




# Information Packet

To minister with deference, to those who are struggling.  
To encourage and partner with empathy and love.  
To weep with those who weep.  
To laugh with those who laugh.

“My goal with Light in the Closet is to enter into the life and struggle of another without judging. This ministry is designed to see beyond the faults and life choices of others, in order to focus on what is really important; to encourage the works of faith, hope and love. I believe this to be the heart of Christ.”

In faith,  
  
Randi Klein

## **CONTENTS:**

### Letter to Ministers

This letter is sent along with a brochure and counseling guide, to those desiring information about the ministry. (1 page)

### Just the Facts

A list of facts about LITC ministry. (1 page)

### Questions and Answers:

Nine common questions and some VERY short answers. (1 page)

### Real Questions from a Christian Cross-dresser

Six questions asked during counseling with in-depth answers. (5 pages)

### Christian Faith and Gender Identity

A brochure for distribution at ministry sites. (Also available as a tri-fold brochure.)  
Designed for the person struggling with gender identity and is looking for guidance and information. (2 pages)

### INSERT: Transgender Health and Spiritual Well-being

Booklet for faith leaders to help counsel Christians with gender identity issues. (24 pages)



Dear Pastor,

*Light in the Closet* is a ministry that offers information, resources and Biblical hope to those who are transgender. It is privately funded and not affiliated with any individual church.

Some pastors might say, "Sorry not interested. We do not have any transgender individuals at our church. Why provide this information? Won't some at our church be uncomfortable if they see a brochure?"

Yes, some might consider this topic a bit unusual to them or uncomfortable. This is a highly personal issue and because it is, most people who are transgender deal with their issues alone and in secret. Their pastor is usually unaware of their ongoing struggles with their gender and their faith. I recently received an email from one such person. **This is what he said...**

*"My name is "Mark" and I am transgender. I found your web site during a search on the internet for acceptance from God for my transgender feelings. I have struggled for some 40 years with my transgender feelings. Just like many men out there, I need to know God loves me the way I am. I read most of all info on your site and found it very comforting. I am a Christian and have been since a very young age. I needed acceptance from God concerning my transgender feelings. God spoke to me while I was on your web site reading. I began to weep uncontrollably and had to leave work for an hour or so. God made it clear to me through your website that He was okay with my feelings and that He loves me and I am His. I felt the way I did when I got saved years ago. The feelings were overwhelming, God was present with me and He accepted me and my transgender feelings. I just wanted you to know that your website is doing wonderful things for men like me. I visit your site often for encouragement. God is truly using this site to spread His love for the transgender folks in this world. So I thank you for providing the site and I thank God for allowing me to find it. Please keep up the good work."*

Mark was raised for most of his life in the Christian church yet this very important issue was never directly addressed. Most individuals dealing with gender identity will more than likely keep it a personal "closeted" issue. A little light needs to be shed into that closet to give those like Mark the affirmation that God loves them.

If you would like additional information or materials, please contact me at 925-586-4651 or write to the PO Box below. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Randi Klein

Founder, *Light in the Closet* Ministry



## Just the facts...

Gender Identity is a highly personal issue and because it is, most people who are transgender deal with their issues alone and in secret. This is not ideal. God desires that we pursue Christ with our whole heart, mind and spirit. For us to be effective in Christian service we should be fully integrated people. All aspects of our personality should be open and subject to the authority of God.

When we hide a secret, or live a double life, we close off the power of God to move within us, which greatly cripples our ability to follow him. Addressing our needs and struggles with God and each other is important if we are to pursue a grace-filled, abundant life.

In the book, "Speaking the Truth in Love - How to be an Assertive Christian," by Ruth Koch and Kenneth Haugk, the authors state: *"Of course the fully integrated personality is the ideal. Human beings are all less than fully integrated. In fact, one of the life tasks for everyone is to move in the direction of more fully integrating all the separate components of his or her personality..."*

Sharing our struggles, weaknesses and failings, and pursuing self-acceptance is critical to becoming a fully integrated person.

