

## *Eagle Mountain International Church*

### **What Christians Should Know About the Equality Act**

---

**Pastor George Pearsons – Sunday, October 18, 2020**

**A. Isaiah 5:20 (NKJV)—Woe to Those Who Call Evil Good, and Good Evil; Who Put Darkness for Light, and Light for Darkness; Who put Bitter for Sweet, and Sweet for Bitter!**

1. Veiled schemes against morality are often neatly packaged with a bow of nice-sounding names.
  - a. Abortion is packaged as “pro-choice” or “healthcare.”
  - b. The steering away from righteousness is “progressive.”
  - c. Promoting homosexuality is “tolerance.”
2. A new package has emerged on the scene using a similar word we all consider to be good: “equality” and it’s called “The Equality Act.”
3. But make no mistake — “The Equality Act” is anything but good.
4. It is both radical, highly controversial, and evil.
5. As we review the “Equality Act,” it will become more clear that this legislation is less about promoting equality and more about punishing dissenters.

**B. What Does the Democratic Platform say about “The Equality Act?”**

1. “Democrats applaud this year’s U.S. Supreme Court decision that made clear that employment discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity violates the law, but we know we still have work to do to ensure LGBTQ+ people are treated equally under the law and in our society.”
2. “We will fight to enact the ‘Equality Act’ and at last outlaw discrimination against LGBTQ+ people in housing, public accommodations, access to credit, education, jury service, and federal programs.”
3. “We will work to ensure LGBTQ+ people are not discriminated against when seeking to adopt or foster children, protect LGBTQ+ children from bullying and assault, and guarantee transgender students’ access to facilities based on their gender identity. Democrats will ensure federally funded programs for older adults are inclusive for LGBTQ+ seniors.”

**C. Where Do the Two Presidential Candidates Stand on “The Equality Act?”**

1. President Trump has refused to pass the “Equality Act” over the last four years.
2. Joe Biden said, “If I am elected President, that will be the first thing that I ask to be done.”

#### **D. What Would the “Equality Act” Accomplish?**

1. The “Equality Act” would amend the 1964 Civil-Rights to include sexual orientation.
2. It falsely equates one’s sexual conduct with immutable characteristics like skin color and ethnicity.
3. It openly contradicts the scriptural mandates that were given for our good.
  - a. It would deny our Biblical rights.
  - b. It would impact every church and business.
  - c. It would try to stop the church from preaching that the whole Bible is true.
  - d. It would prohibit us from calling a sin a sin.
  - e. We wouldn’t be able to say what God has created as good including the usage of terms such as “parents,” “marriage” and the discussion of the proper Biblical boundaries of human sexuality.
4. 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8 (NKVJ) “For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified. For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness.”
5. The “Equality Act” aims to cover sexual orientation or gender identity for the purposes of employment, housing, public accommodations, jury service, education and federal programs and to punish those who do not comply.
6. The “Equality Act” would invade every area of American life.
7. The “Equality Act” is the greatest threat to religious freedom ever proposed in America.

#### **E. Ten Examples of What We Should Know About the “Equality Act”**

1. Shelters for women who have been abused by men will be forced to admit any man who identifies as a female.

A federal sexual orientation and gender identity law could force any social service organization to open up private facilities — including single-sex bathrooms, showers and sleeping areas — to members of the opposite sex.

In California, nine women were sexually harassed in a woman’s shelter. No one stopped the leering, the inappropriate sexual comments or the harassment. The shelter pointed to federal grant guidelines requiring that transgender individuals be admitted to the safe haven.

Assaulted in the shower by the biological male, the women, not the perpetrator, were threatened with expulsion from the shelter. This is absurd, but more situations like these would become a reality in the Equality Act's expanded definition of "public accommodation." Women-only spaces will be a thing of the past.

2. Parents and foster parents can be forced to help a child "transition" to another gender.

In Ohio, a judge removed a biological girl from her parents' custody after they declined to help her "transition" to male with testosterone supplements. After the Cincinnati Children's Hospital's Transgender Health Clinic recommended these treatments for the girl's gender dysphoria, the parents wanted to pursue counseling instead. Then the county's family services agency charged the parents with abuse and neglect, and the judge terminated their custody. Similar cases are proceeding through the courts with children as young as 6 years old.

As doctors are pressured to accept "transgender medicine," government will pressure parents to consent to puberty blockers at 11, cross-sex hormones at 16, "sex reassignment" at 18.

3. Teachers could be forced to teach the LGBTQ+ lifestyle as a healthy and legitimate option.
4. College students would be forbidden from using their federal tuition assistance at schools that "discriminate" on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.
5. Teachers can be fired for refusing to use a student's "preferred pronoun."

