



A Tear within

The reasons for gender confusion are as many as there are gender-confused-people. But in each circumstance there is a “tear in the human soul.” There is a growing longing to be like the opposite gender in dress, behaviors, attitudes, interests, and relationships. I say, “growing,” for it evolves as a person experiences life. In most cases, it is not a sudden self-realization erupting from nowhere; but it is rather a slowly evolving self-understanding which is silently incubating from very early childhood, most usually prior to the child’s fifth birthday. The Roman Catholic Church has for centuries known that the foundational years for a child are from birth to age seven. “Give us a child until he is seven and we will have him for life.”

“For too long, the image of manhood in our culture has been corrupted by the model of the “seeker,” the perpetually dissatisfied lone-wolf cowboy, space jockey, motorcycle rider. For a woman The one primarily oriented toward seeking, however, is most likely to hold in his mind, even subconsciously, an image of the object or state of mind he desires. The seeker’s focus, or lifestyle orientation, tends to reflect his own self-serving human nature instead of God’s image or desire for him. A perceived advantage of women over men, and generalized desire to escape manhood for just a little while can lead to a mental mind set of achieving an emotional “high” and its response of sexual/sensual gratification.

YOU ARE NO LONGER ALONE! Beck shares.... Like many baby boomers I grew up distancing myself from God, Christianity, and Church. God was replaced with Freud, and psychology. Religion was antiquated, intolerant,

and responsible for shame and guilt. Unaware of my soul I believed one should do their own thing as long as it didn't hurt others. Adopting a liberal secular worldview where there is no absolute truth but truth based on subjectivity, tolerance, and relativity. Sex was strictly a biological function, alternative sexuality such as homosexuality and fetishism is perfectly normal and gender is a psychological construct.

Learning Gender identity disorder is listed in the DSM (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental disorders) enabled me to substantiate Gender transformation as a medical issue not a moral one. My logic and vision was to pursue the process of changing sex by taking opposite sex hormones, attending psychiatric assessments, having electrolysis, living full time as a woman, changing my legal name, and finally having sex reassignment surgery to complete the journey to my perceived true self.

Despite following secular worldviews I recognized a desire to seek deeper spiritual meaning, perhaps subconsciously trying to reconcile gender transition to God. I began exploring religions that held favorable views of alternative sexuality such as the Unitarian and the Metropolitan community church. Readily appear ant to me there was something lacking; I knew God was being compromised for the political views and social justice causes. I also found many traditional mainstream protestant churches had modernized, adapting God's words to fit man's world. Matthew 15:9 "But in vain they do worship me teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."

I knew there has to be absolute truth and decided to read what the Bible says no matter how terrible or horrible the words. Reading Deut.22: 5"The woman shall not wear that which pertained to a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment; for all that do so are abomination unto the Lord thy God" and Deut 23:1 "He that is wounded in the stones or has his privy member

cut off shall not enter into the congregation of the LORD". There is was God's absolute truth; a transgressor of God's word, having committed abomination, not eligible to enter into God's kingdom and deserving of the eternal punishment of death and hell. These words pierced my soul initiating a thought process opposed to the postmodern view of gender & sexuality.

Now the majority including many of the aforementioned Protestant churches that support postmodern liberal theology would consider these Old Testament passages intolerant and hateful. My awakening soul was coming to realize postmodern theology rebels against God absolute truth and following this path would leave me feeling incomplete with unresolved internal conflict. Excluding sexual sins is like cleaning a cup and platter on the outside but leaving the inside dirty, contaminated, and still lost much like a ship sailing in a stormy sea without proper direction. Accepting my perceived innate medical condition as sin allows me to realize Jesus paid the penalty for all of my sins on the cross at Calvary and believing God raised Jesus from the dead, my soul is also raised from the dead, and one day I will be completely and wholly restored without corruption to my original creation.