### FACTS about ***Light in the Closet***:

1. Most who seek out the ministry, *Light in the Closet*, are Christian males ages 30 and up. Many are hard working family men who try hard to fulfill their obligations. Most have struggled with gender identity all their lives, and have now reached a point where the issue has consumed them. They are painfully aware of the cultural and religious concerns, and have put a great deal of time and energy into reconciling these with their gender issues. This ongoing struggle has made most of them question their faith. It is the role of this ministry to encourage them not to give up on their faith, their God and their church community.
2. Some faith communities have turned their backs on gender-variant people and written them off as outside of God's care or concern. Some mainstream denominations have expelled them from fellowship. The grace that is preached from the pulpit, which is intended to cover all God's children, often fails to extend to those who by their nature, nurture or choice do not conform to accepted gender models.
3. The information and guidelines offered by *Light in the Closet* are not a replacement for professional, medical or psychological care. When it becomes evident that a care receiver needs professional care, those avenues are recommended. This ministry is not reparative.
4. The first question usually asked of a transgender person is, "Are you gay?" Being transgender is not a matter of sexual orientation. *Light in the Closet* does not address issues of sexual orientation.
5. The word, "transgender" is used as an umbrella term for any person who bends the so-called traditional gender roles. It applies to individuals whose gender identity is skewed towards the gender opposite their birth gender. They may identify in part or in full with this other gender. Included are cross-dressers, transsexuals, hermaphrodites and androgynes.
6. According to the Human Rights Campaign there are 13.68 million transgender in the United States. Over 13.1 million of these are *NOT* pursuing a full-time expression of their gender-divergence. Approximately 8.7 million of these are men, and 4.4 million are women. This implies that there could be 7-8 million Christian men who deal with gender identity issues. These are estimates. A specific number is difficult to determine since so many remain unidentified or closeted.
7. *Light in the Closet*, since its launch in 2008, has received over 50,000 "hits" each year with approximately one new person an hour logging on for information.



## Questions and Answers...

### **1. "Is dealing openly with highly personal issues really necessary?"**

**Yes!** God asks us to be honest with Him. (1 Chronicles 29: 17) He desires that we pursue Christ with our whole heart, mind and spirit. For us to be effective in Christian service we should be fully integrated people. All aspects of our personality should be open and subject to the authority of God. When we hide a secret or live a double life, we close off the power of God to move in us, which greatly cripples our ability to follow him. Confessing our sins and struggles to God and each other is important if we are to pursue a grace-filled, abundant life. *"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."* (John 10:10)

### **2. "Doesn't the Bible say that being transgender is sinful?"**

There actually are no verses that support the idea that being gender variant is sinful. The two closest verses are in Genesis 1 and in Deuteronomy 22. Genesis refers to the creation of male and female and takes place pre-fall so our situation has since changed. Deuteronomy forbids the wearing of certain clothing that is typically opposite your gender when it is used to deceive others in order to gain advantage (the most common application). Neither of these verses speaks against the wearing of clothing to honestly project what a person feels is their self-image.

### **3. "Could it be that a transgendered nature is a sin nature that needs to be re-coursed?"**

We all have sin natures that need to be re-coursed. It would be presumptuous to believe there is a one-size-fits-all answer to this question for everyone. The individual should be allowed to answer this question for themselves.

### **4. "Are you trying to justify cross-dressing?"**

No. Crossdressing by itself is benign. The intent behind the crossdressing is what is important.

### **5. "I don't see the big deal about this issue, why bring it up at all?"**

For some it is a big issue. In fact, the biggest in their life. It is important that they have a safe place to try and sort this question out and what better place than their home church.

### **6. "Aren't the laws of God there for us to vigorously uphold? Isn't it safer to err on the side of legalism?"**

This is a pharisaical perspective and not one shared by Jesus. The focus off of grace diminishes the importance of what Christ accomplished on the cross. Our focus should be to inspire others to faith, hope and love. (1 Corinthians 13)

### **7. "I just feel like it is wrong, but I do not know why."**

This can be a difficult issue to understand, especially for those who have not dealt with gender issues. Those feelings are real, but are based on personal bias and culture, not scripture. Perhaps this is an opportunity to grow?

### **8. "Didn't God make people just male and female? Has God ever made anyone outside the context of these genders?"**

Basically, the short answer is, no and yes. God created us male and female in the garden. But afterwards the fall happened, and since then a wide range of gender types began to develop. Was this part of the original creation plan? Hard to say, but the gender diversity we see today might be a result of the fall or it could be what God had planned all along. Regardless, because of the fall, creation today is a redemptive process.

