. (Tomorrow, truth will be different.)
- 4) If truth is relative, then our freedom, our liberty, our property, and maybe our life, are in danger.

Do you know what this means to us? We must fight to hold on to our virtue or it will be gone. We will be just like everybody else.