Cissie Graham Lynch:

00:00:00 For the last few years, my dad, Franklin Graham, has been taking what he calls the God Loves You Tour across different parts of the country. This year, he's taking it to Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina. It's called the God Loves You Tidewater Tour.

Dad's going to be sharing the message of Jesus Christ with people in six cities. It starts at the end of April and ends the first week of May.

I've been with my dad on other God Loves You Tours and I'm telling you, there's nothing more special than seeing people in the audience make decisions to follow Jesus.

You can be part of the God Loves You Tidewater Tour. You can attend the one-day events, you can be praying for them, and you can support them financially. The best way to learn more about the God Loves You Tour is to go to GodLovesYouTour.com. That's GodLovesYouTour.com.

MUSIC STARTS

Cissie:

00:00:51 Hi, I'm Cissie Graham Lynch. Welcome to *Fearless*, helping you have a fearless faith in a compromising culture.

MUSIC TRANSITION

Cissie:

00:01:11 Welcome back to another episode of *Fearless*. I'm Cissie Graham Lynch. And if you're like me, every time you turn on the news these days or you open up your phone first thing in the morning, it seems like things are just spiraling out of control very fast—and it's happening at rapid speed every day. I have a friend texting me like a news story or just saying, "This country's sinking so fast," and they're worried, but especially when it comes to the subject of the LGBTQ community, especially transgender lately. I just had an episode of an "Elephant in the Room" talking about this subject, but with everything happening in the news, I was just gonna follow it up because it really seems like we are in chaos right now. It is mass confusion. Every day we turn on the news, we see headlines like, "Minnesota Teachers Will Be Required to Affirm Transgender Ideology."

The University of Cambridge dean defended a chapel sermon suggesting Jesus was transgender. We've seen Bud Light and they have now partnered with a trans influencer. "Girls Volleyball Team Banned From Locker Room Over Complaint About Transgender Student." Vermont school loses eligibility to compete due to discrimination

of trans athletes. I mean, these are things that we are reading and hearing every single day and the headlines, they're just pouring in.

And of course we are in the aftermath of the horrific school shooting in Nashville at the Christian school where the shooter was a female, but identified as a male. And in the wake of the shooting, we have Democrats in Washington right now reintroducing the transgender Bill of Rights. And it's amazing when—this is just a little bit of a side note, when a mass shooting happens, of course, the far left, they want gun control, gun control, gun control—and then a mass shooting happens by a transgender, the script kind of flips and it changes and they want protection of transgenders. And we saw in the response of the shooting, the White House was saying that the trans community is under attack—and they've never even recognized that Christians being under attack. Just a fact that Christians are the most persecuted group in the world. That's just a side note that just baffled me in all of this. But that's how the evil one works; that's how Satan works, using the calamity to push all the radical agendas, especially when it comes to this. Instead of recognizing the mental illness, they have pushed all their agendas through all the calamity and through the chaos.

Another head-scratching bizarre way of the left is we're all talking about mental health these days. I've recently have kind of talked about that with my last pregnancy and the severe depression. But, anytime you see celebrities now talking about mental health, especially after the wake of 2020 and COVID, that's something we've come to recognize. But it's crazy to me that a man with male parts—I'll be careful what I say here cuz I don't know if you're listening to this in the car with your children—but a man with male parts can call himself a woman, and we don't think that that's mentally unstable. Instead, our nation is affirming that and we're telling them that that's completely normal and just know, Christians, that's not loving our neighbor—affirming something that is completely wrong, affirming something that is a mental issue, that is wrong and that's not loving our neighbor.

But with all the confusion and chaos, there is one young lady who has been fearless, especially when it comes to women's sports, and I know that she didn't ever see herself in the spotlight for this just a couple years ago. But that's Riley Gaines, that's a name that most of us have probably heard even last year, when her name was in the headlines, but especially in the recent weeks as she has really gone to bat. She has stood alone when it comes to women's sports and protecting women's sports.