### **9. "I'm very open minded, but this is way outside of my comfort zone."**

New information is often uncomfortable. It usually requires us to expand and grow in order to understand it. Chances are you may not ever run into this issue, but if you do, it is best to have support and resources.

VERSES: James 5:13-16 / James 4:11-12 / 1 John 1 / Romans 2: 1-4 / Matthew 19:3-12 / Luke 18:9-17



## Real questions from a Christian Cross-dresser

These questions were sent to me from a Christian leader who was dealing with his own gender incongruence and how that related to his faith.

### 1.) Is CDing an idol? Will practicing it cause me to take my focus off of Christ and become obsessed by it?

**A:** Interesting question, in that your answer is not specific to CDing. Anything we do, or have an interest in, can become an idol.

As a loving Father, God is always with us. However, we can close ourselves off from God by allowing things into our lives that hinder communication (on our part). Although the Biblical references to worshipping idols referred to literal physical images, there is a metaphorical application for us today as well. Anything we obsess over that takes our focus off Christ can become an idol. Too much golf, too much TV, too much of anything can turn into an obsession. The act of putting on clothing is fairly neutral in itself. The motive behind the action is what's important. Cross-dressing has an added cultural stigma which often causes the individual to CD in secret; in the darkness or closet, if you will.

Darkness is often associated with sin. This metaphor for sin has little to do with actual darkness and light, but has to do with the idea of keeping certain aspects of your life hidden, secret or compartmentalized. In this darkness, shame and guilt usually are magnified. Closeting a desire or impulse can lead to a false belief that we have successfully hidden the truth from others, God and even ourselves. This sort of self-deception encourages the CDer to lie to, or be closed off from, others in their community. It may negatively affect other areas of their life as well. If this is the sort of cross-dressing you are practicing, I would agree that this can take your focus off of Christ and cause you extreme stress. If you, on the other hand, recognize your need to cross dress, allow time for its expression and honestly pursue the healthy aspects of this expression, then it can actually open you up to a better relationship with God. What is a healthy expression? That is for you to decide.

### 2.) Does it (CDing) somehow dishonor Christ? He created me as a man. When I dress as and fantasize about being a woman, is that an affront to Him and how he created me? Certainly all of my sins are an affront to him and yet are forgiven, forgotten and covered by grace but that doesn't mean it gives me a license to sin.

**A:** You ask a great question here. In order to answer it, I should lay some groundwork first.

**First:** I don't see in scripture where Christ can be dishonored by our wearing of traditional gender specific clothing. The one scripture that deals with cross dressing specifically, in Deuteronomy 22, is surrounded by other verses that give us insight into why it might be addressed there. These scriptures include instructions about helping out your brother with his property, treating nature with respect, keeping your home safe, not mixing things that are unlike together (like different animals, two kinds of cloth, and gender specific clothing). This mandate not to mix things that are unlike together is found in other scriptures as well.

Like most verses in the Bible, these verses were written to a specific audience but can have a broader application if we understand the cultural context. One of the underlying themes discussed here was separateness. This was extremely relevant to the Jewish people who were in many ways "still coming out of Egypt." Many of these statements were obvious observations or directives for behavior cited to underscore the message of separation. If you mixed linen and wool, the cloth would not hold up. If you plant two seeds, the crop would be compromised. If you harness a donkey and an ox, they would not pull well together. All these, and the verses about corporate responsibility, would have been met with the response, "No, of course I would not do that!" Also, the issue of dishonesty could be raised as well especially as it applied to conduct in warfare. Some soldiers would disguise themselves as women to get close to the enemy and surprise them. This put innocent women not involved in the battle in jeopardy. Regardless, I doubt this verse is just a simple statement about fashion.



**Second:** A man dressing in female clothing to express an inner feeling, or to try and connect with part of who they are that has been suppressed (because of our polarized gender society) is not at issue in these verses. CDing can be an expression of honesty, or a form of self-therapy and there are no Biblical contexts to say this is wrong. Am I trying to justify cross-dressing? No. There can be sinful actions around the act and I will stop short in trying to prove this is totally OK in every situation. Yes, it is possible to dissect scripture in order to justify almost any action. But why do this? Even if you succeed, it will not change the fact that we are still sinners in need of grace.

