

## What Does The Bible Say About Sexuality? — Transgender

September 6, 2015

Good morning CrossWinds. If you are new, my name is Kurt. I am one of the pastors. We are in the last week of a four-week series called, “What does the Bible say about sexuality?” Today we finish the series by looking at what the Bible says about transgender issues.

Today, when we think about transgender issues and sex change, we think about Bruce Jenner. It wasn't always that way. For most of his life Bruce Jenner was known as the all-American man. He won Olympic gold in the decathlon at the 1976 Montreal Olympics. He was even considered for the roles of Superman and James Bond. He was married and fathered children. It seemed like he had everything a man could want — an impressive athletic career, family and wealth. Then people noticed he started to change. He was taking on a softer appearance.



On April 24, 2015, in an interview with Diane Sawyer, he went public. Bruce Jenner announced he was transexual and for all intents and purposes claimed, “I'm a woman ... call me Caitlyn.”

Bruce Jenner didn't look like your typical cross-dressing gender changer. He claimed to be both a Republican and a Christian. He said to Diane Sawyer, “I would sit in church and always wonder, ‘In God's eyes, how does he see me?’” That is a good question. How does God see those struggling with their sexual identity? What does God think about men that believe they have a woman's

mind and women that think their minds are a man's? How should we, as the church, address the Bruce Jenners in our neighborhood? Let's find out.

When someone is biologically one gender but feels his or her mind is another gender, the street term for that is called transgender. Sometimes we say people are suffering from transgender issues. The proper medical term is gender dysphoria so I want to introduce you to those terms.

When you look at television, it seems like gender dysphoria is everywhere. In reality, it is rare. A little more than one in every 20,000 men experience this at one point in their lives and about one in every 34,000 women.<sup>1</sup>

To relieve the pain of the difference between one's biological identity and his or her felt gender identity, some transgenders cross-dress. Some take it a step further and get opposite sex hormone treatment. Others go as far as having gender reassignment surgery where for all intents and purposes, men are transformed to appear every inch a woman in every way. Even though we frequently hear about this surgery in the media, there are only 20 doctors that perform it.<sup>2</sup>

While the medical world still classifies gender dysphoria as a psychological abnormality, some doctors claim it has a biological basis in the fetal development cycle. They claim hormones that control how the body and the brain function did not work in harmony for transgenders while they were

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<sup>1</sup> J. R. Blosnich, G. R. Brown, J. C. Shipherd, M. Kauth, R. I. Piegari and R. M. Bossarte, "Prevalence of Gender Identity Disorder and Suicide Risk Among Transgender Veterans Utilizing Veterans Health Administration Care," *American Journal of Public Health* 103, no. 1 (2013): e27-e32; see also A. Bakker, P. J. M. van Kesteren, L. Gooren and P. Bezemer, "The Prevalence of Transsexualism in the Netherlands," *Acta Psychiatr Scand* 87, no. 4 (1993): 237-38; G. DeCuyper, M. van Hemellrijck, A. Michel et al., "Prevalence and Demography of Transsexualism in Belgium," *European Psychiatry* 22, no. 3 (2007): 137-41.

<sup>2</sup> Meyer, Walt (2011-06-21). Paper Genders (Kindle Locations 411-412). Make Waves Publishing. Kindle Edition.

developing in utero. Some scientists theorize an opposite sex hormone wash occurred to the brain of transgenders in the womb. It caused the sexual identity of their brains to develop toward one gender while their bodies developed toward the other gender. Remember, this is a theory. When you study transgender, the brain hormone wash theory is frequently discussed and believed by many people to be a validated biological basis for transgender desires.

In popular culture, gender reassignment surgery is platformed as the most compassionate way to relieve the pain of having a mind that identifies with one gender and a body that is clearly the other gender.

