



Promoting marriage, family, life & liberty in the Land of Lincoln

Newsletter | Winter 2016

Merry Christmas  
& Happy New Year!



PRO LIFE.  
PRO MARRIAGE.  
PRO FAMILY.



from the **Executive Director — David E. Smith**

End of  
Year...



**The more I contemplate cultural and societal trends and scrutinize the times in which we live, the more I realize that we — a nation founded on the fundamental right of religious freedom — have forgotten God in our pursuit to create new idols we deem worthy of our worship.**

Secularization has a firm grip on our nation, to the point where it has even contaminated the Church. It is a sad truth that secularism, the “religion” of the Left, has had a much greater influence on the culture and the Church than any influence Christians have been able to exert on the culture or within the Church.

The fact is, too many Christians have been **rendered ineffective** or **paralyzed** and have allowed themselves to be **bullied into silence and inaction** by what Scripture proclaims as the **fear of man**. We cower in fear of man instead of being rightly guided by its antithesis, the fear of God.

Lest there be any confusion, when I refer to the fear of God, the word fear *does not* mean that we are afraid or scared or trembling. Rather, the **fear of God is defined by awesome respect or deep reverence, admiration and adoration, which grows out of the knowledge of His greatness and power** — knowledge that we gain by reading and studying His Word and by walking in faith and obedience.

Having made that clarification, I feel a self-assessment is in order. Are Christians in America today motivated more by the fear of God or the fear of man? An honest consideration of this question compels us to admit that the fear of man has too great of an influence in the Body

of Christ and, quite possibly, in our own lives as well.

In a similar vein, Scripture encourages us to: “Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Jesus Christ is in you — unless, of course, you fail the test?” (2 Corinthians 13:5)



Perhaps, through self-assessment and Spirit-led examination, we will come to the realization that the fear of man does have an undue influence in our mind and life, as it certainly does in the culture at large.

Most assuredly, **the more we learn about God, the more we will fear and respect Him**. If we believe He is: **omnipotent** — all powerful, **omnipresent** — all present, **omniscient** — all knowing, **omnis sanctus** — all holy, **we will have abundant reason to revere Him**.

On the other hand, the fear of man is the deference and devotion to man and his corrupt opinions and responses. This fear includes not only the fear that people will hurt, humiliate, ridicule, or reject us, but it also encompasses our yearning to impress others or to be admired.

*Matthew Poole's Commentary on the Holy Bible* defines **fear of man** as:

- “inordinate fear of harm or mischief from men,
- which is fitly opposed to trust in God, because it
- comes from a distrust of God's promise and
- providence . . . .”

No doubt one of the Scriptures which informed Poole's definition was Proverbs 29:25 — The fear of man brings a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is safe.

*continued on page 4...*

## Stay Engaged! *by David E. Smith*

**M**ost Americans are relieved that the 2016 election cycle is now behind us. With two of the most unpopular presidential candidates at the top of the ballot — both of whom fall well short of the low standards we've had for previous candidates — **Donald J. Trump** was elected the 45<sup>th</sup> President of the United States, receiving 306 electoral votes (270 are needed to win).



While political pundits across the nation were shocked with this political upset, many Christian leaders say that God has given the United States a reprieve from the radical Leftist agenda that has dominated the White House and federal government for the past eight years.

If this is true, and I tend to believe it is, we should thank God for His longsuffering and mercy on us as a people while at the same time be in fervent prayer for the incoming administration and the appointments and nominations that will be made over the next several months.

Moreover, if we honestly understand that God is giving us a reprieve — that is a temporary relief from evil — Christians would do well to redeem the time. We simply cannot afford to sit back for two years until the next election cycle comes around. We have an important opportunity to defend innocent human life, end the federal transgender social experiment, repeal Obamacare, end Common Core, shrink the size of the federal government and so much more!

