

Excerpt from “Helping Persons with Transgenderism.”

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Children (Pre-Pubescent)

1. What is happening
 - a. Children as young as 18 months old have articulated information about the gender identity and gender expression preferences
 - b. They are finding that they like to play with opposite sex toys.
 - c. Can’t articulate very well, if at all, what is happening. May just want to play with toys and wear clothes of other gender.
2. How we can help.
 - a. Encourage them to participate in normal gender activities, even if that is not their desire.
 - i. Galatians 5:17 *For the flesh desires what is contrary to the spirit, and the spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.*
 - ii. Be careful with the difference between societal norms and Biblical masculinity/femininity
 - b. Talk with them about God’s design for man and woman
 - i. Mark 10:6 *But at the beginning of creation God made them male and female.*
 - c. Parenting must be key

Teenagers (Puberty)

1. What is happening
 - a. Youth with gender dysphoria often experience significant trauma at the onset of puberty and secondary sex characteristics manifestation (for example, growing facial hair during puberty)
 - b. Not uncommonly, gender dysphoria first emerges with the onset of puberty
 - c. This is where the confusion is most prevalent
 - d. May not feel like they fit in with their peers
2. How we can help
 - a. They do not need to talk about this with all others
 - b. talk about what is happening with their body as it matures and how it is a good thing
 - i. Psalm 139:13-16 *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 on my unformed body;
all the dates ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.*
 - c. Help them see that their body is not working against them
 - d. You may not fit in well, but pleasing Christ is much better than fitting in with your peers

Adults

1. What is happening
 - a. Finally considering and have ability for sex reassignment and reassignment of primary and secondary sex characteristics
 - b. Will finally consider coming out to others publicly
 - c. Marriages and relationships are falling apart
 - i. May consider wearing spouse's clothing
 - ii. Isn't attracted to spouse anymore
 - d. Have worked with this hidden for much of their lives, and will likely be very good at hiding
 - e. become very defensive in posture
 - f. if they believe in Jesus, their faith may be strengthened, questioned, or abandoned
 - g. They will say "I have always known"
 - h. Will have totally abandoned what it looks like to be a biblical man/woman (75% of transgenders are transwomen)
2. How we can help
 - a. Teach them how to be content in your situation
 - i. *Philippians 4:11-13 Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live and prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry both of having abundance and suffering need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.*
 - b. Help them to suffer well in the middle of their context
 - i. This may be a big deal, but don't make this the biggest thing in your life
 1. *Matthew 6:33 But seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*
 - ii. This is not your life and the biggest thing you have to worry about in terms of your sanctification
 - c. Help them be authentic and open with friends and spouse
 - d. Teach them how to be a real biblical man
 - e. They may not have resolution in this life, but there will be resolution in the next
 - i. *2 Corinthians 5:1-10 For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.*