

Morals Paper: Go Ask Alice - By Harry Briley - 9/1998

Originally published for Committee on Moral Concerns
A former morals lobbyist organization in Sacramento

Background

I like Alice. S/he is consistent, compassionate, believes Jesus is the Christ, and likes Pooh (as in William the Bear). Alice is a spokesperson in the San Francisco Bay Area for those men and women who changed their gender through surgical means. Alice is a transgendered male who remains married to his/her wife. S/he has been the recipient of anger and hate from two camps: conservative Californians and (are you ready?) severe hostility from homosexual activists.

I discovered that Alice was not a mere inquirer but an active promoter of transgendered people. Yes, s/he suckered me into this one. We quickly concluded that we were on opposite theological poles on what the Bible claimed, but readily agreed that Jesus was central to faith and everyone needs Jesus within their lives. What amazed me most was Alice was the first civil person on this topic who argued without calling me names. So is that silly old bear, named Winnie, really a transgendered William? As the rock song says "Go ask Alice"

Alice wrote in 9/98 (excerpt from a longer memo):

"Has the Committee on Moral Concerns taken a position on transsexualism? I understand more and more Christian groups are reviewing their erroneous grouping of transsexuals into the homosexual tent because sexual orientation has nothing to do with this situation."

S/he also asked if we thought s/he was going to hell. This was not as baiting as it appears. The original context and tone was a genuine question about our theological position regarding transgendered people.

My three-part Answer to Alice

"My answer comes in three parts, none of which will fully address your situation.

First, the homosexual community is [significantly] responsible for the 'lumping' together in the public's mind. For example, the Department of Energy is sponsoring activity groups at its premier weapons laboratory called "*The Gay, Lesbian, Bi-Sexual, Transgender Activity Group*." In attending their meetings, it is clear that they consider you part of them. Moreover, so does the rest of the Department of Energy and University of California that implements such policy.

Second, the COMC does not isolate out transsexuals as a class. The terrible bills that we encounter in Sacramento tend to be exclusively homosexual-behavior driven and the State legislators do not attempt to single out transgender issues. I think transgender issues are simply not on their radar screen [back in 1998 and up through 2018] and thus you do not see references on our COMC web site about transgender issues.

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Third, on a personal level, I believe that gender is a given as a birthright or better yet, as a *birth responsibility* and stewardship. The COMC is composed of individual Christians who hold to traditional Christian theology. While none of the Board is Roman Catholic, you will find us in agreement with the Roman church on this issue of birthright. Even within Catholic communities, there is active encouragement for a person to come into a state of grace (make a turnaround) despite how they may have cut or altered their body.

Transgendered Yet Traditional Christians

Your memo strongly suggests that you are in the right and traditional theology is in the wrong. This short response cannot possibly do this topic justice. However, as a lonely civil voice on the net, I personally encourage you to contact transgendered people who have made the trip full circle. They forever altered (neutered) their body but they have reestablished their male identity because of finding grace within Jesus Christ.

In summary, your status in regards to hell depends on what you do with Jesus at your core level. If you take charge of your own life with Jesus as a sidebar, then that is not being in a state of grace. If you yield control to Jesus with your ego as the sidebar, then Jesus can bring order and holiness to us beyond our wildest imagination.

This is why Jesus asked his inner circle of friends, "*Who do men say that I am?*" and then later "*Now, who do you say that I am?*" He thus inferred that the term 'Lord' is not a trivial concept. It is virtually an unknown attitude in our [self-centered] culture. Alice, consider a turnabout as a holy choice."

PostScript

As introduced above, Alice did not consider transgender as unholy and agreed that our theologies were disparate. We parted friends knowing that neither was going to convince the other by a volley of words and logical arguments.

That briefly is the limitation of our legal system and indeed all human laws. The issue of homosexual activism at the legal level rarely deals directly with the behaviors that define homosexuality but more about whether the worldview held by homosexual activists should silence and overrule the traditional Christian worldview. This is why we advocate our conservative morals positions so earnestly in [liberal] Sacramento.

Silencing of civil discourse (as I enjoyed with Alice through several memos) and punishing traditional worldview property owners and employers (including churches) is a frightening Orwellian future that we face in California [discernable even back in 1998].

(We provide this paper to our readers to encourage choosing Jesus as your daily hope.)