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# PARKSIDE GREEN

1 TIMOTHY 1:15

## Gender Identity, Charity, and *Christian Hope*

### Introduction:

### Current, cultural milieu:

- **Caitlyn (Bruce) Jenner:** I've tried to explain it this way: God is looking down making little Bruce...And then at the end, when he is just finishing, he says, "Wait a second; we've got to give him something. Everyone has stuff in their life they have to deal with. What are we going to give him? Let's give him the soul of a female, and let's see how he deals with that." So here I am: \_\_\_\_\_.<sup>1</sup>
- **Chaz (Chastity) Bono:** There's a gender in your brain and a gender in your body. For 99% of people those things are in alignment. For transgender people, they're mismatched. That's all it is. It's not complicated, it's not a neurosis. It's a mix-up. It's a \_\_\_\_\_, like a cleft palate.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://abc.go.com/shows/2020/episode-guide/2015-04/24-bruce-jenner-the-interview>.

<sup>2</sup> Cintra Wilson, "The Reluctant Transgender Role Model", *New York Times*, May 6, 2011. <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/05/08/fashion/08CHAZ.html>. Accessed 10 March 2017.

- **Nathan Westling:** It feels like I've been wearing like a \_\_\_\_\_ my whole life. Once I removed that mask, it was like I was finally... I don't know. I'm not wearing a skin that I don't feel I am anymore. I'm not playing a persona; I'm not trying to be something I'm not anymore. I don't feel like I'm stuck in this weird moment of having to be in-between.<sup>3</sup>
- Facebook currently has \_\_\_\_\_ options for gender identity<sup>4</sup>
- Mt. Holyoke Admissions Policy
  - Mount Holyoke College's policy on the admission of transgender students states that it welcomes applications for its undergraduate program from any qualified student who is female or identifies as a woman. Can you clarify "who is female or identifies as a woman"?<sup>5</sup>
  - The following academically qualified students can apply for admission consideration:
    - Biologically born female; identifies as a woman
    - Biologically born female; identifies as a man
    - Biologically born female; identifies as other/they/ze
    - Biologically born female; does not identify as either woman or man
    - Biologically born male; identifies as woman
    - Biologically born male; identifies as other/they/ze and when "other/they" identity includes woman
    - Biologically born with both male and female anatomy (Intersex); identifies as a woman
  - The following academically qualified students cannot apply for admission consideration:
    - Biologically born male; identifies as man

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<sup>3</sup> <http://time.com/5555051/model-nathan-westling-comes-out/>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/technology/facebook/10930654/Facebooks-71-gender-options-come-to-UK-users.html> [Agender, Androgyne, Androgynes, Androgynous, Bigender, Cis, Cis Female, Cis Male, Cis Man, Cis Woman, Cisgender, Cisgender Female, Cisgender Male, Cisgender Man, Cisgender Woman, Female to Male, FTM, Gender Fluid, Gender Nonconforming, Gender Questioning, Gender Variant, Genderqueer, Intersex, Male to Female, MTF, Neither, Neutrois, Non-binary, Other, Pangender, Trans, Trans Female, Trans Male, Trans Man, Trans Person, Trans\*Female, Trans\*Male, Trans\*Man, Trans\*Person, Trans\*Woman, Transexual, Transexual Female, Transexual Male, Transexual Man, Transexual Person, Transexual Woman, Transgender Female, Transgender Person, Transmasculine, Two-spirit]

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.mtholyoke.edu/policies/admission-transgender-students#q2>.

## Definitions & Terminology:

- **Mark Yarhouse:** If you've met \_\_\_\_\_ transgender person, you've met \_\_\_\_\_ transgender person.
  
- Understanding the lingo:
  - (1) \_\_\_\_\_ sex: male or female according to chromosomes, external/internal physiology (anatomy)
  - (2) \_\_\_\_\_: the psychological, social, and cultural manifestations of maleness and femaleness (masculinity and femininity)
  - (3) \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_: how a person perceives or experiences themselves as male/female (how they understand themselves)
  
  - \_\_\_\_\_: someone whose gender identity is the same as the sex they were assigned at birth
  
  - \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_: the experience of incongruence between one's biological sex and gender identity<sup>6</sup>
    - **Dr. Colin Ross:** Gender identity disorder is unique among all DSM-IV-TR diagnoses. It is the only disorder in which treatment is designed to \_\_\_\_\_, reinforce, and validate the belief that is the basis of the mental disorder.<sup>7</sup>
  
    - **Dr. Colin Ross:** If a woman told a psychiatrist that she was a gorilla, this would be classified as a 'bizarre delusion' according to the text for schizophrenia. If she said she was the last Neanderthal left on earth, this also would be a bizarre delusion. But if she tells

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<sup>6</sup> In order to receive this diagnosis, feelings of dysphoria must last 6 months in duration, cause great distress (APA, DSM-5, Washington RD: APA Publishing, 2013) p. 452.

