

Liberty Counsel's Mat Staver Shares How the Equality Act Will Impact Your Religious Freedom—and How We Can Stop It

You're a youth director in a church, and you want to take the students on an overnight camping trip. You have male and female chaperones and separate tents, so everything should work out fine.

Until one student, a boy, asks to sleep in the girls' tent. He says he's exploring his gender identity and feels more comfortable identifying as a girl. By law, you must allow him to sleep wherever he wants.

Or you're a greeter for your church. Every Sunday, you help people feel welcome and included. But one Sunday, a visitor asks where the restrooms are. You take her to the women's restroom, but she tells you, "No. I want to use the men's restroom." The law says you can't discriminate against her, so you point her toward the men's restroom instead.

Or you're a minister of the gospel who objects to same-sex weddings on biblical grounds. But the law doesn't care about your objections. As an ordained minister, if someone asks you to perform a same-sex wedding, you must do so or face discrimination charges.

All these scenarios are fictional—but if the Equality Act passes the U.S. Senate, these radical shifts will become representative of a new way of life across America.

"It applies to churches and religious schools and religious

organizations,” says Mat Staver, founder and president of Liberty Counsel. “So churches are not exempt. What you cannot do legally regarding race, you will not be able to do legally regarding anything LGBT and Q.”

Staver adds an important distinction, noting that in the Senate version of this bill, “Q stands for, in their words, ‘queer.’ ... That is everything outside of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transvestite and transgender. That includes all the nearly 550 sexually deviant paraphilias, one of which is pedophilia. So that queer or the Q component of LGBT is incredibly encompassing of every sexually deviant behavior or activity, including sexual relations and attractions to minors. So now this applies to churches.”

To learn more about the dangers of the Equality Act, how it could impact religious freedom across the U.S. and some simple steps you can take to help prevent it becoming law, listen to this episode of the *Strang Report* podcast here. Be sure to subscribe to the *Strang Report* on Apple Podcasts or your favorite platform, and share this article and podcast with friends or family members who need to know the truth about what the Equality Act could mean for them. {eoa}

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