**Third:** There are many verses in the Bible that tell us what to do, and what not to do, and it is up to us and God to decide which we need to work on and when. Many of the verses in the Old Testament lead us to the conclusion that it is impossible to live a pure, sinless life. The Old Testament legalism stands in sharp contrast to the message of Christ which is full of compassion, honesty and loving acceptance. The teachings and stories in the Bible were meant to benefit us and to help us live the best we can in a fallen world. Jesus allowed his disciples to pick grain on the Sabbath (which was not allowed), because he understood and practiced this principle.

**Lastly:** Yes, all of our sins are an affront to God, but God does not intend for us to beat ourselves up over the fact we are sinners. Nor should Biblical directives, meant for our benefit, be implemented as millstones for our demise. The difficult directives in the Bible are meant to point us to Christ, not away from him.

We need to embrace grace like Paul did, "My (God's) grace is sufficient" and realize like Paul, "I am the worst of all sinners." Neither we, nor Paul, should view this as a license to sin, but instead see it as an opportunity to serve without fear of rejection under the grace of God. The real trap, according to Jesus, is that we minimize the Holiness of God by thinking our attempts at righteousness somehow meet up to a Godly standard. Our attempts at (self) righteousness can in fact lead us away from the grace of God - especially if we measure our success by human standards.

#### **Consider Luke 18:9...**

*"Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' (Jesus said) "I tell you that this man (the tax collector), rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."*

From this passage, it appears that the man was still collecting taxes (currently a tax collector), he did not try and justify his actions, but instead realized he was a sinner. He was aware that he was in the hands of God, and at His mercy. It was the tax collector's attitude of right-thinking concerning his status before God that justified him. He was not deluding himself, like the Pharisee, into thinking he was without sin because he was "better" than others. We do not know why the tax collector did what he did, but he was honest about who he was, and was not judging others.

Jesus taught a lot about having honest, sober judgment. I think we have to make choices in our life with the knowledge that we are doing the best we can. It is our relationship to Christ that matters most to Him. Our personal convictions and perceived view-of-self based upon our comparisons to others is too often the standard by which we measure ourselves. To operate under the idea that sin can somehow be fully avoided, shows a lack of understanding of the Holiness of God. The focus on one particular sin, often leads us to ignoring the other sins in our lives. This leads to the creation of a less-than-Godly standard. The point here is not that we indulge in sin, but that we recognize who we are and try to change those things we can, while attempting to balance the rest of our lives so that we maintain good spiritual and mental health.

The other part of your question about gender (God creating man and woman) has an even longer answer that I will save for another time. Basically, the short answer is, *no* and *yes*. God created us male and female in the garden. But afterwards the fall happened, and since then a wide range of gender types began to develop. Was this

part of the original creation plan? Hard to say, but the gender diversity we see today might be a result of the fall or it could be what God had planned all along. Regardless, because of the fall, creation today is a redemptive process.

**3.) Does the fact that the struggle to not CD is really hard and that I've been repeatedly defeated in the struggle not to CD over the years really have anything to do with whether or not it is sinful? Don't most people have "besetting" sins that they struggle with all their lives but fail to have complete victory over? Isn't there "life in the struggle (I forget which author used that phrase – maybe Larry Crabb?)?" I agree that counseling and understanding the origins of my desire to CD have done nothing to help eliminate the desire. But isn't that true for many things? When alcoholics understand why they are alcoholics it does take the desire to drink away – that's usually only accomplished through accountability and support from others that have had the same struggle.**

**A:** Yes there are lots of reasons to CD. Some might need to be recoured, others might need to be controlled and still others might need to be explored. That fact that you struggle not to CD, only means that this is a very real issue to you. You are worried that "giving-in to the struggle" might lead you further away from God. It all depends on what you are giving-in to. The struggle itself can be self-perpetuating because the focus is always on the struggle. A strong case can be made that resisting the transgender feelings, rather than finding out where these feelings lead you, will result in a consuming desire and create an unhealthy obsession. Perhaps your desire has not been taken away because there is something you need to explore? Your needs could be biological and/or psychological. There could be underlying issues here that are causing you to cross dress or desire to do so. This desire simply won't go away just because you will it to. These issues need to be sorted out before you can reach a resolution. The gender issue exists, and suppressing it might not be healthy for you.