It would be wise if we doubled down on our prayers... doubled down on our communications with our elected officials... doubled down on speaking the truth in love to our family, coworkers and neighbors... and doubled down on our support for pro-life and pro-family groups. ❄

## End of Year Giving



**A**s we close out 2016, please consider making a tax deductible donation to help IFI to continue to stand boldly in 2017. Your financial and prayerful contributions equip us to be your pro-family voice in Illinois. We'd also like to encourage you to consider becoming a **Sustaining Partner**. Monthly givers are the backbone that sustain our work. This allows us to spend less time fundraising and more time fighting for Biblical values in the public square! ❄

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## Other Election News

**C**olorado's voters approved physician-assisted suicide in Proposition



**106.** If that isn't troubling enough, this referendum question won by a virtual two to one vote.

Marijuana was on the ballot in nine states. Despite federal law and the evidence coming from other states that have already approved pot, five states had initiatives on recreational marijuana — that is voluntary use for personal pleasure. California, Massachusetts, Nevada, Maine, approved the measure. Only Arizona rejected it.

Four other states had initiatives for so-called "medical" marijuana — Florida, North Dakota, Arkansas, and Montana. All approved it.

Twenty-six states have now authorized the use of marijuana for either recreational or medical purposes.

It will be interesting to see how a Trump administration enforces the federal laws on marijuana now that a majority of the states have approved its usage. ❄

Third Annual

### WORLDVIEW CONFERENCE

Biblical Training for Today's Culture

**Saturday, February 18, 2017**  
10:00 AM - 3:30 PM | Village Church of Barrington

Featuring

## DR. FRANK TUREK

Dr. Turek is a dynamic speaker, award-winning author and the president of CrossExamined.org. He presents powerful and entertaining evidence for Christianity and has debated prominent atheists including Christopher Hitchens and David Silverman, president of American Atheists.

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Atheism's Burden of Proof	Does Truth Exist?

# Election Results

## Federal Election Results

According to Politico, over 5.3 million Illinoisans cast their ballot for the presidential candidate of their choice. However, that estimation does not include Early Voting, Vote by Mail and Grace Period Voting.

Also, according to the Illinois State Board of Elections' uncertified tallies, 1,395,465 voted early; 384,225 voted by mail and 57,835 registered for the first time and voted (Grace Period Voting).

Democrat **Hillary Clinton** won a total of 20 states, including Illinois by more than 55 percent of the vote. Republican **Donald Trump** took 30 states, capturing the overall Electoral College vote, and the top office in the nation.

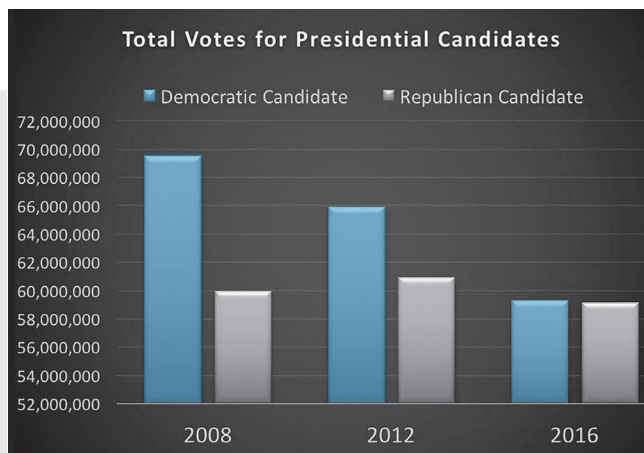
In the race for the U.S. Senate, Democrat **Tammy Duckworth** beat her socially liberal Republican opponent and incumbent **Mark Kirk** with more than 54 percent of the vote. Starting in January 2017, Democrats will have both of Illinois' U.S. Senate seats.

**Overall:** The U.S. Senate will have Republicans in the majority with 52 to 46 Democrats, and 2 Independents (who caucus with the Democrats).

