

I met Sally at the school gate this afternoon. She was in a bit of a stew.

She took me on one side and confided: "The boy our Connor sits next to in class is a girl now. Connor says we've all to stop calling him Craig and call him Caitlin, and he's **she** not he."

Sally was distraught. "And what I really don't get is that Connor's teacher is a Christian. She goes to St. Mary's. I'm sure she'll not like it any more than we do."

"Well, no," I replied cautiously. "I'm sure she doesn't like it, but she'll have to follow management instructions as an employee, won't she? We need to pray for her that she'll be sensitive to all the children in the class and that she'll have some good discussions with them. What will you say to Connor?"

"Oh I'll tell him to make a special effort to be kind to Caitlin. He knows everyone is special to God because He made them, so we love and show respect to everyone. Actually Connor is more cool about it than I am. It worries me."

"Sally, I feel really sad about all this, but I'm not surprised. School is a battlefield of worldviews. Do you think we've taught our children adequately, taught them to think biblically and to critique the ideas they come across?"

Lisa came bounding up, running late as usual. "What are you 2 looking so serious about today?" she quipped.

Sally told her about Craig.

Lisa swore. "The country's gone mad," she said. "I hope Craig, I mean Caitlin, doesn't go for gender reassignment surgery. I just heard Lord Winston on Radio 4 saying that it can be very damaging. <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/11/01/transgender-people-can-end-badly-damaged-says-lord-robert-winston/>. I can see problems ahead and I wonder if we'll only have ourselves to blame."

"What do you mean, Lisa?" Gemma had overheard Lisa's none-too-quiet tones. "I mean," said Lisa with characteristic enthusiasm, "that we should be talking to the school. They're imposing gender ideology and encouraging the children to question their body identity. We should nip it in the bud. It's worse in the High School. Our Siobhan said they watched that new Cinderella film¹ in class yesterday, supposedly as part of their careers' guidance. My Aunty Peggy was a genius with a drill and screwdriver. She wouldn't have been impressed if we'd suggested she was a man though. If they want girls to go into careers in Engineering and Maths they need to be careful about gender stereotyping. Not all boys are the same and not all girls are the same."

By now we were quite a group gathered: Gemma, Lisa, Sally and me. There were other mums, dads, grannies and grandpas within earshot. This daily sojourn to the school gate is

¹ "Imagine!": https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4_9F0RZUsIc

quite a bonding experience. Looking around I guessed that other groups were talking about Craig/Caitlin too. I spotted Caitlin's mum standing alone by the fence.

"Girls," I said. "I have to go. Let's do coffee and we can make a plan about talking to the Head." I wandered over to Caitlin's mum. "Chilly today. How are you doing?" I said. She turned towards me and smiled, though she also looked a bit wary: "Mmm," she said, "just today, it's good to have someone to talk to. Some people don't seem to know what to say about Caitlin, so they just do a body-swerve — you understand?"

Megan recommends: **Transgender. A talking points book by Vaughan Roberts**. 2016. The Good Book Company
<https://www.cmf.org.uk/resources/publications/content/?context=article&id=26419>

Watch out for more on this topic in the future.

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