Consider the lesson of the seed. There are positive metaphors about growth concerning seeds, but the seed as a metaphor for sin is also applicable.

When you dig a hole, toss in a seed, cover it up, push it into the darkness and apply pressure, it usually grows, spreading itself outward, becoming larger than it once was. If you take that same seed and lay it on the ground, any potential activity is lessened. Exposing your real needs keep them from growing into something larger and more difficult to deal with. We often obsess over those things that we disallow ourselves. I know some people in AA who go twice a week or more to meetings and their whole life is perpetually controlled by drinking – either they are drinking, or they are sober. They define themselves by their drinking. I do not envy this sort of life.

Not all people struggle indefinitely with their thorns in the flesh. Paul, when he gave up trying to remove his, found peace in the grace of God. My wife is an alcoholic, but has no desire now to drink (sober for 17 years). I am a cross-dresser, and identify as transgender, but am not obsessed by my desires as I once was. So yes, there was relief at the end of our journey through the valley, but we both had to walk through our valleys. These difficult lessons are learned in the middle of the valley, with Christ, not by avoiding them by skirting around the valley rim. I must point out though that alcoholism does not fully parallel cross-dressing and the mention of it here does not mean that CDing is like alcoholism in terms of recoured behavior.

**4.) Have those that decided that it's OK for them to CD found that it's really freeing and fulfilling or has it become the whole focus of their lives and leads to wanting more and more women's clothes? That's where I fear that mine would go – that in allowing myself the freedom to CD I'd be opening 'Pandora's box'.**

**A:** Everyone is different. I cannot speak specifically to how your journey will end, only to what I have experienced myself and to a lesser degree what I observe in others. I try to avoid personal information, but I need to give some here in order to answer this question. Also, read the article about gender euphoria on the website.

Recognizing CDing as a need has allowed me to live a life that is not obsessed by it. I am no longer controlled by the desire to CD, so other more productive concerns, such as pursuing the fruits of the Spirit are of more importance. My cross dressing was an external expression of an internal struggle that helped me to answer many questions about my gender. I did this with the full knowledge of my wife, pastor and others. Yes, this is a bit different and scary, but now I no longer continually dwell on cross-dressing. When I started my exploration it was on my mind constantly and I was strongly considering the idea of transitioning. Although I support those

who do transition, this is not where I seem to be headed. Because I never tried to “justify” what I was doing, I was able to keep my exploration honest. This honesty made my journey one of discovering and developing personhood over gender. That was not what I expected starting out. This was my experience, but as they say in the commercials, “results may vary.”

**5.) Does giving up the fight – not to CD – feel like defeat or do you feel good about yourself? I worry that it would feel I was weak and defeated.**

**A:** Again, you are asking about feelings, and I only know how I feel about it. I feel very good about myself, and much more “saved” than ever. I spent almost 4 decades actively fighting my transgender feelings – asking for deliverance. Back then when I was suppressing my feelings, the focus was on me and my actions rather than on the saving grace of God.

Paul writes, “...there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Paul never mentions what the thorn was, and it is really none of our business. Paul does recognize it as something that needs attention and from the context of his life we can guess it was something more than a lisp, or a medical inconvenience. Having experienced this myself, I can say “yes I am defeated.” I am defeated in my attempt at self-righteousness. But, because I was defeated, I have never felt more free than I am today, to serve, to worship, to enjoy being a child of God. I have a new appreciation of what it means to “die to yourself.”

Paul had the maturity to stop praying and take the “no” answer after only praying three times for relief. I prayed more times than I can count over many years before I stopped asking God to change me. How many times have you prayed? I’m guessing more than three.

**6.) Certainly there is huge cultural pressure not to CD in the US. While we’re rapidly moving away from our Judeo/Christian roots as a culture much of what remains of those roots have determined our values. I guess what I’m asking is kind of a “did the chicken or the egg come first” kind of question – perhaps CDing is considered wrong because that is based on our Christian ethics and not just a cultural bias?**

**A:** This really is a classic “chicken and the egg.” Our culture influences the church, and the church influences culture. In the case of CDing, I would have to lean more towards culture being in the lead and that the scriptures are filtered through our culture perspective and understanding. I say this because of the following.