If you're not aware of her name and you haven't heard it, she's a 12-time all-American swimmer with five SEC titles, and she was a successful female swimmer at the University of Kentucky. I first started hearing her name, one of my colleagues, that works at Samaritan's Purse and BGEA, his daughter was a teammate of hers. But Riley's entire life was changed when she was forced to share a locker room and then had to compete against a biological male, Lia Thomas, at the 2022 NCAA Women's Swimming Championship. I think if we can remember back then, we all remember

seeing her face just as this boy got the award. Do you think of how many hours Riley Gaines or other female athletes in college have spent training and perfecting their craft, perfecting their sport? Especially swimmers, when they get there at four or five in the morning, you think of their parents those early years in elementary school and dads taking their girls to these swim meets, long weekends, all the hours that they put in the pool.

And for her, she wasn't gonna, this was it. This is the pinnacle of her career was college. And this last race, this championship stolen by a boy. But the University of Pennsylvania, the transgender swimmer, Lia Thomas, ironically, his winning streak was broken January 8 by a competitor from Yale who ironically identifies as a transgender. But, Riley can recall wondering why no one was standing up for her or any of the other women and girls in the room, and she realized that that was the moment her life changed and that was her call to action: defend and protect America's daughters. I have a little girl right now just, you know, getting started into sports. She loves tennis, she loves volleyball, she loves basketball, and I think you know, what's gonna happen in the next 10 to 15 years in her life?

I think what's changed in the last 10 years, things that we couldn't even imagine. I remember 10 years ago sitting in California with a friend of ours and he was saying when he was a little boy, he had a poster of Bruce Jenner on his wall 'cause Bruce Jenner was—[laugh]—that was the athlete that all the young boys looked up to back then. And he said, Never in my wildest dreams could I ever imagine Bruce Jenner becoming a woman. And I remember sitting there, and that was 10 years ago, saying, what in our wildest dreams can we not imagine that's gonna happen in the next 10 to 15 years? And here we are. So when it comes to my daughter and her future, I can't even imagine—none of us can—what's to come in the next 10 to 15 years with this mass confusion and this confusion that we're allowing and people are just adding to it.

But last week, Riley Gaines was speaking at San Francisco State University. Many of you have probably seen it already on the news, where she was ambushed by activists shouting out trans rights or human rights, that she says she was trapped for three hours while trying to safely escape the campus, kind of after this chilling attack. And I can imagine as a young woman what that must feel like when you are speaking. You know, we don't, of course, allow civil discourse anymore. We're not open to debate the far left. They are so afraid of truth that they have to silence the truth and they use violence to silence.

And we're seeing that more and more, not just on this subject, but on many other subjects where if it's conservatives or Christians out to speak at college campuses, that they're using violence and threats to silence people. And although, the university came out and they did have a response and they replied with a statement, I read it yesterday of just saying that they welcome all diversity and inclusion and they were so thankful for the peaceful protest. And Riley's like, What? This was not peaceful, not when they're

threatening me and ambushing me and attacking me. But we're starting to see this quite often and every day. And through all of this, I cannot believe that she has stood alone over the last, you know, year, I've been wondering where are the female athletes?

Why is it a college girl taking a stand? And these high school students, like we saw recently in Vermont where it was a basketball team, a private school, and they were playing against another team that had a transgender, a male identifying as a girl, was playing against them. Well, basketball's a physical sport, comes down to their safety and the school, you know, forfeited their game and didn't play, but then they were penalized, and they couldn't compete anymore. And they even put that restriction on the entire school. But I was so proud. You know, those have severe consequences—we're gonna talk about that in a little bit—that when we stand fearless, when we take a stand for things, there are gonna be consequences. The world will hate it. But I see these high school girls, it's because it's their championships being taken away. It's their safety that is at risk. So I'm so thankful and I've just have been disappointed in so many professional athletes, women, because they've reached the pinnacle of their career. This is not gonna affect them. And they have stood silent.

