

Christian Faith & Gender Identity



confused?
struggling?

discouraged?
stressed?



FRUSTRATED WITH YOUR GENDER?

There are an estimated six million people in the U.S. who question their gender identity. Three million of these identify strongly with the gender opposite their birth gender. Most feel trapped in a gender role that does not fit, wishing they were the “other” gender. However, because of personal obligations such as family, or job, they attempt to deny their feelings. They suppress their inner struggles hoping to overcome them by an act of sheer will. These attempts often fail, and they end up living a closeted life filled with fear, guilt and shame.

The issue of gender identity is important to face, because it goes to the very core of who we are and how we relate to others and God. Those who struggle with something as fundamental as gender may find themselves dealing with social stigma or isolation. Many find themselves on the outside of social circles, or never really comfortable in social situations since they are not comfortable with themselves.



Resources for gender identity,
cross dressing & transgender issues.

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE

Light in the Closet strives to encourage an honest relationship with God through the work of His Holy Spirit. Since everyone has a unique story and life-path, we need to love each other without a predetermined agenda for change. To try and force change can be harmful and tends to impede real godly growth.

1. We are Christian lay caregivers who believe it is important to be honest with ourselves and God in order to live an abundant life.
2. The real and living God is the only one who can affect authentic growth and change.
3. It is neither natural nor healthy for anyone to live life "within a closet." God designed us to be part of a community.
4. Christians should love and accept each other as Christ did, not merely tolerate.
5. It is not our responsibility to condone or condemn another's actions, but to point them to God and His Christ.

“For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.” (John 3:17 NASB)



MISSION STATEMENT



By providing information, resources, practical help and emotional support, *Light in the Closet* hopes to:

1. Support the process of *gender congruency*.*
2. Help individuals reconcile their faith, family obligations and transgender nature.
3. Encourage self-acceptance now, to help restore the individual's dignity and value.
4. Encourage personal growth and spiritual freedom through teaching and fellowship.

Although we prefer to avoid the valleys in our lives, most we must walk through. Because Jesus promises to walk through the valley with us, the journey can be a fruitful one leading to godly growth. *Light in the Closet* is here to help you walk with Jesus through the valley.

*Gender congruency: A harmonious balance of physical gender and psychological gender identity.

WHY THIS MINISTRY?



"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." (John 10:10 NASB)

These words of Christ resonate with hope and promise. The word "abundantly" summons the image of a person whose life is filled to overflowing.

However, many Christians who struggle with gender incongruency don't live this abundant life. Their secret internal struggles, frustrations and desires keep them closed off from family, friends and their church community. They are well-practiced at hiding these inner struggles and so "blend" in with the other church congregants. But despite these individuals best efforts, intense desires and emotions can surface and be expressed in unhealthy ways. Living a secretive life filled with guilt and shame is not living the abundant life.

Light in the Closet is not a reparative ministry but one that offers hope, insight, acceptance and resources. Although gender identity is a highly personal issue, it is important not to go it alone. This ministry offers an opportunity to explore these issues with confidentiality.

CONTACT US



When it comes to gender incongruency, trained therapists and medical professionals will always be on the front lines of care. However, there is a profound need for pastors, clergy and lay caregivers to be informed and involved in the socially complex issue of gender identity.

Light in the Closet appreciates the opportunity to equip God's people for ministry in this very important, yet misunderstood and often neglected field of care.

If you would like to get involved or learn more, please log onto the website: www.lightinthecloset.org



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