

## A Review Of “The Equality Act”

On February 26, 2021 The U.S. House of Representatives passed, H.R.1 which is called “The Equality Act.” The Bill now goes to the U.S. Senate where sixty votes are necessary for passage. I want to take this space to give some details and its ramifications. As I start let me state that this is not a Democrat v. Republican issue as much as a religious one.

In 1993 “The Religious Freedom Restoration Act” was introduced by then Congressman from New York, Chuck Schumer, the same Chuck Schumer who is currently leader of the Senate. This act was designed to “ensure that interests in religious freedom be protected.” This bill was later ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court, but continued to be applied to the federal government. The “Equality Act” did away with any protection of religious interest. Closely related to this act was one of the current President’s first executive orders titled “Preventing and Combating Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity or Sexual Orientation.” While the language sounds and reads like something everyone should support, i.e., everyone be treated fairly and without discrimination, its ramifications can be far reaching.

On the heels of this executive order is this house bill. Following are two descriptions, “The Equality Act is a bill in the United States Congress, that, if passed, would amend the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in employment, housing, public accommodations, public education, federal funding, credit, and the jury system.” <https://www.heritage.org/gender/heritage-explains/the-equality-act>

“Our nation was founded on the promise that all are created equal and are worthy of dignity and respect, regardless of who they are or whom they love,” House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) said in a statement. “With the reintroduction of the Equality Act, Congressional Democrats are making a resounding commitment to this truth: that all Americans must be treated

equally under the law, not just in the workplace, but in every place.”  
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2021/02/18/equality-act-introduced>

Among things this bill would do is 1) force employers and workers to conform to new sexual norms or else lose their business or jobs. For instance, Jack Phillips, owner of a bakery, refused to create a custom cake for a same sex wedding. He was consequently sued by the state of Colorado for discrimination; 2) dismantling sex specific facilities, sports, and other female or male only roles. For instance, two biological males identifying as female, took first and 2<sup>nd</sup> place at the Connecticut State Track Championship. One can see other sports such as women’s wrestling where males would dominate. None other than Martina Navratilova took issue with men participating as women in “elite sports” such as tennis or golf.

Navratilova, who won 18 Grand Slam singles titles, said she supported moves towards equality but that the physical advantages for transwomen competitors who had gone through male puberty were “pretty obvious”.  
<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-biden-transgender-navratilova/navratilova-seeks-provision-for-elite-sports-after-biden-transgender-sport-move-idUSKBN2A32AR>

This would also mean by law men must be granted access to women’s restrooms and locker rooms; 3) threats to religious schools and churches. Religious schools could have federal student loans and grants withheld if they are deemed to violate The Equality Act. Other religious institutions would also be under threat such as adoption agencies if they seek to adopt out children only to married couples composed of a man and a woman. Churches could be sued if they refuse to hire someone who does not agree with their doctrine. Imagine a woman who is a homosexual applies for any job, such as a preacher, and is not hired because that church believes it is wrong for a woman to exercise authority over a man or because they believe homosexuality is a sin. Such church could be sued and would lose in a court of law; 4) “mandate sex-ed curriculum nationwide to include gender fluidity.” One can change their gender identification from one day to the next; 5)

remove custody rights from parents refusing to have their minor child undergo transgender medical procedures. If your child wants a sex change or hormonal treatment to change their sexual identity, parents will be required, by law, to allow it.

These are issues directly related to the Bible and its teaching. God made man and woman in the Garden of Eden. "So, God created man in His own image; in the image of God, He created him; male and female He created them." (Genesis 1:27) Holy Scriptures teaches homosexuality is wrong. "For this reason, God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise, also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due." (Romans 1:26-27). Marriage is between one man and one woman, not two men or two women, no more than two people can enter a scriptural marriage. "And He answered and said to them, "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." (Matthew 19:4-6) As God's people we have no choice but to preach and defend the word of God.

The "Equality Act" is ungodly legislation as it defies the Bible. The attitude of the House of Representatives was expressed this last week, while the comment was made concerning a different matter it can be seen on this piece of legislation, and was said by Jerry Nadler, "what any religious tradition describes as God's will is no concern of this Congress." – Dennis Tucker