We did see—I was also proud of this. Bethany Hamilton did take a stand on her social media. I remember like scrolling through, I follow Bethany, and being like, wow, because that is something that is probably so far out of her comfort zone to address a topic like this. She doesn't get into politics, she doesn't get into much of the culture. She's just there to talk about surfing and just positive messaging for young girls of overcoming adversity. But I was so impressed and she just asked like simple questions in her thing of addressing when the World Surf League professional tour began to allow biological males who identify as women to compete against female surfers. And she was asking simple questions, questions that we need to be asking. Is a hormone level an honest and accurate depiction that someone indeed is a male or female? Is it really that simple? How is this rule playing out in other sports like swimming, running? Should there have been a conversation with 17 women and all the men on tour prior to the rule change such as this? And she goes, and who is pushing for such a huge change? You know, and these are just simple questions that should have been asked. So I'm proud of her. There are a few people here and there that have been, but for the most part, young college girls and high school girls have been left out to dry.

But finally we did hear from some professional athletes just recently, and these are professional athletes who have fought for women's rights, who have been kind of the advocates, you know, women need equal pay in our sports, all equal rights, and that is Sue Bird and Megan Rapinoe, who are both professional female athletes. Sue Bird, basketball; Megan, of course, is soccer, and they're engaged to one another. They signed a letter opposing the trans athlete ban, and that is mind blowing to me. I mean, not really. I wouldn't expect much different from these girls, but the logic of it does not make any sense, that these are women who have fought for equal rights in sports, and now they have disappointed all the young girls that look up to them or mothers of

daughters, that we would expect them to have a voice. They have this platform, they've wanted this platform. They love making money on this platform and they have, not just sat silent, but they have really betrayed all the young girls below them, but it's never gonna affect them. They're making money from so many LGBTQ groups for being this famous lesbian couple. It will never affect them. They've reached the pinnacle of their career and it's like they've looked at the young girls behind them and they said, "Sorry, we're not gonna help you." But where's Carli Lloyd? Where's Julie Ertz, who is a strong believer? Her and her husband are both professional athletes. They've sat silent. Mia Hamm, Allyson Felix, Lindsey Vonn, all the great women that we could name and we haven't heard any of them.

But the ways of the left is like cannibalism. Their ideas will eat each other. There's no truth that they stand on and it's an evolving door and they eat each other. Here are these women who have fought for women's sports to come so far, like Title IX. I remember like a year ago I was watching ESPN and they're talking about how far women's sports have come and they're like, Well, we're going backwards because they're not women's sports anymore. We're allowing men to compete and take our young girls' championships away and take their scholarships away.

But the transgender ideology, it breeds uncertainty, constant change. There's no anchor in it. You think of back when I was growing up in the nineties where, you know, they would say, "We are born gay," science. "We are born gay," and there they had no scientific proof. Of course, that's evolved. Now it's fluid, gender fluidity. You can be whatever you want. And they look at those people from the nineties and they've cut them off from their community. But reality is treated as an obstacle that must be ignored, suppressed, and rebelled against. And when culture denies reality, chaos and confusion are at large, and that is what we're seeing happening right now. There's no limits. It can morph. It can mean anything that the mind can fathom.

So what happens with insane ideas like transferring a male sex offender who identifies as a woman to a female prison? Placing a male sex offender in a women's shelter is suddenly pushed by media and activists, and we've seen the consequences of all of that. We've seen women being raped in prison and in these shelters. And all this ideology ultimately collapses on itself, bringing greater harm that are all involved. Just like I said, these ideas, they end up eating each other up. These women who have fought for women's rights and LGBTQ rights, now they're allowing men in their spaces; their scholarships, they'll be gone, their championships, gone.

But I think of this story last year, it was a couple years ago, we were at Universal Studios with my family and my son Austin was too little to ride Haggard's motorcycle ride and—which is one of our favorite rides by the way, side note, we'll keep going—he was too short for it. And I took a picture, and I asked the guy, I said, "Excuse me, sir, my son, he identifies as a taller person, so can you please allow to ride the ride?" Of course not. And I wouldn't even want him to because there's restrictions, there's rules there for

the safety of my son, to keep him safe, and that's the same as God's order. God's order is not meant for confusion and chaos. There's purpose behind it. And that order is there to protect us, to keep us safe, and when we go outside of that order is when danger comes, when harm comes, and when death comes. You know, it's like my son, if he rode that ride and he's too small for the harnesses, he could die because there's restrictions for a purpose. And it's the same with God's love and God's standards.

