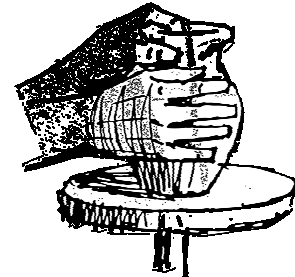


His Workmanship at Westside

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works."

—Ephesians 2:10



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Isaiah 64:8

Don't Sell Your Birthright for a Moment of Pleasure, by Dean Morgan

Lucian was an odd bird, or so history goes. He was asked by his persecutors, "Of what country are you?" He answered, "I am a Christian." "What is your occupation?" "I am a Christian." "Of what family?" "I am a Christian."

Let me ask a question: Do you treasure your relationship with Christ above all other relationships? Is Jesus more important to you than anything else?

This may be a tough question. Not only for graduates but for all young people and all the rest of us, everything moves and changes fast. Many things are important to us, and it's hard to say from day to day which ranks highest.

This week some are thinking about the end of school and graduation. Next week you might be thinking about college and the future. Next month you might be thinking about a job. The next month it might be your girlfriend or boyfriend that's on your mind. Next year your mind might be on a car you want to buy. Before you realize it, Jesus has taken a back seat in your life; everything else seems to get your attention more than Jesus does.

Don't think that all of us are not doing the same thing. Today we are thinking about our jobs, later we will be thinking about going fishing or shopping. Tomorrow it will be about all the things around the house that we know need to be done. We may even be thinking how we are going to pay for our chil-

dren's college. If we aren't careful and watchful, we all can push Jesus out of our busy lives. Crowding Jesus out of our lives is being disloyal to our faith—but there is a deeper disloyalty.

This disloyalty (known as unfaithfulness, even betrayal) is when we as young persons, or as graduates, or as adults become so distracted that we're willing to trade the riches of our faith for a bowl of momentary happiness.

In Genesis 25 we see that Esau traded the riches of his birthright for a bowl of transient happiness. He came home from a big hunt where he found Jacob preparing some of that famous, home-cooked lentil stew. Esau was so hungry that he was willing to trade anything for a hot meal. He was convinced that he had to have something to eat or he would perish. Have you ever heard someone say: "Mom, Dad, I've just got to have it or I'm going to die." Or have you ever thought, "I just can't do without it. I'll get it no matter what I have to give up or what it will cost." Esau did what many do today, he thought with his belly. Instead of thinking with his head, he let his passion/desire control his actions.

So, you may ask, what did he trade? He traded his birthright. Now to you and me that might not seem like much, but his birthright was the special inheritance he would receive as the older son—and in his family it was extraordinarily special; it was the promises that

had been given by God to Abraham.

• The birthright: it was a privilege given to the first-born son of a family. The eldest son succeeded to his father's rank and position as the head of the family or tribe. He became the leader at the death of the father. He also inherited a double portion of his father's property. Esau traded all of the privileges that were his inheritance for a short-lived moment of pleasure. Pleasure meant more to him than anything else. This was bad enough. But even worse, Esau didn't seem to understand what the special promises of his family birthright meant. God had promised Abraham to make him a great nation, to give him a key strategic land (which is even of great strategic importance today), and to bless all the families of the earth through him, Gen 12:1-3; 15:5; 13:14-17; 15:18; 17:4-8; 18:18; 21:12; 22:17-18. God reiterated that promise to Esau's father Isaac, Gen 26:3-5, 24.

The moral of the story is that we'd better check out what's really important before we make any hasty deals. When Esau pigged out on Jacob's recipe, he was making a decision that would affect him the rest of his life. Students and young adults are making key decisions—career, spouse—that will affect the rest of their lives. The devil and the world have a kettle cooking for you. If you allow your appetite to get strong

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Don't Sell Your Birthright, from p. 1 enough for the pleasures of this world, you will be tempted to cash in the riches and fullness of Jesus Christ for a morsel of momentary happiness.

Many men and women trade their inheritance, their faith, and the principles they were taught for a taste of the devil and the world's stew. It looks good; it smells good. Putting your tongue to the tip of the spoon for a taste is sweet, but, oh, don't be deceived. It may taste good going down, but eventually it will sour and spoil. "Be sure your sin will find you out," Num 32:23. Maybe you won't be caught immediately, but eventually sin's consequences will bite you. Don't trade your faith; don't trade your inheritance just for a moment of the devil's or the world's pleasure.

