TRANSGENDERISM & PRONOUNS:

Assessing the communication practices of Christian college students

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OVERVIEW

 Literature review • Research questions Discussion Method

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• Results of the study • Theoretical framework



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Outdated research of preferred pronoun usage (Patev et al., 2019)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

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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





METHOD

Online survey

- **35** participants
- residential LU students
- **18-26** years old

• Qualitative questions • allow for depth in responses • pertaining to beliefs about transgenderism, use of preferred pronouns, communication interactions wtih the community, etc.

• Thematic coding

- most common responses
- motivations behind answers



• Transgenderism is...

- opposition to God as Creator
- a mental illness
- sin
- an identity struggle







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



Use preferred name?

• Subjective unlike pronouns • Necessary for conversation



Communication with trans-identifying friend



• Seek conversation Discuss God/disagreements • Communicate love



Desired perception by trans community

- Loving

- Christian



Disagreeing • Open/not judgemental • Firm in truth



THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK **Communication Accommodation Theory**

Accommodation -focus on similarities -personal identities

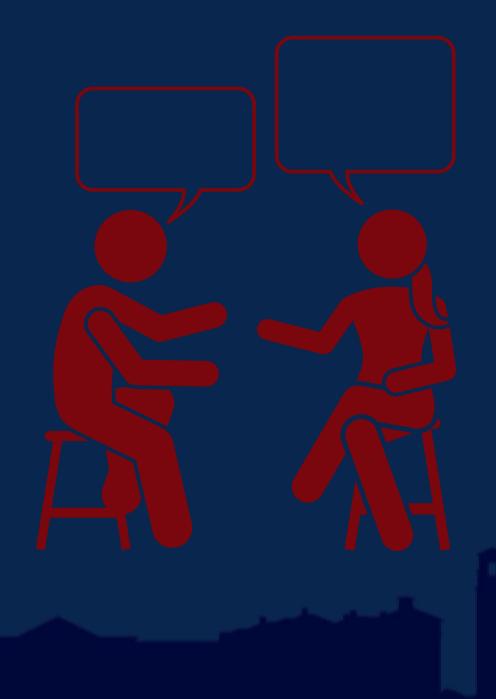
(Giles & Ogay, 2007; Griffin et al., 2022)

Nonaccommodation -emphasize differences -social group identities





DISCUSSION



- identities
- nonaccommodation
- Motivated by telling truth and expressing love

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Concerned with personal and group

Characterized by accommodation and



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