In the races for the U.S. House seats in Illinois, all incumbents won another term with one notable exception. Republican **Bob Dold**, another social liberal who ran on his pro-abortion position, lost his seat to Democrat and former U.S. Representative **Brad Schneider** in the 10<sup>th</sup> District, which represents the northwest portion of Cook and Lake Counties.

For the next two-year session of Congress (2017-2019), Illinois' Congressional Delegation will be made up of 11 Democrats and 7 Republicans.

**Overall:** The U.S. House will have Republicans in the majority 241 to 194 Democrats. (This is a net loss of 6 seats from the previous session.) ❄️



## State Election Results

Republicans lost the Comptroller's race by 5 percent, so now Governor Bruce Rauner is the only Republican elected statewide.

In the Illinois State Senate, Republicans picked up two seats. Democratic Sen. **Gary Forby** of Benton lost to Republican **Dale Fowler**. Former lawmaker **Jil Tracy** was unopposed in her candidacy for a seat that was held by retiring Democratic Sen. **John Sullivan** of Quincy. For pro-family, pro-life votes, these elections are a wash; however Tracy will be a strong pro-life voice.

Senate Democrats now have a 39 to 20 majority.

In the Illinois House, Republicans gained a net of four seats:

In McHenry County, Republican **Steven Reick** easily won an open seat over Democrat **John Bartman**.

In Kankakee, Democrat incumbent **Kate Cloonen** was defeated by Republican **Lindsay Parkhurst**.

Just north of the quad-cities, Democrat incumbent **Mike Smiddy** lost to Republican **Tony McCombie**.

In southern Illinois, incumbent and assistant Democratic Leader **John Bradley** lost to Republican **Dave Severin**.

Lastly, in the Metro-East area, Republican pro-family leader **Dwight Kay** lost to Democrat **Katie Stuart**.

For pro-family, pro-life votes, these elections are a net gain of one (Reick and McCombie minus Kay). ❄️

## Upcoming EVENTS!



### March for Life Chicago 2017

Sunday, January 15, 2017

2:00 to 4:00 PM

Learn more at: [MarchforLife-Chicago.org](http://MarchforLife-Chicago.org)



### IFI Forums on Climate Change

with Dr. Calvin Beisner

April 26 & 27, 2017

Arlington Heights & Orland Park

Learn more at: [illinoisfamily.org/ifi-events/](http://illinoisfamily.org/ifi-events/)



Review the

## IFI Resources

order form for great Christmas gift ideas for others — or for you!





# IFI's Gideon's Army *by David E. Smith*

**We are looking for Christian men and women who have a heart for truth and a deep concern for a culture that continues to buy the lies of the Left.**

You and I also know that Christians could have a greater influence on our culture and the political process if only more of us were willing to engage in prayer and activism.

Scripture exhorts us to do both: Pray for our leaders (1 Timothy 2:1-7), and live out our faith (James 1:22).

If every conservative Christian did this, our state and nation would not be submerged in the cesspool in which we

currently find ourselves.

Throughout the legislative session, we send subscribers email alerts and throughout the entire year we send cultural alerts (e.g., the Target Boycott alert), asking subscribers to use our turn-key Action Center to send emails or faxes to decision-makers. The entire process takes between 60-90 seconds to complete.

Increased use of our Action Center could be the difference between winning and losing a legislative battle by one or two votes.

*Will you volunteer to be part of IFI's Gideon Army?*

Judges 7 tells us the story of Gideon's



Army. God assembled 300 soldiers to take on 135,000. I am hoping that we are able to enlist significantly more who are willing to stop the rapid erosion of truth.

If you and other subscribers will commit to pray and take action on our email alerts, we believe we can win more battles for the hearts, minds, souls and lives of real people!

Then send other like-minded God-fearing, truth-proclaiming believers this link: [illinoisfamily.org/gideons-army/](http://illinoisfamily.org/gideons-army/)



from the **Executive Director — David E. Smith** *(continued ...)*

While the world — the powers, principalities, and the rulers of this dark age — **want** us to fear man, Christians and the Church must know and believe that **the antidote for the fear of man is the fear of the Lord**. Knowing, understanding, obeying, and serving God must be preeminent in our hearts, minds, and actions. Nothing else is more important!