Let me speak to you candidly and bluntly. There are young women who have given up their virginity and lost their inheritance for a moment of passion. It's not worth it! There are young men who have surrendered their virginity and ruined their future because they now have to raise a child and support a wife, and in the process they lost their inheritance only to satisfy their desires for a moment of pleasure. It's not worth it! Many young men and women have given up their future—or even their lives—for a moment of pleasure by drinking alcohol or taking drugs. They gave up their inheritance. It's not worth it! Adults have done the same thing. Men have given up their souls for a moment of pleasure in pornography. Women have given up their souls because their husband wasn't showing them the affection they needed, and so they gave their inheritance away for a moment of pleasure. Many adults have given up their inheritance because the pleasure money seemingly brings them. They have given themselves over to making money at any cost in order to enjoy the pleasurable things of life.

You don't have to give in to the allure of momentary pleasure. Moses chose "rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin," Heb 11:25, because he could see

the greater riches in Christ. Do you treasure God's riches, your birthright?

As you graduate and go on in life, don't forget your inheritance. He has given you "exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust," 2 Pet 1:4. In Jesus you have a wealth of eternal blessings being stored up for you. With Jesus as your Savior and Lord, you have the promise of sharing in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. You have a heavenly country waiting for you. You have the splendor and glory of God's holy city, described in Rev 21:9-21: surpassing beauty and wealth, resplendent glory, radiant light, abundant life, a new immortal body that won't die, a verdant garden, described in Rev 22:1-5, with a crystal river flowing with the water of life given freely, the tree of life which bears 12 fruits and leaves that heal the nations. Most of all, you will enjoy the eternal presence of God and His Son with all the other saved people who have named the name of Christ. You will have security and lavish provision, including being with people of all nations, languages, and tribes, myriad people to converse with; you'll have service and work to do, Rev 7:15; 22:3-5.

And your birthright right now, because you are a child of God, is peace with God, Rm 5:1-2; 8:6; Jn 16:33; intimacy with Him, Jn 15:4-8; 17:3, 21-23; acceptance by Him, Eph 1:6; Ax 10:35; Rm 12:1-2; 14:8; joy, Rm 14:17; Phil 1:25; 1 Thes 1:6; 1 Pet 1:8; power, 1 Tim 1:7; Eph 3:20; 1:19; 6:10; Rm 15:13; 2 Cor 13:4; the Holy Spirit, Ax 2:38; 1 Jn 4:13; Lk 11:13; Rm 5:5; 1 Thes 4:8; refreshing from God, Ax 3:19; forgiveness of sins, Eph 1:7; Col 1:14; Ax 13:38; 26:18; cleansing and sanctification, 1 Cor 6:11; 1:2; 2 Thes 2:13; Heb 2:11; 10:10, 22; Rev 1:5; redemption, Rm 3:24; Gal 3:13; 1 Pet 1:18; salvation, Tit 3:5; Ax 4:12; 28:28; Eph 1:13; 1 Thes 5:9; greater love than you have known, Jn 15:13; 14:21, 23; Rm 5:5-8; 8:39; answer to prayers, Mt 7:7-11; 21:22; 11:24; Jas 5:16; 1 Jn 3:22; 5:14; eternal life, Jn 11:25-26; 6:54; 3:15-16; 10:28; Rm 6:23; God's working in

you, Phil 1:5; Col 1:10, 29; 2 Thes 2:17; all things that pertain to life and godliness (every spiritual blessing), 2 Pet 1:3; Eph 1:3.

As you graduate and begin a new life, the temptation to partake of the devil's stew will be greater than ever. The more you try to live by the principles that you have been taught, the more tempted you'll be to sell your inheritance. Don't forget the inheritance you have in the Lord; it's yours if you don't trade it.

Daniel was tempted to sell his inheritance, but he was determined not to give in: "But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank..." Dan 1:8. At the end of Paul's life, he sat in a lonely dungeon, waiting to be beheaded and knowing he had stayed loyal through terrible circumstances: "For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth, there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who love His appearing," 2 Tim 4:6-8. He said, "I have kept the faith." That means he didn't sell out. At the lowest moments he would not swap the splendor of being a Christian for a second's worth of the devil's lentil soup. He said, "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal," 2 Cor 4:17-18. He had an inheritance and refused to give it up for anything. He was walking by the Spirit, whereas Esau walked by the flesh. Don't be a "profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright," Heb 12:16. Keep the faith, finish the race, and love His appearing.

Gender Ideology Harms Children, from p. 4

3. A person's belief that he is something he is not is, at best, a sign of confused thinking. When an otherwise healthy biological boy believes he is a girl, or an otherwise healthy biological girl believes

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Psalm 133:1

God's harvest we'll glean in 2016 "Please let me go to the field and glean heads of grain after him in whose sight I may find favor." —Ruth 2:2

Gender Ideology Harms Kids, from p. 4 she is a boy, an objective psychological problem exists in the mind, not the body, and it should be treated as a problem.

4. Puberty is not a disease, and puberty-blocking hormones can be dangerous.

5. Some 98% of gender-confused boys and 88% of gender-confused girls accept their biological sex after naturally passing through puberty without any counseling.