<sup>7</sup> Colin Ross, *Ethics and Gender Identity Disorder*, 165.

him she is a man trapped in a female body, the psychiatrist agrees to have her body fixed.<sup>8</sup>

- \_\_\_\_\_: broad umbrella term for a person who experience a different gender identity than their biological sex
  - \_\_\_\_\_: gender identity best described as a dynamic mix of boy and girl. A person who is gender fluid may always feel like a mix of the two traditional genders, but may feel more man some days, and more woman other days
  - \_\_\_\_\_: an umbrella term for gender identities other than man and woman. People who identify as “genderqueer” may see themselves as being both male and female, neither male nor female or as falling completely outside these categories. Use this term only when an individual self-identifies as “genderqueer.”
  - \_\_\_\_\_: a broad term referring to people who do not behave in a way that conforms to the traditional expectations of their gender, or whose gender expression does not fit neatly into a category
  - \_\_\_\_\_: those whose birth at sex is somewhat ambiguous; 1 in every 5,000 births (0.02%)
- Why do people struggle in this way?
  - Statistics on gender dysphoria:
    - **Mark Yarhouse:** It’s \_\_\_\_\_ a very common experience.<sup>9</sup>
    - 2011 UCLA study
    - 2016 UCLA study

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<sup>8</sup> Ibid, 168.

<sup>9</sup> Mark Yarhouse, <http://qideas.org/videos/transgender-1/>.

- Gender dysphoria in teens:
  
- Gender dysphoria in children:
  - *New York Times*: No one knows for sure. Researchers have not figured out how to obtain consistent, reliable answers from teenagers, much less younger children. The best estimates are that the population is small, probably under 1 percent of adolescents.<sup>10</sup>
  
  - **Dr. Paul S. McHugh** further noted studies of children who had expressed transgender feelings but for whom, over time, 70%-80% “spontaneously lost those feelings.”<sup>11</sup>
  
  - **Dr. John Whitehall**: Dutch children with dysphoria aged 4-11 revealed 52% had associated psychiatric problems with diagnoses including anxiety, phobias, mood disorders, depression, attention deficit disorder and oppositional behavior.<sup>12</sup>
  
  - **American College of Pediatricians**: Young children are being permanently sterilised and surgically maimed under the guise of treating

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<sup>10</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/05/18/science/transgender-children.html>.

<sup>11</sup> Paul McHugh, “Transgender Surgery Isn’t the Solution”, *Wall Street Journal*, June 12, 2014. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/paul-mchugh-transgender-surgery-isnt-the-solution-1402615120>. Accessed 10 March 2017.

<sup>12</sup> Dan Flynn, “Confusing Gender Ideology Not For Vulnerable Children”, March 2, 2017. [http://www.acl.org.au/confusing\\_gender\\_ideology\\_not\\_for\\_vulnerable\\_children?recruiter\\_id=3606](http://www.acl.org.au/confusing_gender_ideology_not_for_vulnerable_children?recruiter_id=3606)

a condition that would otherwise resolve in over 80% of them. This is criminal...The American College of Pediatricians urges educators and legislators to reject all policies that condition children to accept as normal a life of chemical and surgical impersonation of the opposite sex. Facts – not ideology – determine reality.<sup>13</sup>

- **Erica Anderson:** “I think a fair number of kids are getting into it because it’s trendy. I’m often the naysayer at our meetings...I’m not sure it’s always really trans. I think in our haste to be supportive, we’re missing that element. Kids are all about being accepted by their peers. It’s trendy for professionals, too.”<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> American College of Pediatricians, “Normalizing Gender Dysphoria is Dangerous and Unethical”, 3 August 2016/ <http://www.acped.org/normalizing-gender-dysphoria-is-dangerous-and-unethical>. Accessed 10 March 2017.

<sup>14</sup> Joe Carter, “Why Teenagers Are Becoming Trans-Curious,” March 5, 2018, <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/why-teenagers-are-becoming-trans-curious/>. Accessed 18 February 2019.

## Resources:

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