Virginia high school teacher Peter Vlaming lost his job for something he did not say. A county school board voted unanimously to fire the veteran teacher over the objections of his students after he refused to comply with administrators' orders to use masculine pronouns in referring to a female student who identifies as transgender.

Vlaming did his best to accommodate the student without violating his religious belief that God created human beings male and female, using the student's new name and simply refraining from using pronouns altogether.

Unfortunately, the school still considered this a violation of its anti-discrimination policy.

Incidents like these would increase under federal policy proposed in the Equality Act. Both federal and private employers could face costly lawsuits if they fail to implement strict preferred pronoun policies. Employees could be disciplined if they fail to comply, regardless of their scientific or moral objections.

6. It would allow more biological males to defeat girls in sports.

Two biological males who identify and compete as women easily defeated all their female competitors in an event at the Connecticut State Track Championships. Transgender athlete Terry Miller broke the state record in the girls' 100-meter dash. Andraya Yearwood, also transgender, took second place.

Selina Soule, a female runner, not only lost to the biological males in the championships, but also lost out on valuable opportunities to be seen by college coaches and chosen for scholarships.

Soule said about the 100-meter event: "We all know the outcome of the race before it even starts; it is demoralizing."

A federal sexual orientation and gender identity law would defeat the purpose of Title IX of the Civil Rights Act, which is supposed to guarantee women equal educational and athletic opportunities.

Under radical gender identity policies, female athletes have sustained gruesome injuries at the hands of male competitors. In high school wrestling, female athletes have forfeited rather than compete against transgender athletes on testosterone.

A federal law could set girls' and women's sports back permanently at every level.

7. The "Equality Act" would penalize Americans who don't affirm new sexual norms of gender ideology.

Jack Phillips' case went all the way to the Supreme Court after the Colorado Civil Rights Commission accused the bakery owner of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, when the self-described cake artist declined to create a custom cake to celebrate a same-sex wedding.

The Supreme Court ruled in favor of Phillips, owner of Masterpiece Cakeshop, but left the law in question and the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act, intact.

Phillips was in court again defending himself against the same agency under the same law. The day after the Supreme Court ruled in Phillips' case, Autumn Scardina, a lawyer who identifies as transgender, requested that he create a "gender transition cake." After Phillips declined, the state Civil Rights Commission found probable cause under the law that the baker had discriminated on the basis of gender identity.

Thankfully, the commission dropped the case and Phillips agreed to drop his own lawsuit accusing the state agency of harassing him for his Christian beliefs.

Phillips is just one of many Americans who have lost income because of their belief that marriage is between one man and one woman. Other cases involve florists, bakers, photographers, wedding venue owners, videographers, web designers, calligraphers and public servants.

8. The “Equality Act” would insist on who churches must hire.

Under its changes to the employment nondiscrimination provisions in Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, some houses of worship would be barred from ensuring their leaders and other employees abide by their beliefs about marriage, sexual behavior and the distinction between the sexes.

9. The “Equality Act” would harm faith-based adoption agencies.

Faith-based organizations in the adoption and foster care system generally receive government funding. This funding would be threatened if they did not comply with the “Equality Act.” This would include adopting children to homosexual couples, promoting gender transition treatments and affirming these lifestyles.

In Philadelphia, just days after the city put out an urgent call for 300 additional families to foster children, the city halted child placements by Catholic Social Services because of the organization’s belief that every child deserves both a mother and a father.

Although same-sex couples have the opportunity to foster children through the state or every other agency in Philadelphia, the city canceled its contract with Catholic Social Services. The agency’s approved foster homes remain available while children languish on the waiting list.

A federal sexual orientation and gender identity law would make this situation a national phenomenon, which would spell disaster for the 437,500 children in foster care nationwide.

Massachusetts, California, Illinois, Pennsylvania, New York and D.C. have all shut down faith-based child welfare agencies who place children only with married mothers and fathers.

10. The “Equality Act” would threaten religious employers.

Ministries and other faith-based organizations could be forced to offer insurance coverage for hormone therapy, sex reassignment surgery and other procedures that violates their consciences and, more importantly, the Bible.

**F. These are just a few of the Sobering Truths about the “Equality Act” and Its Threats to Our Religious Freedoms**

1. When we go to the polls, it is imperative that we consider who we are selecting to represent us as a Christian.
2. Every Democrat in the House voted in favor of this bill.
3. Almost every Democrat in the Senate is expected to do the same.
4. On the other hand, nearly every Republican has and is expected to oppose it.
5. Think, pray and vote — and do so knowing what those you vote for really represent.