6. Children who use puberty blockers to impersonate the opposite sex will require cross-sex hormones in late adolescence. Cross-sex hormones (testosterone and estrogen) are associated with dangerous health risks including but not limited to high blood pressure, blood clots, stroke, and cancer.

7. Suicide rates are twenty times greater among adults who use cross-sex hormones and undergo sex reassignment surgery, even in the most LGBTQ-affirming countries. What compassionate and reasonable person would condemn young children to this suicide risk, knowing that after puberty as many as 88% of girls and 98% of boys will eventually accept reality and achieve a state of mental and physical health?

8. Conditioning children into believing that a lifetime of chemical and surgical impersonation of the opposite sex is normal and healthful amounts to child abuse. Endorsing gender discordance as normal via public education and legal policies confuses children and parents, leading more children to seek "gender clinics" where they will be given puberty-blocking drugs. This, in turn, virtually ensures that they will "choose" a lifetime of carcinogenic and otherwise toxic cross-sex hormones, and likely consider

Discipleship Here At Home

unnecessary surgical mutilation of their healthy body parts as young adults.

If you are someone who feels unsure about your gender, if you have sought other means of feeling whole but still feel incomplete, if you have suffered from others in your past, or if you have made decisions you regret and now are living with difficult consequences—please know that you are loved and that there is a solution. God made you and loves you, and there is a way to be whole in Him, even if it doesn't feel to you right now that this could be. All of us have been broken in different ways—me, you, all of us—and we all need God. He has the solutions. Just because there is a problem that might seem insurmountable, it is not too big for God, Lk 1:37. We can be willing to trust Him. After we grow in trust, we will align our will to His, not just live however we feel like living. We will understand that His will is for our good. After all, He left heaven to die for us. His desire is to save us—and we all need to be saved, because we all have gone our own way. None of us comes to Him with already-perfected lives, without problems—we come to Him because we have problems. We come because He is the great solution to all problems, if we are willing to humble ourselves, repent of sin, and follow Him—on every front, not just on one topic. Please know there is an answer. We stand to help you in your walk to follow God truly and happily.

Rejoice New babies: **Stella Mae Shreve**, born 5/4, 7 lbs 11 oz; **Jamie Page Addy**, born 5/6, just over 5 lbs; **Witheringtons** expect their first in Oct

Mekiah Fink won the Mayors' & Commissioners' Award, scholarship, Clear Creek County

Bereaved **Kay Ransom**, former member—mother passed away recently of COPD; 3428 Cove View Blvd, Galveston, TX 77554

Our brother in Christ **Mark Campbell**, Larry's brother, passed away recently; memorial service to be held 5/31 in Pekin, IL; Mark's mother, **Ruth Campbell**, P.O. Box 643, Pekin, IL 61555. In lieu of flowers, please donate to www.bradcampbellmemorial.com

Moving **Michelle Franke** has finished her studies at School of Mines for the year; travels back to TN today; here off and on this summer

PRAY FOR healing, protection, help

• **Janelle Hall**—chemo to begin 5/25; a port was inserted last Friday

• **Jennifer Clayton**—battling Lyme disease for 18 mos symptoms from co-infections worsened in April, muscle & joint pain, neurological issues; pray 2-mo regimen to kill babesia, bartonella, and parasites will be effective, not require additional treatment, and not prevent work

• **Gary Boyd, Pat Campbell**—bad cough and cold

• **Sandra Perry**—breathing and diabetes complications after pneumonia in April

• **Judy Strand**—preparing for liver transplant in Sept

• **Brittany Tope's** grandmother—on dialysis, in ICU last week in Colorado Springs; **Brittany's** mother **Gayle**—breast cancer has spread

• **Sarah Hadders**—recurring chest pains

• **Brett Witherington's** mother **Cheryl**—breast cancer just diagnosed; **Sylvia Chapman, Brett's** grandmother—third stage pancreatic cancer; grandmother **Sue** had a heart attack recently, 10% blocked; **Sue & Aunt Connie Doss**—cancer

• **Mike Menard, Virginia's** son—pancreatic cancer, weakening, in palliative care; **Virginia** pain from wrenched leg

• 10-year-old **Benjamin Hymel**, of Longmont church—brain cancer; at home, school after surgery; now starting year's chemo and radiation cycles; eye patch

• **Valerie Greenwalt**—recovering from surgery that removed broken needle in elbow

• the **Boyd's** extended families are undergoing hardships: **Wendy's** father, **Dan Gutierrez**, back in care center with cognitive problems; pray for **Eileen** and **Dan**; **Kenny's** sister and brother-in-law—divorce; pray for family, **Jennifer, Kevin, Chloe, & Elijah Whittemore**; **Kenny's** employee, **Damon Todd**—great grandson killed and great granddaughter injured in collision recently

