

Wednesday Word

April 3, 2024

John 8:12- “Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”

In 2012 I worked as a maintenance supervisor for a 145-unit section 8 apartment complex on 56th and Orchard in Tacoma. This place was the absolute “Wild West.” There was violence, drugs, police raids, burglaries and other issues that arose throughout this community for a variety of reasons. I have many stories that I could use today but one in particular stands out in my mind.

I was called to go look at a loose step that led to a second story unit where a woman was noticing it become more and more dangerous, so she reported it to the office. I got the invoice and headed down there to meet her and discuss and fix the problem. After I knocked on the door she came out in a nice pink skirt, her hair was well done, she had nice dress heels and smelled like peaches. She must have been dressed up to go out as her outfit suggested but one thing stood out to me - besides her outfit she was quite obviously a man. She had dark stubble and facial features like a man, her voice was deep and masculine, and her shoulders were broad. I tried not to act surprised and just discuss the issue at hand with the steps.

After discussion and repair, she invited me into her home so she could sign the work order. I went inside and was amazed at her home. She had one of the largest vinyl record collections I had ever seen. Covering her walls were different cover posters of classic rock, pop, and country songs. She had displays of records of all sizes throughout her home. She had three or four very expensive vintage record players with speakers, she had first-edition soundtracks to many classic movies. It was like walking into a museum of music. As she gave me a tour by jaw stayed about floor level as there must have been 500 thousand dollars of equipment and product throughout the home.

After the tour she offered to make me teriyaki stir-fry. Needless to say, it was delicious. She told me the story of her life, how she was born male, grew up a boy but how she had been neglected and abused growing up and just felt the safest way for her to express herself was by living out life as a woman. From what I remember she had had multiple surgeries to complete her “Transition” to female.

After lunch and this short conversation, I left and went about my day. I didn’t continue my employment long after that and never saw her again. I can’t even remember her name. I think about her from time to time and hope she is doing well.

We are living in a culture that is being influenced by the devil himself. Culture is telling people who have gone through unimaginable things that the church is a place of judgment and hate. That the church looks upon people like the lady I just spoke of as untouchables. This is satan’s lie and nothing could be further from the truth. We have the Holy Spirit to give us wisdom and insight into how to best reach people like this. God is not intimidated by their mess, and neither should we be. While I admit discipling transgender people, especially those who have transitioned, can be challenging, I believe God will give us ways to reach them and lead them to him.

Our President this past week proclaimed that March 31st would be known as “Transgender Visibility Day.” While I have many thoughts about this proclamation, I will leave them out of this text and just say we are in a spiritual war. As a pastor, I feel very strongly that I need to speak into the hard issues of our time be they cultural, political, or social. I must speak to them because they affect people and pastors lead people. I think about the lady I met that day years ago and consider to myself: What if I met her before she “transitioned?” What if I met her when she was a him? Would I have seen the pain and abuse and helped him find healing or would I have been fearful to approach and speak about this difficult topic?

The Transgender movement at its core is anti-god and demonic. It is a spiritual deception that preys on people in pain and confusion, especially young people. Not only that, it is being celebrated as “life-saving care” to transition a young person between genders in our schools and culture. To be vocal against these labels the speaker as trans-phobic and hateful.

I believe the church must speak out against this no matter the cost and regardless of what they call us. The reason transgender youth are committing suicide is they are not being treated for the mental illness that is gender dysphoria. They are encouraged to change their gender even if their parents are against it. There are kids as young as 5 and 6 here in America that are being transitioned. This will lead to a life of confusion, pain, and isolation. Then, eventually, they will die without Jesus due to the godless agenda that they believed and the lies about the church (The only hope they would have had to meet Jesus) they had been told.

As the church we are called to “Go into the world and preach the gospel.” Only the truth of the gospel will set people free. I believe we must preach this gospel, with the love of Christ and the uncompromising Truth of God’s World. That we may see people turn away from darkness and to His marvelous light.