

TRANSGENDERISM & PRONOUNS:

*Assessing the communication practices of
Christian college students*

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OVERVIEW

- Literature review
- Research questions
- Method
- Results of the study
- Theoretical framework
- Discussion



LITERATURE REVIEW

- **Media representation of transgenderism**
(Fink & Palmer, 2020; McLaren et al., 2021; Minjie, 2019; Mocarski et al., 2019)
- **Public opinion regarding transgenderism**
(Jones et al., 2018; Lewis et al., 2022; Tadlock et al., 2017)
- **Outdated research of preferred pronoun usage**
(Patev et al., 2019)



LITERATURE REVIEW

- Religion and transgenderism
(Darwin, 2020)
- Christians and transgenderism
(Glanzer et al., 2022; Timbers & Yancy, 2021; Yarhouse et al., 2021)
- Christians' communication with secularists
(Sierra, 2021)



CHRISTIANS & PRONOUNS

Hospitality

Preston Sprinkle, J.D. Greear,
Sam Allberry, and Mark Ashton

(Christ Community Church, 2022; Greear, 2019;
Greear, 2022; RZIM HQ, 2019; THINQ Media, 2022)

Preferred Pronouns = Lies

Rosaria Butterfield, John Piper,
Ken Ham, and Jordan Easley

(Butterfield, 2023; Desiring God, 2017; First Baptist
Cleveland, 2023; Ham, 2023)

Differing opinions on the issue
of preferred pronoun usage
among Christian leaders



RESEARCH QUESTIONS

How do members of Generation Z attending a Christian university adapt or not adapt their communication to accommodate individuals who identify as transgender?



RESEARCH QUESTIONS

What motivates members of Generation Z attending a Christian university to adapt or not adapt their communication to accommodate individuals who identify as transgender?



METHOD

- **Online survey**
 - 35 participants
 - residential LU students
 - 18-26 years old
- **Thematic coding**
 - most common responses
 - motivations behind answers
- **Qualitative questions**
 - allow for depth in responses
 - pertaining to beliefs about transgenderism, use of preferred pronouns, communication interactions with the community, etc.



RESULTS

- **Transgenderism is...**
 - **opposition to God as Creator**
 - **a mental illness**
 - **sin**
 - **an identity struggle**



RESULTS

Use preferred pronouns?

- Avoidance
- Priority of truth/biology
- Priority of relationship

Use preferred name?

- Subjective unlike pronouns
- Necessary for conversation



RESULTS

Communication with
trans-identifying friend

- **Seek conversation**
- **Discuss God/disagreements**
- **Communicate love**



RESULTS

Desired perception by
trans community

- Loving
- Disagreeing
- Open/not judgemental
- Christian
- Firm in truth



THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Communication Accommodation Theory

- **Accommodation**
 - focus on similarities
 - personal identities

- **Nonaccommodation**
 - emphasize differences
 - social group identities

(Giles & Ogay, 2007; Griffin et al., 2022)



DISCUSSION



- Concerned with personal and group identities
- Characterized by accommodation and nonaccommodation
- Motivated by telling truth and expressing love



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