In the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Gospel of Mark, Jesus rebukes Peter, saying, “Get behind me, Satan! **For you are not setting your mind on the things of God**, but on the things of man.” Jesus’ words cut right to the heart of the matter: Peter is focused on wrong thinking! Rather than focusing on God’s plans, established before the foundation of the world, Peter was placing his own plans and agenda ahead of the Lord’s. And if we are honest, shouldn’t we admit that we are often guilty of doing the exact same thing?

Please do not fool yourself — preoccupation with the **things of man** leads to the fear of man, which can lead us to sin against our perfect, holy God. Saul knew this all too well when he confessed to Samuel, “I have sinned, for **I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD** and your words, because **I feared the people and obeyed their voice.**” (1 Samuel 15:24)

The prophet Isaiah adds another layer

of understanding as he declares it is a kind of pride to dread what man can do while disregarding the goodness, promises, and purposes of God. Speaking for God, he asks,

- “... who are you that you are afraid
- of man who dies, of the son of man
- who is made like grass, and have
- forgotten the LORD, your Maker?”
- (Isaiah 51:12)

God is speaking plainly through Isaiah, and His message is this: **Don't. Fear. Man.**

If we keep our focus on the Lord, on His flawless character, His trustworthy promises and His incomparable power, the fear of man that once loomed so large in our lives will diminish. And in its place **God will enable us to speak with confidence and boldness as we address the moral issues and false teachers of our day.**

Scripture gives us excellent models of faithful servants of the Lord who were able to set aside any qualms about offending or being “too aggressive” as they confronted family, friends, neighbors, and enemies. Consider **Elijah** and the prophets of Baal, **Nehemiah**, **David** and the armies of both the Philistines and the Israelites, **John the Baptist** and the religious and political leaders of his day, the **Apostle Paul**, and finally, **our Lord Jesus Christ**

— all of these zealously demonstrated their fear of God, without entertaining thoughts of compromise or considering the opinions of man.

Ultimately, the issue is not whether we will serve God. The issue is which God/god will we serve and honor with our very being? Will we succumb to our fear of man, a fear that is often palpable, and serve a false idol of our own making **or will we rightly fear and serve the Living God?**

Brothers and Sisters, **we need to pray for one another!** The fear of man has far too much influence in our lives, in the Church, and in our culture. Pray that we would delight in the fear of the Lord and be open to the Holy Spirit’s leading and conviction.

Pray for boldness for every believer and especially for Christian leaders and workers who are on the front lines in the public square. Pray that we would be intentional to teach and model the fear of the Lord to the next generation. And finally, pray for the Body of Christ, that through our words and actions, our zeal and boldness, the world will recognize, fear, glorify, and revere God.

May the Lord God, whom we love, serve, and fear, be gracious to hear and answer our prayers. Amen! ❄️

## Don't. Fear. Man.

# Toward A More Intoxicated Union by David E. Smith

**I**n 2014, our country took a regrettable step toward the embrace of marijuana — not just as “medicine,” but recreational. In the November 2016 election, California, Nevada and Massachusetts legalized marijuana for recreational use while Florida, Arkansas and North Dakota legalized it for “medical” use. While it is still illegal under federal law, twenty-seven states have now approved a form of marijuana legalization.

## Adolescent Use & Life-Long Effects

Adolescents’ brains don’t fully develop until the early to mid-twenties. Teens smoking regularly show an average IQ decline of 8 points by age 35, says a report published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the U.S.

According to a Northwestern University study, teens that were heavy users had an abnormally shaped hippocampus with long-term memory loss, even two years after smoking.

