

The Obama administration has issued a letter to public school districts directing them to allow transgender students to use the restrooms and locker rooms and to participate on the athletic team of the gender with which they identify rather than the gender assigned by their sex at birth. For the time being, the executive ruling applies only to public school districts. Nothing more is needed than for a student to communicate to the school his/her chosen gender identification. While it remains unclear, the student may apparently change that identification as frequently as he/she wishes. If the school does not comply with the student's request, then the federal government may sue or withhold federal funding to that school in order to force compliance.

The executive ruling does not currently apply to private schools like WC. However, given the current cultural milieu and the direction that it is trending, it is not unreasonable to suspect that private and even religious institutions may eventually be included. If such a ruling, or any ruling that would require WC to break the connection between a person's gender and biological sex, were to be issued, we will not comply with it under any circumstance.

We firmly hold to the idea that a person's gender is inextricably and divinely linked to his/her biological sex. The thinking that led to the executive order is that gender is fluid, changeable and distinct from one's biology rejects basic biblical teaching on sex and gender. We reject that thinking. Consider these premises:

1. Gender is a divine order that is rooted in the nature and character of God. That order is fixed and unchanging in a way that reflects that character. (cf. Genesis 1:26-27)
2. Our biology and our sexual makeup matter. They are not secondary to our spiritual makeup and comprise a vital component of a fundamental doctrine of Christian theology – the resurrection of the body. To deny this would be a radical dualist or even gnostic position. The God-ordained sex and gender that He gave to each of us should be recognized as a gift. (cf. Genesis 1:31)
3. Our gender roles and how we perceive them have been subjected to the effects of the fall and our own sinful natures. (Also see our [Statement on Human Sexuality and Marriage](#).) Our identity in such matters must be rooted in truth and not our own changing and untrustworthy feelings. (cf. Romans 1:21-27)

There is much more that could be written on this issue, and indeed needs to be written because this is an issue that our students will need to have settled in their own minds as they navigate today's culture. There are real people who suffer because of gender identity issues and they desperately need our compassion and instruction. This likely includes students in Worthington Christian School. While these students deserve our counsel and care, our love for them requires us to teach them that their feelings may never override the revelation of God's design and purpose for them. This is what it means to be true to the whole counsel of God, without which no education can be complete.