

Christian Faith & Gender Identity



Need
Answers?

Need
Support?



Frustrated with your Gender?

There are an estimated six million¹ (or more) people in the U.S. who are uncomfortable with their birth gender. Many identify strongly with the gender opposite their physical birth gender. They feel trapped in a life that does not fit. They see their gender identity as a battlefield, and are not at peace with who they are. Out of obligation to family, friends and career, they attempt to deny or conceal these feelings, and often end up living a secret, closeted life. Perhaps this is you, or you know someone who fits this description.

This ministry is designed for those who are already Christians, but also will benefit anyone seeking guidance in what the bible may have to offer concerning transgender issues. The purpose of this publication is to provide information, (biblical, social and therapeutic) in order to encourage an honest exploration of gender identity and life-style choices.



Light
in the Closet
CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

Resources for gender identity,
& transgender issues for the M2F
(male to female) cross-dresser

Who We Are and What We Believe

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)

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.



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. These issues are outside the experience of the general church population, but are of great concern to those who struggle with them. 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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