Users before age 17 had clear reductions in high-school completion and degree attainment, increased odds of cannabis dependence and use of other illicit drugs, and an increase in suicide attempts according to an analysis of several studies published in The Lancet Psychiatry, September 2014.

Focus on the Family recently issued a report entitled “**The Allure of Legalizing Marijuana: Helping you Separate the Facts from Fiction**”. Here are just a few anecdotes:

1. After smoking marijuana, 18-year-old Daniel Juarez ran around wildly, stripped naked then stabbed himself with a knife 20 times, killing himself.
2. In 2014, Levy Pongi, a 19-year-old student, ingested marijuana edibles before acting irrationally, upending furniture in his hotel room, then running to the hotel balcony and jumping to his death.
3. Kristine Kirk called 911 to report her husband was acting erratically after ingesting marijuana edibles. While she was on the phone with the 911 dispatcher, her husband shot and killed her in front of their three children.

4. Brant Clark, a 17-year-old high school student took his own life after ingesting large amounts of marijuana at a party and suffering major psychotic episodes requiring emergency care over a three day period. Three weeks later he left behind a suicide note for his mother: “I wasn’t thinking the night I smoked myself out.”

## Adult Use & Impaired Driving

Over two decades of research shows that marijuana use doubles the risk of car crashes, says the Society for the Study of Addiction.

Colorado marijuana-related traffic deaths increased 92 percent from 2010–2014. During the same period, all traffic deaths only increased by 8 percent.

## Crime

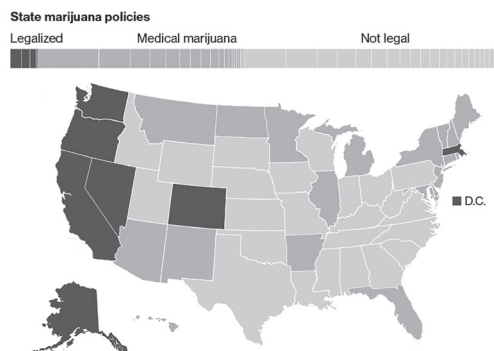
Overall, crime in Colorado has increased significantly since the drug was legalized recreationally in 2013. The latest report shows an overall increase of 4.4 percent in 2015 from the previous year, which includes a 14.3 percent increase in homicide. Yet the FBI reports that the national crime rate decreased 4.3 percent from 2013 levels.

Marijuana is not a benign drug as its proponents claim. It is a dangerous, addictive, mind-altering intoxicant. There are serious spiritual, safety, health and public policy consequences of legalizing and promoting this industry.

There are good reasons why Scripture exhorts us to be “alert and of sober mind.” (1 Peter 5:8)

## Sidebar:

We have much more information at our website! Please visit [illinoisfamily.org/marijuana](http://illinoisfamily.org/marijuana) to learn more. ❄️



This trend is deeply concerning. Regular marijuana use, particularly daily, affects motivation and ambition, at the very least. An article in the *Washington Post* written by Paul Steinburg (a psychiatrist) noted that marijuana — perhaps more than other drugs — helps people care less. But caring is an important emotion, especially when it serves as a crime deterrent.

When a state legalizes marijuana for recreational use, it has to impose taxes and fees on the sale to fulfill the promise of money for schools or extra law enforcement due to increased crime. Indisputable is the fact that with legalization comes an increase in vehicle accidents and more deaths—either by suicide or homicide.

Susan Shapiro (a previous pot addict) wrote a column for the *LA Times* recalling from her time spent as a teacher how students from many backgrounds confessed that they “smoked a bowl” or “got ripped” and then got in a car accident, fell on subway tracks, had a wallet or cellphone stolen, were sexually assaulted or had a physical altercation that landed them in the hospital or jail.