Some statistics even support the popular claim that gender reassignment surgery is the way to go. According to the National Health Services web site of Britain, 96 percent of transexuals are happy with their sex reassignment and new gender identity.<sup>3</sup> They claim their dysphoria is relieved. Is this true? Is gender reassignment surgery the answer?

This morning we are going to find the rest of the story. We are going to look at gender dysphoria from three angles. First, we will see what science says about gender dysphoria. Second, we will see what does the Bible says about gender dysphoria. Last we will look at how the church should love the sexually confused. Let's jump into our study.

### **What does science tell us about gender dysphoria?**

#### **Transsexuals commit suicide at an astounding rate.**

While the media platforms Bruce Jenner and other transexuals as happy, the hard facts say the opposite. One study claims the suicide rate of

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Gender-dysphoria/Pages/Treatment.aspx>

transgenders is 25 times greater than the general population.<sup>4</sup> Another web site dedicated to transexuals claims the transgender mortality rate at 60 to 70 percent. I assume that means deaths from suicide, bad hormone injections, bad silicone injections and the other risks that accompany the transgender lifestyle.<sup>5</sup> The national suicide rate is three in every 100,000 people. Thirty-one percent of Americans that commit suicide are transsexual.<sup>6</sup> Thirty to 50 percent of transgender patients commit suicide either just before or in the year after their sex change surgeries.<sup>7</sup> Up to 90 percent of those who undergo sex reassignment surgery cannot be found for follow up after the surgery.<sup>8</sup> They either committed suicide, are addicted to drugs and/or alcohol, return to their given names and birth genders or intentionally do not want to be found.

The media does not align with the evidence. Somebody has an agenda. Somebody is not telling the truth. Even if all the statistics are not completely accurate, one conclusion is inescapable. Transsexuals are killing themselves at an astounding rate. Sex change surgery is not the answer.

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<sup>4</sup> Clara Moskowitz, "Transgender Americans face high suicide risk / New survey paints a portrait of trans people's lives in the U.S.," LiveScience, updated November 19, 2010, downloaded on March 22, 2011 from [http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/40279043/ns/health-health\\_care/](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/40279043/ns/health-health_care/)

<sup>5</sup> Laura Amato, "Transgender Mortality Rate: Suicide, Medical, Violence," downloaded on March 22, 2011 from [http://www.lauras-playground.com/transgender\\_mortality.htm](http://www.lauras-playground.com/transgender_mortality.htm)

<sup>6</sup> TGLynnsPlace.com, "Transgender Suicide," downloaded on March 22, 2011 from <http://www.tglynnspplace.com/suicide.htm>

<sup>7</sup> Meyer, Walt (2011-06-21). Paper Genders (Kindle Locations 271-272). Make Waves Publishing. Kindle Edition.

<sup>8</sup> Randi Ettner, Stan Monstrey, A. Evan Eyler, editors, Principles of transgender medicine and surgery, (The Haworth Press, 2007), Chapter 5: Surgery: general principles by Stan Monstrey, Griet De Cuypere, Randi Ettner, 96

Transsexual activists say the reason transsexual suicides are so high is because transsexuals are bullied and unaccepted in society. If we would just love and accept them, their suicide problems would go away.

The lack of acceptance in society is not the reason transsexual are killing themselves. Studies show that transsexuals consistently harm themselves by cutting and self-mutilation.<sup>9</sup> Cutting and self-mutilation are a sign of a lack of self acceptance. It is a sign of deep, unresolved psychological issues where people usually try to harm themselves to atone for their sin. Self-mutilation usually comes from a problem with not accepting yourself. It is usually not sourced in a problem with others not accepting you.

### **Transsexuals are not born that way.**

The popular theory to support cross-gender identification is the brain hormone wash theory. The brain hormone wash theory is just that, a theory. There is no hard evidence to demonstrate cross-gender identity issues are created by a hormonal abnormality in the womb.

Further, the Human Genome project identified all genes in human DNA. It did not find a homosexual gene or a transgender gene.<sup>10</sup> Homosexuals and transsexuals are biologically identical to the rest of us.

