

# THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD

April 24, 2016

**"BE STRONG IN THE LORD AND IN THE POWER OF HIS MIGHT"**

PLEASANT PLAINS CHURCH OF CHRIST

JACKSON, TENNESSEE

## What does the Bible say about gender identity?

Hannah Holloway says, "I never really thought to myself, yes, I am a girl. Or, yes, I am a guy. I'm Hannah." Hannah's story along with several others was reported in Sunday's Kansas City Star in the Arts and Culture section. The Star devoted three full pages to the issue of gender identity. Hannah and others want to be classified as nonbinary. So, she doesn't want to be called by the pronoun "she" but the pronoun "they."

Another lead article discusses how the definition of transgender has continued to evolve. Kasimir Hazelwood thinks "normal" is a meaningless word. Hazelwood identifies as androgyne, someone masculine with feminine qualities. Rogers claims to be "genderfluid." That means sometimes Rogers feels like a male and other times a female. V is open to any sexual orientation and dates both men and women. "I like the label queer," says V, "because it is not clear cut."

So, now the new controversy in our culture is gender identity. This minority of mixed up people is clamoring for gender neutral public restrooms. Unisex locker rooms, and the right to identify however they choose on legal forms. Some applications provide the choice "Male," "Female" and "Other." Facebook now allows you to choose, "him," "her," or "their." How many others are there, you ask? According to an ABC report they have identified at least 58 gender options. They include bigender, pangender, transgender, Agender, intersex, Cis, Trans, and something called two spirit.

Don't you miss the days when life was simple? There were just boys and girls.

I don't claim to understand this confusion. I'm not a psychologist or psychiatrist. I'm a preacher. So, I will offer a simple Bible explanation.

Gender crisis and confusion exists because people have strayed away from God. They have lost their spiritual identity. And they have denied the Creator and His purpose for their lives. Our society is on the fast track to becoming like the pagan culture Paul described in Romans chapter one. "...They knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man — and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things" (Rom. 1:21-25)

The Bible says that in the beginning God created the first pair "male and female." He pronounced a blessing upon them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply." (Gen 1:27-28). Later when Jesus was asked by the Pharisees a question relating to marriage, he responded this way. *"Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."* (Matt 19:4-6)

The Bible does not give us free rein to choose our sexual preferences and gender identity. Our culture has taken something simple, and obvious and made it so complex and complicated that it goes beyond the absurd! Yet, "enlightened" educators, politicians, journalists and sadly some church leaders, nod with some kind of knowing empathy that everyone is entitled to their own beliefs, feelings, behavior and sexual identity or preference.

Our culture has lost its way. The real crisis today is a crisis of values. G. K. Chesterton was right when he wrote, "The danger when men stop believing in God is not that they'll believe nothing; but that they will believe in anything."

The solution is not to seek our gender identity, but to seek God. To desire spiritual communion with Him. And to accept who He created us to be.

Parents, preachers and Bible teachers must now emphasize to a new generation influenced by the confusion of their culture, that God created us. He made us male and female. He gave us distinct gender roles. And that our body does not belong to us, it belongs to the Lord.

**-Ken Weliever, [thepreachersword.com](http://thepreachersword.com)**

**We are so grateful that you have made the decision to join our family, today, as we worship our Almighty God! If you have any questions or inquiries, please feel free to ask any of our members and we would be more happy to answer as best we can! Please accept our invitation to join us, again, when you have the opportunity.**



Speaker:

NICK ANGEL

Sunday AM Notes 4-24-2016

**WHY DOESN'T PREACHING  
ALWAYS ACHIEVE THE  
DESIRED RESULT?  
EPHESIANS 4:11-24**

**THE \_\_\_\_\_ IS \_\_\_\_\_**

**THE \_\_\_\_\_ IS \_\_\_\_\_**

**THE \_\_\_\_\_ IS \_\_\_\_\_**



*Speaker:*

RYAN McDONALD

Sunday PM Notes 4-24-2016

# THE SUM OF A MAN

## Our Shepherds

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## Our Preacher

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### Times of Worship & Bible Study

#### Sunday:

**9:30 AM Bible Study**

**10:30 AM Worship Service:** You can expect heart felt singing, reverent prayer, preaching from the Word of God, a focused and reverent observance of the Lord's Supper, and an opportunity for the saints of Pleasant Plains to give back to the Lord.