Illinois Family  
**Spotlight**

**G**ive a listen to the Illinois Family Spotlight podcast! Each week we highlight a new cultural or political issue. Our discussions are informed by a biblical worldview that will help expose the lies and distortions promulgated by our godless culture. Visit: [illinoisfamilyaction.org/podcast/](http://illinoisfamilyaction.org/podcast/)



# The Radical Trans-Formation of America

by Laurie Higgins, Cultural Analyst

**F**or decades the Left has embarked on a science-and-morality-defying quest to advance a sexuality ideology that undermines human flourishing. There is no better illustration of that than the radical “trans”-formation of America with regard to “transgenderism.”

*Sophistry: the use of clever but false arguments intended to deceive*

“Progressives” invent or reinvent language to serve their ideological purposes. So, let’s simplify and clarify matters. In this article, “sex” refers to one’s objective, immutable biological sex. “Gender” is a synonym for sex. “Gender identity” refers to a person’s subjective feelings about his or her sex. Men who pretend to be women are pretend-women. And men and women who accept their sex are normal men and women (not “cismen” or “ciswomen” as Leftists call them).

Remember, no one has an ethical obligation to accept Leftist assumptions, use Leftist language, or acquiesce to Leftist demands based on those assumptions and advanced through tortured Leftist language.

## *Safety*

The most radical demand made by Leftists is that society must sexually integrate spaces in which private activities are engaged in, that is to say, activities that involve bodily functions and undressing.

Much of the opposition to co-ed restrooms, locker rooms, showers, shelters, and semi-private hospital rooms focuses on the risks posed to women when objectively male persons are allowed in these private spaces.

Leftists respond that there is no evidence that men who wish they were women pose any risk to women and that pretend-women have been using women’s restrooms for years without incidence. What this argument ignores is that allowing cross-dressing men into women’s private spaces makes it easier for male predators to access women’s facilities by claiming to be “transwomen.”

The blog GenderTrender illuminates <https://gendertrender.wordpress.com/tag/transgender-lies/> this real danger:

One of the tropes Transjacktivists use to promote and legalize their desire to eliminate female spaces is to assert that males with GID are speshul snowflakes or claim that males wouldn’t adopt transgenderism in order to prey on women. Or that males who are arrested repeatedly for getting off on watching women perform intimate activities (in places they assume they are free from males) wouldn’t go through the trouble of *putting on a wig that makes those same activities legal....* Are you out of your mind? Why wouldn’t a guy who risks arrest repeatedly to invade women’s space comply with measures which make his activities legal?? It’s considerably less inconvenient to put on a skirt and some lippy than to be arrested and processed, make bail, go before a judge, etc....

Transjacktivists claim that arrest statistics for peeping and perving don’t show a sharp increase in states where men are allowed in women’s spaces. Well of course they don’t! Making a formerly illegal behavior LEGAL seldom results in more arrests for (now legal) behavior. Duh!

The truth is guys do this sh\*t all the time. And they’ll do whatever it takes to perv on females. Here are some of the things they’ll do to get into female spaces:

1. Hide cameras and microphones in female spaces.
2. Crawl through ventilation ducts to view female spaces.
3. Install double mirrors to view female spaces.
4. Drill holes in walls to peep women’s spaces.
5. Place cameras in shopping bags next to females wearing skirts.
6. Risking arrest—and repeat arrest—sneaking into women’s restrooms.

Another Leftist argument regarding



safety goes like this: If bathrooms correspond to objective sex, then women who wish they were men and are lumbering about looking like burly men would be compelled to use women’s restrooms. Once burly, bearded women with bulging biceps are seen in women’s restrooms, *actual* men who are predators will be able to freely enter women’s restrooms looking like the men they are (no need to cross-dress). If, upon entering women’s restrooms, these objectively male predators are questioned, they can merely lie, claiming they are actually “transmen” (i.e., women who are pretending to be men) but aren’t permitted to use the men’s restroom because of archaic restroom policies that require restrooms to correspond to actual sex. Therefore, according to Leftists, the threat of sexual assault actually *increases* unless restroom policies allow men who are pretending to be women in women’s restrooms.

## *The logical outworking of the “trans” ideology*

So, let’s make this quagmire a tad more quaggy and miry.