• **Samantha Harrod**—benign cyst removed from her back recently; recovery another few weeks

• **Linda Szymanski**—broken arm & wrist; **Tracy Corray**—broken bone in foot

• **Sheryle McNeill**—boil removed recently; pinched nerve

• **Berney Charo's** brother **Eliud**—prostate cancer

• **Ian Anderson, Mina Gonzalez's** nephew—rehab

• **Letha Fink's** brother **Kenneth Morrison** of GA—liver disease, diagnosed with neuro-muscular disease

• **Bill Dennis**—improving; recurrent infections

• **River and Forest Cox's** great grandmother **Martha Rowe**—in rehab for knee strengthening

• **Kim Howell's** coworker **Rachel Daniels**—new baby **Titus**, genetic disease; **Howells'** 19-year-old neighbor **Savannah Svensen** has leukemia

• **Noah Hadders's** teacher **Sharolyn Elmore**—radiation for breast cancer; **Randy Reames's** co-worker **Diane Estes**—ocular melanoma

Travel the **Corrays** are in Breckinridge for Jordan's work **Walkers** in DC this weekend;

Merrit Zollars in Nashville; **Sarah McMurray** and **Nate Harrison** in GA for a wedding



Exposing current trends *sexual confusion and media*

Pediatricians Say Gender Ideology Harms Children, by Micah Clark

"A mom was brushing a boy's long hair; the boy slowly turned his head to look at her. In a tentative voice, he asked, 'Would you love me if I were a boy?' The mom was raising her boy to become a trans-girl. In that split second, I was transported back to my childhood. I remembered my grandmother standing over me, guiding me, dressing me in a purple chiffon dress. The boy in that glowing documentary about parents raising transgender kids dared to voice a question I always wanted to ask. Why didn't she love me the way I was?"

"I am haunted by that boy and his question. What will the trans-kids of 2015 be like sixty years from now? Documentaries and news stories only give us a snapshot in time. They are edited to romanticize and normalize the notion of changing genders and to convince us that enlightened parents should help their children realize their dreams of being the opposite gender.... [But] that dress set in motion a life filled with gender dysphoria, sexual abuse, alcohol and drug abuse, and finally, an unnecessary gender reassignment surgery. My life was ripped apart by a trusted adult who enjoyed dressing me as a girl." In this heartbreaking article about a boy who was pushed to be girl, a 74-year-old man who underwent transgender surgery wrote: "Instead of encouraging them to undergo unnecessary and destructive surgery, let's affirm and love our young people just the way they are." For the rest of the story, see www.thepublicdiscourse.com/2015/04/14688/

Many people currently view the idea of letting kids pick their gender as a new civil rights movement—let them be their "true selves." This is simply not the case and not what these kids need. The cry is to love everyone—and that is absolutely true. But it is not loving to confuse a confused child and lead him toward getting life-changing irreversible surgery and many other problems, instead of building him up in the actual physical sex he was born with and telling him he is loved as he is. Children don't need to change genders to be loved.

Pediatricians point out that confusing children about their gender is child abuse. The American College of Pediatricians released an in-depth report in March stating that the move to indoctrinate children with the idea that they can pick their gender amounts to child abuse. They urged legislators and educators to reject all policies that would condition children to accept chemical and surgical distortions allowing people to impersonate the opposite sex. "Facts—not ideology—determine reality," they said.

The ACPeds report [at <http://www.acped.org/the-college-speaks/position-statements/gender-ideology-harms-children/>] includes these points:

1. Human sexuality is an objective biological binary trait. "XY" and "XX" chromosomes are genetic markers of health, not markers of a disorder. People who identify as "*feeling like the opposite sex*" or "*somewhere in between*" do not comprise a third sex. They remain biological men or biological women.
2. No one is born with a gender. Everyone is born with a biological sex. Gender is a psychological and sociological concept, not an objective biological one. No one is born with an awareness of himself as male or female. This awareness develops over time; it is learned.

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DeWayne Howell (303) 973-7283

Preacher

Jim Reingrover (303) 973-5102

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Like us: www.facebook.com/pages/Westside-Church-of-Christ/276475819148309

Assembly Schedule

Sunday

Bible classes	9:00 am
Morning assembly	10:00 am
Afternoon assembly	1:30 pm

Wednesday

Bible classes	7:30 pm
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Sunday morning

- **adult Bible class**, "*Courage to Live Holy Lives*," DeWayne Howell

- **sermon**, Preaching Through First Corinthians (PTFC): chapter 12, "*Spiritual Gifts*," Jim Reingrover

Sunday afternoon

- **sermon**, Journey through Genesis, "*Abraham and Isaac*," Genesis 20-25, Jonathan Hadders