Medical studies show there is zero genetic abnormalities between your average person on the street and those that experience transgender desires. In

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<sup>9</sup> TGLynnsPlace.com, "Transgender Suicide," downloaded on March 22, 2011 from <http://www.tglynnspplace.com/suicide.htm>

<sup>10</sup> Dr. Brad Harrub, Dr. Bert Thompson and Dr. Dave Miller, "A Scientific Examination of Homosexuality and the 'Gay Gene,'" The True Origin Archive, (2003), <http://www.azconservative.org/page12.php>

short, there is no biological basis for transgender issues. There is only biological theory.

Why do transgenders desperately want to claim a biological basis for cross sexual identity? That would give them an excuse. It gives them an excuse for their cross gender desires and they believe it absolves them of responsibility for having them. It also gives transgenders a source of funding for the sex-change surgery that costs between \$25,000 to \$70,000 plus dollars.<sup>11</sup> If transgender desires could be found to have a biological basis, it would be considered an abnormality, like a child born with a cleft pallet. Just like insurance pays for those surgeries, the insurance that you and I pay for would be forced to pay for sex change surgeries.

**Most transsexuals struggle with an underlying psychiatric disorder.**

Comorbidity is a medical term that means the simultaneous presence of two diseases. A survey of Dutch psychologists revealed that gender identity issues are not the only psychological problem for those with gender dysphoria. For instance, 25 percent of those struggling with gender identity disorder are also schizophrenic. Gender identity disorder is the secondary disorder.

Schizophrenia is the root disorder. Seventy-five percent of patients struggling with gender identity disorder are clinically diagnosed with a psychiatric illness, personality disorder or mood dissociative disorders.<sup>12</sup> Gender identity disorders

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<sup>11</sup> Heyer, Walt (2011-06-21). Paper Genders (Kindle Locations 2074-2075). Make Waves Publishing. Kindle Edition.

<sup>12</sup> Joost à Campo, M.D., Henk Nijman, Ph.D., H. Merckelbach, Ph.D., and Catharine Evers, M.Sc., "Psychiatric Comorbidity of Gender Identity Disorders: A Survey Among Dutch Psychiatrists," Am J Psychiatry 160:1332-1336, July 2003

are almost always a secondary problem sourced from a much deeper psychological issue.

What makes this scary is the LGBT lobby is so strong in our culture that psychologists are told to deny the possibility of secondary psychological disorders that may co-exist with gender identity issues. Laws are now in place that actually prevent psychologists from advising against irreversible sex change surgery, even if the psychologist feels the patient will be irreversibly harmed by the surgery. The very professionals that should be showing a patient the way to health are legally prohibited from saying anything that would discourage the patient from undergoing irreversible surgery.<sup>13</sup>

Trying to solve a psychological problem through biological surgery is reminiscent of the techniques of Dr. Henry Cotton. He was a psychiatrist that lived from 1876 to 1933. He postulated that all mental illness were caused by bacteria. Our mouths are the source of most of our bacteria, he believed the way to get rid of mental illness, like depression and multiple personality disorder, was to get rid of the bad bacteria. That meant pulling people's teeth. Dr. Cotton didn't stop with teeth. If your mental illness involved sexuality, you can imagine the part of the body he cut off to remove what he claimed was bad bacteria that was causing your psychological condition. Between 1918 to 1925 he conducted 2,186 teeth/body part removal operations for psychiatric illnesses.<sup>14</sup> He claimed

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<sup>13</sup> Heyer, Walt (2011-06-21). Paper Genders (Kindle Locations 414-415). Make Waves Publishing. Kindle Edition.