In challenging current “genital-based” restroom policies, Leftists snottily ask who will be performing “genital inspections.” Let’s assume sexuality-perverts (i.e., those who seek to pervert a proper understanding of all matters sexual) manage to win “gender-identity-based” restroom policies. Who is going to do “gender-identity” inspections? What will society do with those who “identify” as genderfluid, bigender, or trigender? What will be required to establish a “transwoman” or “transman” identity? Must they cross-dress? Take puberty-blockers? Take cross-sex hormones? Have their breasts amputated and fake-penises affixed to their nether regions or



(continued ...)

conversely have their testes amputated and fake breasts affixed upstairs? In Barack Obama and Loretta Lynch's brave new world, nothing would be required for men to access women's locker rooms other than their assertion that they "identify" as women.

Now that cross-dressing has been released from the confines of closets, and more elaborate disguises are chemically and surgically available, restroom and locker room use *has* been complicated. Pretend-men whose use of cross-sex hormones, body-mutilating surgeries, and cross-dressing render them visually indistinguishable from actual men *does* complicate restroom use for actual men and for women who won't want bearded ladies in their facilities. Allowing pretend-women, whose expensive costumes conceal their immutable nature, to use opposite-sex restrooms and locker rooms becomes equally problematic.

But who's to blame for this new problem?

The blame rests with those who subordinate commonsense and truth about the nature and meaning of objective, immutable sex to disordered subjective desires and perverse ideas about objective, immutable sex. And now the chief promoters of sin-bred foolishness and confusion are asserting that society has a moral obligation to acquiesce further to the corrosive effects of their sin-bred confusion and foolishness.

#### **Title IX and Title VII**

How are Leftist organizations making headway in public schools? They're doing so by abusing IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 that prohibits discrimination based on "sex" in public

schools. Unelected Leftist bureaucrats with no lawmaking authority in Obama's Department of Education decided that the word "sex" in Title IX includes "gender identity." Based on that fanciful redefinition, they have made the ludicrous claim that schools are prohibited from maintaining separate restrooms or locker rooms for objectively male and female students.

To make this rhetorical leap, these bureaucrats ignored this pesky part of Title IX:

A recipient [of federal funds] may provide separate toilet, locker room, and shower facilities on the basis of sex.

Leftists who focus their efforts on delegitimizing concerns over safety ignore that safety is not the only concern. The other and equally important issue concerns the meaning of sexual differentiation. Policies that mandate that restroom and locker room usage can no longer correspond to sex embody the false idea that the objective sex of humans has no intrinsic meaning relative to modesty and physical privacy. Accepting such a subversive notion paves the way to the end of sex-segregation everywhere.

Policies mandating co-ed restrooms and locker rooms in our elementary, middle, and high schools embody and teach lies. They teach all children that in order to be kind, inclusive, and socially just, they must relinquish their privacy. Such policies teach that physical embodiment as male or female has no intrinsic meaning related to modesty and privacy.

The Left is attempting the same rhetorical slight of tongue with Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which is even broader and therefore more dangerous in its application. Even churches are

vulnerable to federal lawsuits based on charges of "sex" discrimination.

If schools, churches, restaurants, health clubs, hospitals, and shelters are prohibited from "discriminating" based on either objective biological sex or "gender identity" (i.e., subjective feelings about sex), their private spaces will inevitably become co-ed. Once objectively male gender-dysphoric persons are allowed in women's restrooms, on what basis would normal men be prohibited from entering a women's restroom? Prohibiting men from accessing women's restrooms because they're men would be unjustifiable because objectively male persons would have already been granted access, and prohibiting men from accessing women's restrooms because they're "cisgender" would be deemed discrimination based on "gender identity." And so the Leftist agenda to eradicate all public recognition and respect for sexual differentiation will have been achieved.

#### **Conclusion**

This is a crucial battle to fight.