But once again, I'm so proud of Riley Gaines who has really taken just this lonely stand to protect American girls against the woke left and their gender-denying ideology—and other college girls, other high school girls have taken a stand. They've been strong, they have been fearless, while professional athletes have been so scared to take a stand because they know that they could lose it. The violent mob would come after them and they could lose their careers and there's too much to lose, and they have sat silent and shame on them.

But when we look at it, it's like "Science? What science?" You know, we look at the far left, they were always about science, but like, why do we need biology? They just have thrown it out the window.

But if we simply look at 75 years, at Olympic records for men and women, you don't need any new scientific evidence to show the unfairness of men competing in women's sports, stealing their championships, their scholarships, and opportunities from women. Male athletes are at an advantage. It's just like when I go to the gym, my trainer—cuz we're in male and female big bootcamp—he says, hey women, he'll give a suggestion of what weights we might want, and he gives a suggestion of what men might want, because it's science. Men are built differently and nobody in that gym takes offense to that. Male athletes are at an advantage. In 2017, for example, more than 5,000 males ran 400 meters, faster than the personal best of female Olympic gold medalists like Richards-Ross and Allyson Felix. From 2017 to 2019, two male athletes stole 15 state track championship records in Connecticut that were previously held by nine different girls.

I think this is a funny story. I hadn't heard this—somebody just sent it to me—back in 2007, the U.S. women's national soccer team, which Megan Rapinoe played on, they lost to the boys in Dallas FC team, 15 and under, when they played. And of course they were saying, Well, we weren't playing very hard. I think the score was like 5-2 or something like that, of these young boys. So you would *think* that she herself might rethink allowing guys to transfer into women's sports, when 15-year-old boys were beating the U.S. women's soccer team.

But of course, biology still exists and it still matters and we cannot ignore it. But the far left, they've thrown it out the window. It does not matter. But how about our safety? When you think of the safety and privacy issues of like male wrestlers and boxers and basketball and volleyball players, those are intense sports. It's like that Vermont team in

basketball—I would think if my basketball team in high school—yes, I did play basketball, by the way—went up against the boys varsity basketball team—at the time my high school boyfriend played basketball there; he was 6'4," 6'5," and if I had to go up against him, I mean that's just physical harm against girls. But also just like their personal safety and locker rooms. My colleague Todd, who's often helping me with some of these topics, he sent me this video and I started dying laughing because it's insanity. It really is. But we're thinking this is normal. It was a women's USA powerlifting guy who identifies as a woman, and he's been placing in all these championships. There's a YouTube video of him complaining and mocking women of how weak they are when it comes to their bench press. And we laugh cuz we think it's insanity, but it's not to the world. This is a serious issue that we're facing.

And every week there's a new story of a female athlete triggered by a male pretending to be a female exposing themselves in a locker room. And let's be honest, men who really wanna like dominate women, they would love these gender-bending craze that we're in as a nation because it opens up a whole new door of opportunities for them to exploit privacy, dominance, and notoriety. You think these—nobody knew who Leah Thomas was. He couldn't win in the male division. Of course, he goes to women, everybody knows who he is now. I mean, this is [laugh]. It's sad that we're talking about this on *Fearless* today. Men who are just cowards, who are weak men think that they can come, they're making fun of women being stronger. Like I think what kind of man, the audacity to go take a championship away from a woman and he feels good about himself, and we're treating them like they're courageous heroes.

Just look at the trans influencer who Bud Light just endorsed and this person says that they're a woman. This is just nonsense. They're becoming famous. And all these companies who have gone woke are giving them a lot of money, so they're getting rich off this chaos. But when I started *Fearless*, it really was about issues like this, that how do we as Christians—this is the problem. This is the world we're in, and it's sad, it is sad that we are raising our children with this reality.

So how do we as Christians respond to all of this? How do we respond to this confusion, these lies, this hatred that is spreading? And we have to remember, you know, 1 Corinthians 14:33 says that God is a God of order. He's not a God of confusion. He's a God of peace. And we see in this world that we don't have peace. We're pushing all this crazy, confusing agenda, this radical agenda. And that's not who God is. He's not a God of confusion, but he's a God of peace. And that God has given us an order. He has a merciful design and a purpose for things, including His design and His purpose for you, for me, for all of us, male and female, He's got a purpose for. And all the transgender ideology, it pushes an uncertainty, it's pushing confusion on young children who are asking questions where we need to be there for them. And that just says we need to be a people who are calm, who are loving, and who firmly stand their ground on truth and on grace.

