

## Answers to questions from pastors about being transgender

### 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 verses that are most often cited 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 changed since then anyway. 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. God loves us just as we are and God never intended for us to live a life with that unreasonable expectation or burden.

### 4. “Are you trying to justify cross-dressing?”

No. Cross-dressing by itself is benign. Like with anything we do, it is the intent behind the cross-dressing that may or may not be the best God has for us.

### 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. This focus away from 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. Your feelings are real, but remember that they are based on your personal bias and cultural upbringing, not on Biblical scripture. Perhaps this is an opportunity for you to grow more into the likeness and character of Christ?

### 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.” Genesis records the creation of two people: *one male and one female*. The Bible goes on to refer to the creation of each of us as being *“fearfully and wonderfully made,”* and *“knitted in our mother’s womb.”* The Bible celebrates the creation of each of us, formed by God’s hand. That being so, there are some who do not align with the simple gender-polarized model — *neither physically or mentally*. Some see the Adam and Eve story as allegorical or symbolic, while others may take it more literally. Either way, it is a fact that there is gender diversity throughout God’s creation. The Jewish tradition, and many other cultural traditions record and celebrate this. Most cultures recognize between 3 and 5 genders. Our Western culture is in the minority when it pushes the obviously false idea of only two genders.

### 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. It is important to be supportive to those who are transgender while you work on your discomfort. As you build a relationship with them and include them in your faith community, you will see that they are wonderful resources with unique perspectives.

VERSES: James 5:13-16 / James 4:11-12 / 1 John 1 / Romans 2: 1-4 / Matthew 19:3-12 / Luke 18:9-17 / Psalm 139