Steps Toward Healing

An admission and awareness that the traditionally accepted therapeutic modality is not really the answer to one's gender confusion. The person has to recognize that the "one-size-fits-all" mentality of the modern psychiatric/endocrinologist/surgical team does not fit him or her.

Healing begins with the desire to become reconciled with early, unresolved childhood emotional wounds; events in early developmental years which threatened or undermined a person's feelings of security, peace, warmth, comfort, and a secure sense of being deeply and unconditionally / uniquely loved.

Healing unfolds as a result of discovering what the first formative years of life were like in the care of one's parents, which led to the security or insecurity of the child. The end-purpose is not to find fault with the parents and blame them for all one's choices; but rather to discover the obvious interruptions to one's basic trust level and the concurrent developmental structure of one's own sense of personal gender/sexual identity.

Healing results when you come to terms with the "root causes" for your life-choices; the reasons for your first experimentation with clothes and activities of the opposite gender. The first and foremost restorative issues have to do with coming to terms with, "What caused the early childhood disruption of basic trust, bonding with the same-sex parent, and the separation anxiety resulting from one's insecurity within the family; as well as the inward view of one's own sexual/gender status?" When the foundations of a healthy self-view are fractured in the first seven years of life, it results in poor foundations for healthy adolescent development.

Healing occurs when you deal with the unhealed emotional wounds of your past; those interpersonal connections of which failed; and the emotional distancing that occurred in the determination to run away from the perceived source of your emotional pain.

Healing happens when you put an end to defining yourself as "different" and "a member of the opposite gender" because of your natural in-born temperament and natural interests, which created an inward desire to do those things which are naturally ascribed to the opposite gender. This has much more to do with one's God-proscribed uniqueness than it has to do with some kind of genetic flaw.

"Healing occurs in your life when you realize that you are a spiritual being and your body is

perfect as you were created by God. He created you as you are for a purpose, because He has a wonderful plan for your life as you are. He loves you and wants you to have the life He planned. He knows the joy you will experience if you accept His plans in the form and body you were created to have." In the book *When Hope Seems Lost*, Grace shares....During my teen years I felt sexually confused; I wasn't sure how I felt about boys—if I was attracted to them. My first "boyfriend-girlfriend" relationship came about through a strange and unfortunate set of circumstances: In the neighborhood where I grew up it was just expected that an adolescent girl would have a boyfriend.

At the time I didn't meet that expectation, so one day a group of boys caught me on the street and told me to choose one of them to be my boyfriend, apparently with the assumption that the one I chose would consummate that relationship with me in a sexual manner. Jimmy, another neighborhood boy, came to my rescue; he told the group of boys that I was his girlfriend.

We continued that pretend relationship for some time in order to free me from advances by the other boys. But soon, Jimmy and I became more than friends. I became pregnant at age fifteen. I wasn't ready for that; I felt God had abandoned me, so I turned away from Him.

What sorts of things must someone struggling with these issues accept or face to seek healing?

You must come to terms with your own God-given uniqueness and personality. Shame-based thinking must be uprooted. All of the painful events of your past must be uncovered beneath the Godly oversight of a professional therapist who knows how to minister emotional healing prayer for you.

You will need to understand that your trans-gender thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are your chosen method of escaping your present reality. You are running away from that which brings you pain. Your attachment to the world of the opposite gender is your way of detaching from your sense of being rejected as a viable member of your God-proscribed gender.

You will need to admit that you are flawed in your inward self-view, which gives rise to those all-too-common feelings of insecurity and ineptness, or disdain for members of your own gender. In order to feel better about yourself, you have adapted early childhood experimentation into a set of life-controlling behaviors.

You will need to come to admit that only your Creator can repair the emotional damage done. Of course God uses people and events to restore us; to help us understand what we are fleeing from...and need to do in order to stop detaching from our own gender, resulting in inner peace.

You will need to begin to embrace and thank God for your gender identity, not reject it.

Accomplishing This Requires To.....

