

The Oyster

".....Come and see the real thing, come and see."



July 2015

Authentic

By David Trounce

A fading beauty steps into a hip city cafe, her brow filled with botox, eyes and lips coated in Monsanto's finest. Her hair and nails look and feel like nothing found on earth. She checks with the waiter, "Is the chicken organic? Is it steroid free?"

Why? Because she likes her food *tout naturel*. She insists that her chicken salad be an authentic one.

We are told to be careful not to parade false expectations of beauty before our 13 year old daughters, lest they become discouraged by the impossibility of it all. Yet when a former shot-putter named Bruno makes it onto the cover of Vanity Fair saying, "Please, Call me Lily," and our sons ask us, "But why? How?" we turn and say, "Well, son, with a lick of paint and a few stitches, nothing is impossible."

Wait a minute. Which is it?

Are we striving for what is actually real or are we content with just a thin photo-shopped veneer of real?

We object to counterfeits when it comes to our \$20's and \$50's. What about when it comes to who we are?

We build our worlds to suit our fantasy. Then, when reality turns the light on we cry foul. How Dare!



But it was not reality that cheated us. It was the fantasy. The problem with reality (and it's a good problem) is that it calls us to account. It looks under the lid, asking, "Is it real?"

Jesus was authentic. Jesus was real, and when Jesus walked the streets of Israel, many cried foul. His very presence exposed their fantasy – a fantasy that said that all was well with their soul when it clearly wasn't.

We were made in God's image. That's the reality. But we've all tried to bury this image and remake our lives according to a fantasy. Does it work? No. It leads only to heartache.

Jesus came to deliver us from the crippling effects of failed fantasies and call us to an authentic life, one that admits that what I feel inside cannot be satisfied by a scapel.

He came to restore in us the image of God and enable us to live peacefully, joyfully and in full harmony with the God who made us.

God is Reality, and when Reality walks into the room, Bruno has a choice. He can confess that the fantasy going inside is not in accord with reality or he can take his chances with the fantasy.

Are Boys and Girls Really that Different?

"So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them." (Genesis 1:27)

Are boys and girls really that different?

Twenty years ago, doctors and researchers didn't think so.

Back then, most experts believed that differences in how girls and boys behave were mainly due to differences in how they were treated by their parents, teachers and friends. It's hard to cling to that belief today.

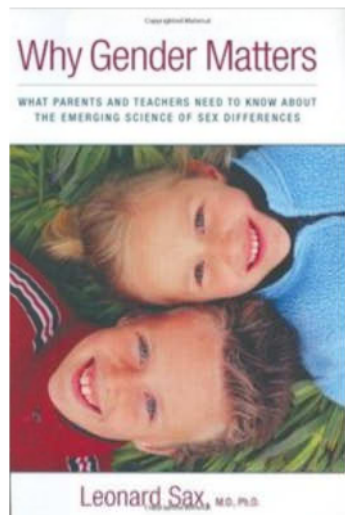
An avalanche of social and scientific research over the past twenty years has shown that sex differences are more significant and profound than anybody guessed. Sex differences are real, biologically programmed and important to how children are raised, disciplined and educated.

In ***Why Gender Matters***, psychologist and family physician Dr Leonard Sax leads parents through the mystifying world of gender differences by explaining the biologically different ways in which children think, feel and act.

He addresses a host of issues, including discipline, learning, risk taking, aggression, sex and drugs, and shows how boys and girls react in predictable ways to different situations.

For example, girls are born with more sensitive hearing than boys. Girls also develop an early connection between a structure of the brain called the amygdala and the cerebral cortex, enabling them to talk about their feelings. In boys these links develop later. So if you ask a troubled adolescent boy to tell you what his feelings are, he often literally cannot say.

Rather than think that sex differences should be ignored or overcome, the research encourages us to take seriously the God-given gifts, talents and beautiful distinctions that make a girl a girl, and a boy a boy.



The King has one More Move...

Two men are standing in front of a painting called Checkmate in an art gallery. In the painting, a man is playing chess with the devil.

The devil is grinning ear-to-ear because he has the man cornered.



The title of the painting, “Checkmate”, indicates that the game is over. The devil has won. His opponent has no more moves.

The first man looking at the painting wants to move on to other paintings in the gallery. But the second man, an international chess champion, wants to look at the painting longer, so he waves his friend on and tells him he will catch up later.

The chess champion stares and stares at the chess board, then suddenly he steps back, flabbergasted.

“It’s wrong!” he exclaims. “There’s one more move.” He runs to his friend and together they look at the painting.

“We have to contact the painter,” the chess champion says. “It’s not checkmate. The King has one more move!”

Nietzsche, Randi, Harris, Lennon, Stalin, Gervais, Jimmy Carr, Dawkins, Hegel and Bertrand Russell.

What do all these famous thinkers have in common? They all predicted or announced the death of God or Christianity.

Such bold statements have never bothered the Church or the Christian. Why?

Because we serve a God who always has one more move: That of coming back from the dead . . . and raising from the dead all who put their trust in Jesus.

What's on This Month

Women's Get Together

The local get together for women is next on Friday, July 3rd and August 7th, at 7pm, Tanilba CRC Church.

Call Gail on 4984 5442

Men's Breakfast

Meets on the first Saturday of the month at Henderson Park in Lemon Tree Passage, next on Sat. July 4th and August 1st 7.30am.

For more Information call David on 4984 5442

Pete's Kitchen

Pete's kitchen is on every Thursday **in school term time** at 6pm at the Baptist Church, Beatty Bvde, Tanilba Bay. Come along and enjoy a meal among friends and neighbours.

About our Church Community...

Tanilba CRC is a Community Church that began on the Peninsula over 50 years ago. We believe in the Bible. We believe that Life is a Gift and we believe that God has created us to know Him and to live for Him in true family and community through His Son, Jesus.



If you would like to find out more about our Church's activities on the Tilligerry Peninsula, we invite you to contact us or attend one of our Regular Activities for more information.

Wednesday Prayer Meeting

At the church. 7pm in school term time. All Welcome.

Social Groups

Make New Friends.

Soup Nights, Kite Flying,
Cricket, BBQ'S, Day Trips,
Family Games and more.

Join one of our Social
Community Groups in Lemon
Tree Passage or Tanilba Bay.
These Groups are open to all and
meet in February, May, August
and November each year.

Women's Social Group

This group is open to all women
and meets on the
first Friday each month in the
church hall, Cnr Peace Pde and
Tanilba Ave, Tanilba Bay.

Come share a meal and a
conversation on a Friday Night.

Men's Breakfast

Come join other local men in our
Community for a Hot Breakfast
on the 1st Saturday of each
month, Feb. to Dec.

All are welcome and we meet
at 7.30am at Henderson Park,
Lemon Tree Passage.

Weekly Bible Study Group

Our Ladies' Bible Study Group
meets at Mallabula on
Fridays at 10am during
school term time.

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Christian Reformed Church

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Corner of Tanilba Ave and Peace
Parade, Tanilba Bay. NSW.

Church Service: 9am Sunday

www.tanilbacrc.org.au