Do not use opposite-sex pronouns when referring to gender-dysphoric persons who are pretending to be the sex they are not. Do not share restrooms or locker rooms with opposite-sex persons. Ignore the false accusation that valuing the feelings of modesty and desire for privacy that derive from sex differences is a sign of hatred and ignorance.

And fight policies in your local schools that mandate the grammatically incorrect use of pronouns and that permit co-ed restrooms and locker rooms. Yes, lawsuits are expensive, but fighting for the right to recognize and respect sexual differentiation in private spaces in public schools is worth the cost. ❄

**If ever there was a time for  
you to get involved with IFI,  
it is now.**

For 25 years, we have worked to defend and champion family values: upholding marriage and family, protecting life and liberty, preserving religious freedom, and challenging liberal indoctrination in public schools.

Without the participation and support of people like you, our mission to "boldly bring Biblical perspectives to public policy" wouldn't be possible.

As we prepare for the upcoming 2017-2018 session of the Illinois General Assembly, we need your support. IFI is often the only voice in Springfield representing traditional family values.

Please consider supporting our work

with an end-of-the-year gift, so that we can continue to be a strong voice for life, marriage and religious freedom. Illinois families are our only clients, and we need you to stand with us if we are to continue to represent our shared values in the public arena.

**We simply cannot do  
it without you!**

# Prayer Requests . . .

**The divisive 2016 election is finally behind us and we can breathe a sigh of relief... Or can we?**

As followers of Christ, it's our responsibility to pray for our leaders even if we disagree with their politics. The Apostle Paul teaches us in 1 Timothy 2 that we should pray for everyone, especially "...for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness."

President-elect Donald Trump is choosing his White House staff, cabinet and federal agency members. The adage "personnel is policy" couldn't be more true. The direction of our nation for the next four years will largely be determined the appointments made for this new administration.

## Please Pray...

### ...for President-elect Donald Trump

- Pray that God would draw him to deep faith and trust in Him (John 6:44).
- Pray that God would bless him with wisdom (James 1:5) and surround him with godly counselors. Pray for Vice President Mike Pence.
- Pray for humility and a teachable spirit.
- Pray that God would give him fortitude to withstand the attacks from opponents, and courage to act to appoint pro-life judges, repeal Obamacare, end Common Core, fight Islamic terrorism and enforce federal drug laws for the welfare of our country despite the opposition that will come against him.

### ...for the Nation

- Thank God for the mercy and grace that He continues to manifest to us, and has exhibited throughout our history. Gratitude is a vital Christian virtue. (1 Thess 5:18; Psalm 105:1)
- Pray that the American people would come to fully understand the evil of abortion and realize the value, dignity and blessing of each human being — born and unborn.
- Pray for unity in our nation, but especially among Christian believers. Jesus prayed that we be one, just as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are One. (John 17:20-23)
- Pray against the lies that seek to divide us by race, ethnicity, education and economic status.



### ...for Parents and Grandparents

- Pray that parents and grandparents would understand their God-given responsibility to impress upon their children their Christian faith, Biblical values and the love of God.
- Pray that parents and grandparents would teach their children about the sanctity of life, God's definitions of marriage and sexuality, and what the Bible teaches about work and remaining sober.

### ...for the Church

- Pray that our pulpits would be filled with bold preachers and teachers who will proclaim the entire counsel of God. (Acts 20:27)
- Pray that Christian leaders would understand the importance of engaging the culture with Biblical truth. (Matthew 28:19-20)

### ...for Illinois Family Institute

- Pray that God continues to provide the resources we need to continue to boldly bring Biblical perspectives to public policy in our state.
  - Pray for the IFI Board of Directors and staff as we take on a politically correct and increasingly godless culture.
- Lastly, we cannot loose heart when we don't see our prayers being answered right away. Our job is to pray. The results are up to Him. God promises a harvest if we persist! ❄

*“And let us not grow weary while doing good,  
for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.”*

— Galatians 6:9

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