

# BOOK REVIEWS

## True Unity

- this is an essential chapter and very interesting for non-Anglicans. The whole matter of unity (in diversity) is so woefully promoted by some in the Uniting Church that one could have the impression that Unitarian unity is the gospel.

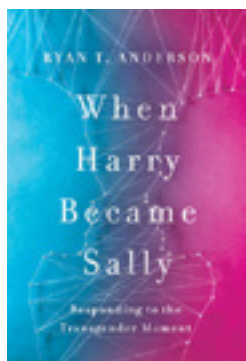
## True Faith

- former Anglican Archbishop of Sydney, Dr Peter Jensen provides the final chapter on our faith. This is a sterling and stirring chapter. While the context is GAFCON and the presenting issues are focussed within the Anglican Communion the issues are not isolated and the matter of 'unity' is the essential context and explored well. Parts of the chapter are from Peter Jensen's stimulating address at Westminster Theological Seminary in 2015 (the eighth annual Richard B. Gaffin Lecture on Theology, Culture, and Mission), so if you would like to consider the issues he raises in more detail watch this presentation - available on Vimeo.

If you don't have opportunity to read the whole book, read the small section 'Why it matters to all of us', (especially page 129), as these comments are very apt for ACC in its wider consideration at present.

The Jerusalem Statement from GAFCON 2008 is included to round off this excellent volume. It is a book for our time as it captures the essence of the issues for this time as together confessing Christians stand for the truth in a changing world.

## The Moment



### When Harry became Sally

*Responding to the Transgender Moment*

Written by  
Ryan T Anderson

Encounter Books (2018)  
Reviewed by: Peter Bentley

The title is a reference to the popular 1989 film When Harry Met Sally, starring Billy Crystal and Meg Ryan that is about the dynamics of men and women (very much in an era before same-sex marriage), and the key 'Moment' is Bruce Jenner's April 2015 interview on the TV program 20/20. For many Americans, this raised in a popular and prominent way the transgendered context.

American author and social commentator Ryan T Anderson would be known in some church circles in Australia as he had a speaking tour in 2015 on issues related to 'same-sex marriage' and recently returned, speaking again in several capital cities, partly to promote his new book.

This book is a comprehensive overview, examining the development of transgendered ideology (highlighting the influence of popular culture and especially the mainstream media), an exploration of gender and culture issues; the views of activists (featuring many quotes and references); medical matters, including surgery; questions about identity and stories of those who have de-transitioned.

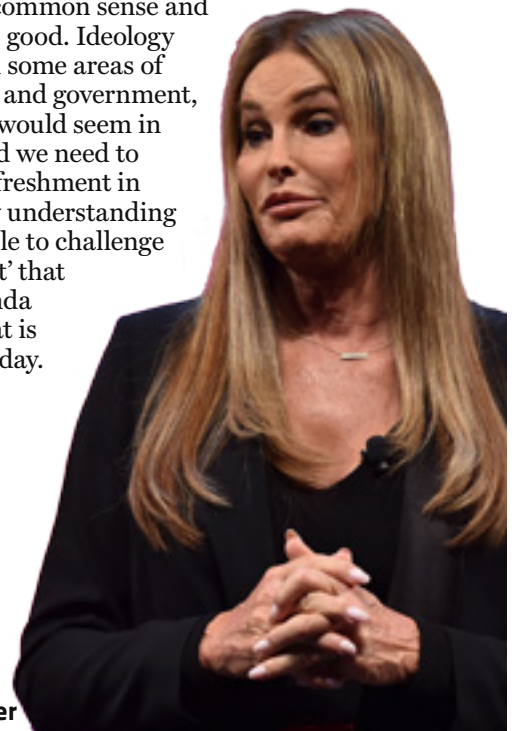
I thought the most interesting chapter is the third chapter 'What Makes Us a Man or a Woman?', but probably the most important chapter is on 'Childhood Dysphoria and Desistance' - the issues here are significant and alarming.

There are substantial philosophical ideas raised, and while there are many technical and philosophical terms used, they are explained and provided in context. It is important that we are able to explore these issues in a solid, pastoral and understanding way today.

The chapters all have full references, so one can follow up and explore in detail the comments and issues raised.

I should note that the book is of course USA - based, and many examples and issues are American. There is one full chapter (Policy in the Common Interest) on very US policies, but there are similar issues in Australia, and clearly other issues not as prominent here at present will arise.

On the overall matter of public policy, this book has some sad illustrations of the unfortunate decline in the true base of public policy, namely the public, and common sense and the common good. Ideology has a hold in some areas of bureaucracy and government, especially it would seem in the USA, and we need to pray for a refreshment in public policy understanding and for people to challenge the 'i-context' that sets the agenda for much that is promoted today.



Caitlyn Jenner