My heart hurts for young people growing up today, that these ideologies, these radical agendas are being pushed on them in school at a young age, even at kindergarten. We now have parents who have grown up with this ideology who are now, you know, they don't wanna identify the sex of their baby even when they're born. So that is child abuse. That would've been child abuse, but now we think it's some progressive enlightenment. My heart hurts for that. I think of young girls who were tomboys and can't—we can't even have tomboys in our culture anymore because we would say, Oh, maybe they're a boy.

My mother was the biggest tomboy. She'll say she beat all the boys in the sports. She used to say as a kid that she hated being a girl. She wanted to compete and play football and do all that stuff. And she'll tell you, if she had grown up in today's time, she would've been told that she was meant to be a boy. And, she just says how thankful you know, she was, she didn't grow up in the time like this. We're not allowed to have tomboys anymore. we're giving children, you know, hormone blockers, wanna change their sex at a young age, when they can't even decide what they want to eat and drink at night. So it's just my heart hurts for them and we need to be loving and calm and addressing these issues that sadly this generation's having to face.

But, when it comes to loving, that doesn't mean we affirm. We're to *love* one another. We're to love our neighbor as the Scripture says. And when we're loving somebody, that doesn't affirm their craziness, how Satan is working in their lives. It's like with somebody with schizophrenia who thinks their neighbor might be off and trying to kill them, we wouldn't say, "Yes, you're right. Your neighbor's trying to kill you." No, we would speak truth into them and remind them that no one is trying to kill them. It's like I've shared here on *Fearless* before that I had an eating disorder. I didn't have my friends coming up and affirming that eating disorder, saying, "Cissie, you should keep taking those pills that harm your body." Hey, I wouldn't go tell my friends who are bulimic, "Just keep throwing up." No, we would confront that and help them walk through it, and stand on truth, and the world has neglected truth. We think loving them is affirming just wicked and evil ideas.

And one thing, Christians, I wanna remind you, we are not to use somebody's preferred pronouns that goes against their biological sex. I have never used preferred pronouns. I teach my kids respect and to love. I say—I teach them, where I'm from the South, "Yes ma'am," "No ma'am," but you better believe I'm even teaching it more now when they're telling us we can't say "sir" or "ma'am" anymore in restaurants. But like if I go into a coffee shop and I see a man that's dressed like a woman, I say, "Thank you, sir." And I do it in a respectful way. I don't do it to try to like prove a point and to be ugly, but I will never affirm a lie that they are living.

Rosaria Butterfield, who, I've quoted here on *Fearless* before; she was a former lesbian, a professor, you know, she was a huge advocate, and kind of wore that badge proudly as a lesbian, but of course she came to know Christ and how God redeemed her life.

But she recently came out with an article of why using preferred pronouns was sinful. And she spoke about it that she had been using preferred pronouns over the years and that she was wrong and that she was repenting of that because in her mind she said that, you know, I wanted to meet them where they were. If I was to win them over for Christ, I wanted to meet them where they were, and I didn't want to offend them before I could love on them. And she recently just came out and said, I've been wrong all these years and the books and articles I've written, I was wrong. And she, just a few of the things that she listed, was saying using transgender pronouns is a sin against the ninth commandment. And it encourages people to sin against the 10th commandment. Using transgender pronouns is a sin against the creation ordinance. And she says, Using those pronouns fails to love my neighbor as myself. So just an encouragement: Don't use preferred pronouns. That's wrong, because you're agreeing with the lie that they're telling themselves.