**5:00 PM Worship Service**

#### Wednesday:

**7:00 PM Bible Study and Worship**

### Weekly Attendance

Last Sunday AM Worship.....125  
Last Sunday PM Worship.....94  
Last Wednesday Bible Study.....85

## In Our Prayers

### RECENT ADDITIONS/UPDATES:

**-Family of Andrew Westphal...** Andrew passed from this life this last Thursday. He leaves a young wife and many loved ones. Please remember this hurting family in your prayers.

**-Faye Spence...** continues to recover from pneumonia.

**-Jonathan Gateley...**having some medical tests run at the end of the month.

**-Louise Stitt (Amy Gailey's Mother)...** began cancer treatments this past Wednesday.

**-Helen Lovell's brother...**the doctors have told Helen's family that her only brother has only a short time to live.

**-Wayne Wilkinson (father of Jim Wilkinson)...**undergoing cancer treatments.

### CONTINUED PRAYERS:

**\*\*\*Our expecting mothers: Spring McDonald, Katie Angel, & Melody Brown.\*\*\***

**-Keller Stephens (Kathy Raines' Uncle)...** still struggling with his health.

**-Christy Bennett's Nephew Logan...**young man struggling with his health.

**-Barbara Leonard...**shut in and struggling with her health.

**-Christian Shadburn...**20 yr. old Christian in Bowling Green battling cancer.

**-Robin Hill.....** battling cancer.

**-Jamie Neal and family (Nancy Phillips' friend)...**Battling Melanoma.

**-Ashley Pickens (Brent Holt's cousin)...** Battling Cancer and has been readmitted to the hospital with complications.

**-Pray for the work of this church. The fields are white & we need to be hard at work to spread the Gospel to as many lost souls as possible.**

**-Men & women making the sacrifice to protect the freedoms of this country.**

**\*\*\*If you have any updates or additions to the prayer list, please see Nick (in person, phone call, text, or email) so we can keep the bulletin up to date.\*\*\***

## Pleasant Plains News

### Upcoming Pleasant Plains' Bible Studies & Events

✓**Song Practice - TBD** at the Angel's home after evening service. **First few minutes will focus on learning new songs, and then we will spend the rest of our time singing some of our favorite songs. Everyone is welcome!**

✓**Men's Bible Class - May 7th** at Panera Bread at 7:30am. Chapter 5 will be covered.

✓**Ladies Class - May 3rd** at 10:00am here at the church house. Lesson 7 will be covered.

✓**Young People's Gathering - \*TONIGHT\*** directly after evening service at the Angel's house. Lesson 4 of "The Big Picture" will be reviewed.

### Area Gospel Meetings & Events

●**Gospel Meeting with Gordon Grammar at the West Fayette Church of Christ in Eads, TN...** May 8-13. M-W at 7pm.

●**Lecture Series at Waverly Heights in Huntsville, AL...**May 12-15. Jeff May, Lawrence Kelly, Steve Klein, & Paul Earnhart will be presenting lessons.

●**Special Series of Lessons at the East Shelby Church of Christ in Collierville, TN...**May 13-15 with lessons presented by Terry Francis & Adam Shanks. See bulletin board for more details.

## Daily Bible Reading For This Week: Numbers 7-13

Please make an effort to be in daily reading and meditation of God's Word! This year we will be reading through the first 14 books of the Old Testament in an effort to learn along side our kids classes and to be instructed by those things written in earlier times. **(Romans 15:4)**