

LifeSiteNews' Ben Johnson misrepresents “Christian position” on transgender people, fails to actually cite the Bible

By Guest

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Abstract

Editor's Note: This is part of a TransAdvocate series on religion. This series seeks to explore how various religions conceptualize trans and how trans people conceptualize religion. By Daniel Gonzales Ben Johnson of LifeSiteNews is in a tizzy over Pat Robertson's declaration that transgender people altering their bodies is not a sin and thus he will not [...]

Article

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[Figure] Eunuch Ebed-Melek successfully argues against the rest of King Zedekiah's court and leads a team of 30 men to rescue the prophet Jeremiah from a well. (Jeremiah 38)

By Daniel Gonzales

Ben Johnson of LifeSiteNews is in a tizzy over Pat Robertson's declaration that transgender people altering their bodies is not a sin and thus he will not condemn it. Johnson cites multiple sources attempting to condemn transgender people.

Traditional Christians have condemned such actions as a form of self-mutilation since the days of the ancient church.

Well that's overly broad and has no source to back it up.

Speaking specifically of castration, the Apostolic Canons, a fourth century Syrian document, states, "If a layman mutilate himself, let him be excommunicated for three years, as practising against his own life."

The Apostolic Canons were merely church orders issued in 692, many of which were rejected by Pope Constantine. The Apostolic Canons were written several centuries after the last books of the Bible were written. Johnson continues to cite irrelevant sources:

More contemporary teachers uphold the Christian admonition to maintain one's biological gender and respect our bodies.

"To destroy organs purposefully that are healthy and functioning, and to try to create imitation organs which will never have the genuineness and functioning of authentic organs lacks charity," said Fr. William Saunders, professor of Catechetics and Theology at Christendom College's Notre Dame Graduate School. "Such surgery which purposefully destroys the bodily integrity of the person must be condemned."

Continuing to avoid citing the Bible at all costs, Johnson instead cites the National Catholic Bioethics Center for his final jab at trans people. I won't bore you with a quote.

Had Johnson bothered to open his Bible he might find clarity with Matthew 19:12 which quotes Jesus:

For there are some eunuchs, which were so born from their mother's womb: and there are some eunuchs, which were made eunuchs of men: and there be eunuchs, which have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. He that is able to receive it, let him receive it. [KJV]

Yes, the King James Version quotes Jesus as using the phrase "born that way." I'm sure printing that would cause LifeSiteNews all sorts of problems.

Or perhaps Johnson could ask why God hasn't selected the transgender person mentioned in The 700 Club to spread the gospel. This would be Biblically consistent with Acts 8 : 26-39 in which God selects an Ethiopian eunuch to spread His word to Ethiopia. That eunuch by the way was the modern day equivalent of Secretary of the Treasury to the queen of Ethiopia.

In fact in Biblical days eunuchs held the most powerful positions in government. In the Book of Esther eunuchs ran the royal court of King Xerxes and a eunuch by the name of Hegai personally selected Esther to ascend to the throne from the royal harem.

And I haven't even cited all the references to eunuchs in the Bible, just my personal favorites. Transgender and gender non-conforming people play major rolls all throughout the Bible and consistently held positions of power and importance. Rather than looking to the Bible for his article, Johnson grasps at straws to condemn them.

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