CDing is not disallowed as such (as an alternative gender expression) in the Bible. It is not discussed like other issues are. The big issues are money, actions against your neighbors, service for God and others, relationships, honesty and many more relevant concerns that affect eternity. Thousands of verses cover these topics, while only one verse addresses the issue of wearing clothing of the “opposite” gender as being wrong.

It is hard to believe that one single sentence could be used to develop a hard and fast Biblical mandate to cover all situations. Not to minimize or ignore Deuteronomy 22, but I know of no other Biblical issue that is treated in such a reckless and thoughtless manner.

A person’s motives, especially in the teachings of Jesus, is VERY important when understanding scripture. If the person who is CDing is doing so for as a honest exploration of their gender then nothing in the Deuteronomy passage addresses that directly. Therefore, it should be left up to the individual to discern its relevance.

So the question is, if it is not a Biblical mandate, nor part of the ten commandments, nor was ever addressed in any of the teachings of Jesus as being wrong, then why do some in our church culture list it as one of the unofficial “biggie sins?” Why do so many churches view it as an action that is outside of the care or even conversation of the church? Why such a fuss over it? Why is it so uncomfortable to so many? It has little to do with Biblical doctrine, but more with how we see the roles of men and women and how we relate to each other.

This is a gender-polarized society and we define ourselves through our comparisons with others. Our culture is historically driven by strict gender roles. Even though most people see themselves in-between the gender archetypes (macho male and submissive cheerleader), we still look to those archetypes for our identity. If you



change your gender, this can fundamentally change how others see you and, more-to-the-point, how they see themselves. If you, the cross-dresser, receives a rejection, it is rarely about you, but rather about how you effected the one who is doing the rejecting. This is especially true with your friends and family. For example, the wife of a CDer will have little to say or feel about the famous CDer, Rue Paul, specifically. Perhaps she will be turned off or just be repulsed by Rue Paul. Or, perhaps she will think she/he is brave and funny and dresses well. But either way, Rue Paul does not directly effect her. On the other hand, the activities or presentation of her CDing husband will effect her greatly. Her self-worth is at risk and a negative response towards him is more about her than him. "What will people say? Will he loose his job? How will I, the wife, be viewed?" These are cultural issues, not Biblical ones.

Our culture also puts men in a higher ranking than women and is only recently allowing women to be equal to men. Perhaps when a woman dresses like a man and desires the same respect and opportunities we may see that as a positive thing. When a man desires to be a woman, we may see that as desiring a lower state and this offends us. He has reduced himself, denied his birthright and obligations. All this is culture-based.

To keep the record straight, cross-dressing is not always looked down on. We culturally are OK with some cross-dressing if the context is correct. Entertainment and the arts or Halloween is OK for this expression. The Jewish people often cross dress during Purim without it being viewed as wrong. So the verse in Deuteronomy 22 does have some wiggle room historically, based on intent and context.

You and I are about the same age and grew up in a different era from our children. The new generation does not seem to have the same ingrained limited ideas concerning the roles of men and women that we do. This new generation is much more accepting of diversity than we are. They assume the rights of females and do not get excited every time the glass ceiling is broken. They really do not see the fuss. Their response culturally is different from those who are our age. As a result, they are much more accommodating to gender variations.

You made the statement that we are moving away from our Judeo-Christian roots. This worries me as well. It is my hope that this generation is not moving away from our Christian roots as much as we think, but moving toward a different understanding about the relevancy of Jesus and his teachings, one that makes sense for them and their children. I hope they will continue to carry the torch – the light of Christ.

Read the article, Nurture, Nature, Choice on the website for the perspective of Jesus on the subject of gender bending.

Its good to note that "back when I was younger, I saw my CDing as a sin or a thorn in my flesh, but today I see it as part of who I am and because of redemptive grace, it has become a blessing.

-Randi Klein, Light in the Closet



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# 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,  
crossdressing & 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 effect 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 relevant 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 information and resources.

Most of us prefer to avoid the valleys. However, 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 understand your unique personhood and to shed light on your gender expression.

\*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 members. 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 address it alone. This ministry offers an opportunity to explore, with confidentiality, personal issues, desires and fears.

## Contact Us

When it comes to gender incongruency, trained therapists and medical professionals will always be on the frontlines 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](http://www.lightinthecloset.org)

Contact Randi Klein at: [rklein@lightinthecloset.org](mailto:rklein@lightinthecloset.org)



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