I was recently at an REI with my brother and we know REI has always been [laugh] just far left with their agendas. This past summer I went in with my dad and they had a new flag up. I can't even keep up with their flag. That's forever changing. And Dad goes, "What's those pins they're wearing?" I said, "Those are their preferred pronouns." But recently, I was there with my brother Will, and if you know my brother Will, he does not meet a stranger. He will talk to anybody, whether you're in the grocery store line, whether you're at a restaurant, or waiting to get on an airplane, he will meet the people around him and he makes people smile and laugh, and he's got that big Southern drawl that just brings people at ease and comfort right away. And so, we're at REI and this male who is dressed full-on gold jewelry from his fingers all the way, bangles up his arm, many earrings, and long, long hair, and my brother was just trying to talk to him, complete innocence. Like, Hey buddy, you know, how are you doing? He goes, How do you go through the airline or TSA security like that? I bet you have a tough time. Just making comments: and some people would be like. Yeah, I do, You know, this is kind of hard. This guy did not think it was funny. He did not think my brother Will was very friendly. And honestly, my brother Will, this just went right over his head. He didn't even catch it, but the guy kept tapping his preferred pronoun pin [chuckle] and I just very kindly just said. Thank you sir, thank you for your help and have a good night or whatever. It was just funny. He just kept tapping, tap, tap, tap, tapping his preferred pronoun. But I will never, and as Christians, we should never use a preferred pronoun that goes against somebody's biological sex.

But know that we have to take a stand as Christians in this world. We're called to take a stand and that stand, as I said earlier, will come at a great cost. It's like that Vermont Christian school, their stand affected the other kids in their school. And our stand will affect those around us, but that cost is gonna be worth it and we need to do it. And I would just encourage you to courageously unite together with your community, with your church, with your school unite to end this nonsense. And just remember that ideas have consequences, and bad ideas have victims, and the victims in this nonsense are women. It's our daughters that are growing up. It's our children, even young boys. I feel

sorry for them, that they've been told that this is OK to go and compete in women's sports. But stand up for your daughters in the school and have that tough conversation with them. "Hey sweetheart, we're gonna take a stand with this and it's gonna be hard. People are gonna disagree with us. There's gonna be consequences. You might not be able to compete, but we are standing for truth."

Because ignoring all this and acting like it's not gonna come after you, acting like it doesn't have victims, acting like this constant cultural push will not affect you where you are, you're living in this like Pollyanna world and hoping that these sexual revolutionaries don't come for you, but they will. And it doesn't matter what community you live in, it is coming everywhere. I grew up in a small mountain town in the western mountains of North Carolina and you go there now, you see a small town, mountain town, of course, we had a university, so that changes everything. But I was just in a CVS and this male dressed up as a woman, it just broke my heart that people are affirming and saying that's OK. It will come to every community. It's already in every community. You can't ignore reality 'cause it will not end.

And we need to stop self-censoring. There was an article out recently that most of us, we will self-censor ourselves, but we need the courage. No matter the cost. We need to apply the charge. We can't live by lies. Romans 1:18 says, "The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness." And that's what we're seeing today. People who are suppressing truth, they won't even allow it to be said. They're so afraid of it, they'll use the violence to silence. But we gotta stand strong. We can't let our children live by lies and our culture live by lies.

And I wanna encourage you. Every day we have to be steeped in God's Word. We have to be reading it, praying over it, because it's only then, as believers, as ourselves and our children, will be able to stand up in this world and that we would be blameless and innocent, as Philippians 2:15 says, in the midst of a crooked and wicked and twisted generation. And then of course, you know, be sober minded and watchful, as Scripture says, that "the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking ... to devour." And we see him devouring people with these lies, and he is coming after the hearts of this generation. And our charge is straightforward: Be in the Word, stand on the Word, and equip your children with the Word.

MUSIC TRANSITION

Cissie:

00:32:11 Thank you for joining me on another episode of *Fearless*. And I want you to know *Fearless* is a ministry of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and we have many other projects that go on at the ministry, so I encourage you to check out BillyGraham.org. But where I get a lot of my information for *Fearless*, when I'm doing research, where I know I can go and get accurate news stories and get the facts is

Decision magazine. It's a magazine my grandfather, Billy Graham, started that's still at the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. I encourage you to check out the magazine at DecisionMagazine.com and get a subscription, read the articles, share it with those around you. Once again, thank you for following me, Cissie Graham Lynch, here on Fearless.

CLOSING MUSIC

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