<sup>14</sup> Thomas Quinn Beesley, "When the Brain Is Sick" (A Review of "The Defective, Delinquent and Insane" by Henry A. Cotton, M. D.), The New York Times, June 18, 1922, Section The New York Times Book Review, Page 56, downloaded on February 23, 2011 from <http://query.nytimes.com/mem/archive-free/pdf?res=F50F16FE3B5D14738DDDA10994DE405B828EF1D3>

an 80 percent cure rate. We all know nobody had a mental illness cured by his cruel barbaric surgeries.

I think the true mental patient was Dr. Cotton, not his clients. While we laugh at the idea of using a physiological surgery to cure a mental illness, isn't that what sex change doctors are doing today when they try to solve someone's gender identity disorder through physiologically changing his or her gender? Using physical surgery to solve a psychological problem doesn't work. All it does is destroy the lives of men and women that find themselves mutilated for life. It now becomes clear why so many transgenders commit suicide after their sex change surgeries. My heart goes out to them. The medical community forecasts a wonderful future with a body of the opposite gender but the results are disfigurement and a life that is irreversibly changed from what they expected.

When you meet someone that has undergone this surgery or is moving in that direction, our first instinct is to run away. Our other instinct is to tell them about their sin. In reality they are deeply hurting. They need normal people to love them and tell them about the good news of Jesus, which is the only thing that can fix their minds and their lives.

### **What does the Bible say?**

#### **Gender is God-given, not self-constructed.**

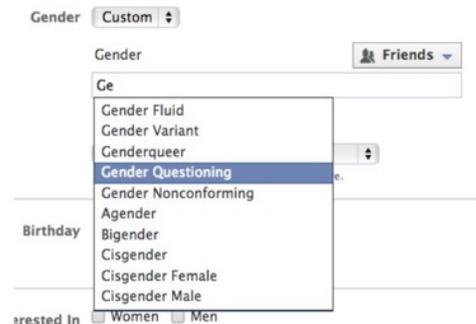
So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. Genesis 1:27 (ESV)

God created gender. He only created two genders. He is the one that assigned us our genders. If you are questioning your gender, simply look in the mirror and you will know which one God gave you. Either sin done to us or sin

done by us can start to warp our thinking and twist us into believing we are one gender in our bodies and another gender in our minds. The Bible is clear. Our genders are assigned to us by God. Our mental gender and our physical gender are the same. They are given to us by God and we submit to what God has given. To know your gender but to rebel against it rooted in deep-seated rebellion against God. It is refusing to submit to God and the way he made you.

Our society does not encourage us to submit to our God-given genders. It tells us our genders are self-constructed. We get to decide what gender we want, not submit to the gender God has given. Whether a different mental gender from our physical gender is consciously or unconsciously chosen, it is all rooted in deep-seated rebellion against God.

Some of you have seen the new Facebook gender fields. Facebook now has 58 different gender types. It recently introduced No. 59, which is a fill-in-the-blank gender field.<sup>15</sup> Gender is not something we decide. There are only two



genders, and it is something given to us by God. We submit to it. Refusing to submit to your biological gender is rebellion against God's design for your life.

### **God prohibits gender switching.**

**Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals... 1 Corinthians 6:9 (NASB95)**

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.adweek.com/socialtimes/free-form-custom-gender/616030>

Notice I used the NASB version of this verse. The ESV, and many other good translations, combine two similar Greek words that the NASB reveals. We looked at this verse in our study of homosexuality. The word for homosexuals is the Greek word *arsenokoitai*. It literally means men that take other men to bed. It is men that take the masculine role in a homosexual relationship.

There is an additional word used to describe the man that takes the feminine role in a homosexual encounter. It is the word *malakoi*. It is translated by the NASB as the word effeminate. It means to be soft or effeminate. It means a man that sexually functions like a woman or acts like a woman. This is not talking about a man that likes the color pink or is a better cook in the kitchen than his wife. This is talking about a man that leaves what is rightful, masculine sexuality and sexually functions in a feminine way. That is a man functioning in a feminine way in a homosexual relationship and would also include a man that cross dresses to sexually attract other men, a man that pursues estrogen therapy or a man that pursues a sex change. It is a man that intentionally rejects his God-given sexually masculine gender identity for a feminine one.