*A total devotion to facing the truths about how this condition came into being in the first place and a total departure from the post modernist's view of gender and sexuality.

*Adopting the attitude that God, our Creator, knows of nothing beyond His redemptive circle to remedy.

* Being entirely honest with yourself and others about your current struggles

* Making peace with your past, forgiving and being willing to be forgiven

* Becoming 100% involved in long-term, intensive Faith-Based counseling and accountability.

* Choosing to embrace your God-given gender, thanking God for who you are

Remember God First Chose US

He chose us and not us to Him. John 15:16_You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

Proverbs 139; 13-16 reads... For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.

Your eyes saw my unformed body;
all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

We were predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son Romans 8; 29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. Romans 8:29-30

He wants to know every aspect of our life. God wants to be part of every single aspect of our lives.

1 O LORD, you have searched me and you know me.
2 You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.
3 You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.
4 Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD. Psalm 139:1-4

will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. John 14:23

Don't believe or think we are alone. Don't forget He promise to gave us the Holy Spirit to dwell in us, our best friend, counselor and Healer."When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me. John 15:26 Don't say we don't believe in HIM because He believed in us first and had a plan for us. Many times we loose sight in God in our struggles when we try to find a solution by ourselves and many times we blame God and stop believing that He can't resolve our most difficult problems. Let me tell you, He has a plan for us. He always listens to us. For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. 12 In those days when you pray, I will listen. 13 If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me. Jeremiah 29:11-13 *By Karl*

A man by the name of William James (1842-1910) who was the father of modern Psychology had said "There's nothing so absurd that if you repeat it often enough, people will believe it."

This phrase is indeed a powerful one. If a person is tell themselves enough times that they 'should' of been the opposite sex God created them, they are denying their God given identity and believing their very own deceiving thoughts. Charles Stanley once use the following demonstration in a sermon "A though reaps an action', A action reaps a habit, A habit reaps our character and lastly "A character reaps our destiny". What choice in your destiny will you make? Every one in influenced by the way they think, feel and act. But are we forgetting to or simply putting aside what God's will for your life to serve 'self' instead of the Creator? The world hears many voices shouting many different directions. For example 'This is the way to go"

"Turn this way" or "Go that way". In the midst of all the directions the world has capability to cause great confusion within a person. Confusion comes from the one who desires more then anything to destroy you. It is the will of Father God for you to 'listen' to his voice. He is the one who loves you and knows what is best for you.

My Second Blue Jean Jacket

By Danny Blackwell

It was a gift from my wife, this second blue jean jacket, and the first one was a gift from my older brother when I was seven. A lot of things happened between these two gifts; things good and bad, things that added to me and things that took away from me. I don't remember what happened between these two gifts; things good and bad, things that added to me and things that took away from me. I don't remember what became of the first jacket wall I remember is the pleasure of having and wearing it. Struggling with gender identity tends to fill us with mixed messages and confusing memories also.

The second jacket didn't ignite the same type of joy but it stirred up the coals of smoldering masculinity and fanned the flames of what God wants to restore. Between these two gifts I have tried to fit into clothes and roles not of my gender design. So I'm left with a dilemma, do I continue in futile attempts to block pain and escape being male or do I embrace the Master Tailor's call to put on restored masculinity. The Lord used that jacket to help me to see that being male is not ugly. Healing unfortunately is not as easy as putting on a jacket but one of God's greatest gifts is our gender identity and rather than continuing to discard it, we must embrace what God is able to restore.

Sure I lost the first jacket but it was restored to me in love from my wife. So also God calls us to willingly face our losses and allow him to clothe us again with his great gift, restored

gender identity.

Fortunately we are not called to accomplish this task on our own for he uses His word, people, and counseling.

The Lord as the Master Tailor guarantees His work and He never fails. As it took time to make and like the jacket; so change in us will take time but by getting closer to the Lord, we are restored and healed.

Additional Resources

www.help4families.com

www.narth.com

www.tradingmysorrows.com