Of course masculinity and femininity falls in a continuum and some men are more masculine than others and some women are more feminine than others. That is not the issue. What is at issue is intentional rejection of your gender role. We see this again later in 1 Corinthians.

Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonors his head, but every wife who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head, since it is the same as if her head were shaven. For if a wife will not cover her head, then she should cut her hair short. But since it is disgraceful for a wife to cut off her hair or shave her head, let her cover her head. For a man ought not

to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God, but woman is the glory of man. 1 Corinthians 11:4–7 (ESV)

This is a difficult passage. I don't want us to get into the cultural details of hair length and head coverings in first century Corinth. For the moment I just want to take what is the painfully obvious message of this difficult text. Men should look like men and women should look like women. It is disgraceful when women start to look and act like men and when men start to look and act like women. While the way men and women dress and conduct themselves will vary from culture to culture, the principle of men looking like men and women looking like women remains the same. There should be no intentional gender ambiguity.

Moses also wrote about this in the Old Testament.

A woman shall not wear a man's garment, nor shall a man put on a woman's cloak, for whoever does these things is an abomination to the Lord your God. Deuteronomy 22:5 (ESV)

If cross dressing is an abomination to God, I think it goes without saying that hormone therapy and surgical sexual transformation is an abomination to God. Why is it so abominable? It shatters the God-assigned masculinity or femininity given to us in the womb that we are given to live out and display. Remember that our gender is God-given. We submit to it. We don't decide on it and create it.

Someone that claims he is a woman trapped in a man's body, whether a conscious or unconscious decision, is struggling with sinful rebellion against the way God made him. By the way, all of us struggle with submitting ourselves to the way God created us, not just in our gender, but in everything.

When I was in junior high, I had a really tough time in school. I was skinny as a rail. No matter how much I ate, I couldn't gain an ounce of muscle. There was a lot of things I didn't like about the way God created me. Maybe some of you can relate.

I remember being so disgusted with my body that I hated myself. I hated the way God created me. Why couldn't I be smart like some of my friends? Why couldn't I be a decent athlete? I was angry at God and thought he made a mistake when I looked in the mirror.

After weeks of praying, reading my Bible and thinking, a phrase popped into my head. This is it — “God doesn't make junk. God doesn't make mistakes. God made you.” Let me say it again, “God doesn't make junk. God doesn't make mistakes. God made you.” I wasn't the fastest. I wasn't that athletic. I wasn't the strongest. I wasn't the smartest. Even if I didn't like the way God created me, since I knew God didn't make mistakes and God made me, I wasn't a mistake. God made me just the way he wanted me to be to accomplish what he wanted me to do. I needed to submit to the way God made me and trust that he knew what he was doing when he knit me together in the womb.

I think that is something those struggling with gender dysphoria can take to heart. When you look in the mirror and see one gender on the outside and feel you are another gender on the inside, remember that God doesn't make junk. God doesn't make mistakes. God made you. He made you just the way he wants you to be to accomplish what he has given you to do. The gender he

biologically assigned you is the gender he wants you to have. Trust him with it. Submit to it. Don't tell him he made a mistake. Don't rebel against God.

### **Transgender desires are rooted in sin.**

The Bible tells us sin influences everything. It influences creation. That is why we die. It influences our will. That is why we know the right thing to do but we struggle to do it. Sin also influences the mind. It influences our thinking so we cannot think clearly. One of the ways sin influences our thinking is in the area of our sexuality. Let me read Romans 1 and notice how many times Paul talked about sin influencing our thinking and influencing the way we think about our sexuality.

For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. Romans 1:21–28 (ESV)

Transgender issues are not directly mentioned by Paul, but he said sin warps our thinking and it warps our sexual desires so we do what ought not to be done. Let me show you some interesting research.

Ten years after the prestigious John Hopkins University began sex reassignment surgery, it did patient follow up. Remember that on average 90

percent of patients cannot be found after the surgery either from suicide, transitioning back or dropping out of society. John Hopkins has some the strictest screening criteria for sex change surgery applicants in the country. It weeds out anyone it doesn't feel is a true candidate for the surgery. Doctors studied their top 50 sex change patients.

What they discovered is the patients fell into two groups.

The first group was guilt-ridden homosexual men looking to become more effeminate in their homosexual relationships. The second group was mostly older men that found intense arousal in cross-dressing. They were eager to advance their cross dressing fantasies to a surgical level. After the surgery, both the homosexuals and the cross-dressers experienced no improvement. They had the same problems with work, relationships and emotions after the surgery as they had before the surgery. The study blatantly states there were no noticeable improvements observed in any of the 50 individuals that went through sex change surgery.<sup>16</sup>

Let me quote what Dr. Meyer, the man that led the John Hopkins sex reassignment team, said after seeing the results of the follow-up study.

My personal feeling is that surgery is not a proper treatment for a psychiatric disorder, and it's clear to me that these patients had severe psychological problems that don't go away following surgery.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> Jon K. Meyer, MD and Donna J. Reter , "Sex reassignment. Follow-up" Archives of General Psychiatry, 1979;36(9): 1010-1015

<sup>17</sup> Laura Wexler, "Identity Crisis," Style Magazine, The Baltimore Sun, January/February 2007, downloaded on Feb. 18, 2011 from [http://www.baltimorestyle.com/index.php/style/features\\_article/fe\\_sexchange\\_jf07/](http://www.baltimorestyle.com/index.php/style/features_article/fe_sexchange_jf07/)

As a result of their patient follow up study John Hopkins shut down the entire sex reassignment surgery department. After 10 years of practicing this surgery, they were not able to demonstrate it helped a single transgender patient.

### **How should the church love the sexually confused?**

The Bible is clear that the only God-honoring way to express our sexuality is within heterosexual marriage. How should we handle a young couple that walks in our doors and is living together before marriage? What do we do when a homosexual couple walks in CrossWinds holding hands? How should we react when we find ourselves talking to a woman at the coffee bar and realize she has a masculine jaw line? These are tough questions. Let me give some guidance. The first things we need to know is there is no a one-size-fits-all answer.

### **How do we respond to the unchurched?**

This is the largest part of our culture. The unchurched are those that do not know God. They do not know the Bible. They do not have a saving relationship with Jesus. Our first instinct is to confront them over their sexual issues. In most cases, this is not the right approach. They are living a transgender lifestyle or a homosexual lifestyle or they are sleeping together because that is the natural result of living apart from God. Our goal is to build a bridge to them. Our goal is to get them under the preaching and teaching of the Bible. Our goal is to get them to open and study God's Word. Let the Word do its work of convicting and creating spiritual life in their lives.

Are there times when you don't endorse their actions, such as not attending a homosexual wedding? Of course. If God doesn't agree with their marital union, we can't support their marital union. Generally our approach is to

build bridges and introduce those who need the gospel to the Gospel. Let the Word do its work.

### **How do we respond to the struggling?**

The struggling are those who are in the church and they know they are doing what is outside of God's will but they are struggling with their sin. They don't need our condemnation. They need our support, encouragement and love. They need us to help them carry their burdens. They may need some tough love along the way but what they need is our love, support and encouragement.

### **How do we handle the rebellious?**

Those are people who claim to be Christians. They understand God's will on sexuality but they refuse to repent. They persist in shacking up with their girlfriends, in practicing homosexuality or pursuing a transgender lifestyle. The way to respond to this group is loving confrontation from the Word of God. We looked at these verse two weeks ago.

No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God. 1 John 3:6, 8–9 (ESV)

This might involve church discipline. It will definitely involve uncomfortable confrontation. It is hard but it is the most loving thing we can do.

### **Laura's Story.**

We began with Bruce Jenner but I want to end with another true story. Laura was a single woman in her 40s. She had curves, shining blonde hair and red lipstick. She grabbed the attention of both men and women whenever she

entered a room. One day, while meeting with her counselor, she smoothed her skirt as she asked him if he could help her find a church. She hadn't been to one in years but recently she wanted to learn more about God and what God thought about her life.

That conversation led Laura to try different churches. Many rejected her when they found out her story but one accepted her, helped her and when she confessed her secrets, they set up a special prayer team for her. Each week she wrote a letter to a group of 30 people in the church that committed to pray for her.

As you probably guessed, Laura was not a traditional woman. Laura was a surgical woman. She was born a he. Her birth name was Walt. Walt grew up distant from his parents. As a child, when he stayed at his grandmother's, she made him wear girl clothes. His grandfather repeatedly molested him. As a young man, he confessed his sexual shame and guilt to an episcopal priest. Instead of helping him, the episcopal priest homosexually propositioned him. Thankfully Walt ran. He didn't just run from the priest. He ran from God. Walt says that as a boy, for as long as he can remember, he always felt that deep inside he was a woman. As a young man, he repressed those feelings. He married, had children, and went on to work at NASA in the Apollo program. He later worked for Toyota and was part of the team that birthed the Acura car line.

All the guilt and sexual shame of his youth never went away. In mind-life it came bursting to the surface. He could no longer deny it. Deep inside he felt he was a woman, not a man. Eventually he divorced his wife and left his family. Trying to be true to his inner self, he underwent sex change surgery to become a

woman. Even after becoming a stunning woman, he discovered it wasn't all it was cracked up to be. He knew something wasn't right. He wondered what God would say to him and about his life. That is what began his mid-life search for a church.

As you already learned, a church and a pastor eventually took him under their wings. After listening to God's Word and studying it, Walt repented of his sin and gave his life to Christ. God's spirit made it unmistakably clear that God's will for his life was to be the biological gender God assigned him. His struggles didn't magically disappear. In his biography Walt describes years of wrestling with his gender identity. He worked a job as one gender and lived at home as another gender, changing in the car on the way home. Even though he knew what was right he couldn't shake his inner female gender identity.

God in his grace eventually helped a therapist to notice something. The Walt side of him acted one way, the Laura side of him acted another way. The Laura side of Walt had different hand writings and even different tastes in food than the male side of Walt. Walt was diagnosed with a multiple personality disorder that developed in early childhood. As a child trying to deal with the shame of molestation, his brain developed the alternate personality of a woman. After years of therapy, his multiple personality disorder was solved. Today he is one person. He is a man all the time.

The amazing part of the story is as Walt grew in his faith, he eventually met and married a woman. He went on to



become the director of care ministries at a large church in California. Even though God saved his life, he still suffers from the results of his life-altering irreversible sex change surgery. He has a letter of apology from the physician that performed the surgery asking forgiveness for performing irreversible surgery on his manhood and not digging further to discover his identity disorder came from a psychological condition.

Today he runs the web site [www.sexchangeregrets.com](http://www.sexchangeregrets.com). He is the author of many books that tell the other side of gender dysphoria that you don't hear about in the media.

My friends, the hope for Bruce Jenner, and for others like him in our community, is not to alter their bodies with surgery or flood their systems with hormones as they try to fix the mistake they believe God made in their first births. What they need, and what all of us need, is an altogether new birth through Jesus Christ. He is the only one that fixes what is wrong with each of us.



Dr. Kurt Trucksess is ordained in the Evangelical Free Church of America. He enjoys reading, writing, time with his family and wrestling with his sons. His favorite topics are preaching and ancient rhetoric. Feel free to contact him at [www.Christ2RCulture.com](http://www.Christ2RCulture.com) ([www.c2rc.com](http://www.c2rc.com))

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