

Gender Confusion and Culture – Denise Shick



Denise is the Founder and Director of Help 4 Families, a ministry that helps men and women overcome transgender issues and Gender Identity Disorder. She is the author of My Daddy's Secret and When Hope Seems Lost, a public speaker, and has been interviewed on many Christian radio and television programs. You can read her article on the inside of this newsletter and find many helpful resources on her website at www.Help4Families.com.

The culture is submerged in gender confusion right now. Bruce Jenner has allowed the nation to watch his transitioning on TV; his interview with Diane Sawyer aired April 24th on ABC's 20/20. In the past Barbara Walters has appeared to be a supporter of children transitioning, as have others like Oprah. Recently Jazz (a teenage transgender) became part of the Clean & Clear advertising campaign, which will promote this confusion to teens.



The culture has worked overtime to bring the transgender agenda into our living rooms, not only through the media, but through the schools. Both in school activities, and in the books they promote, our schools are sources of confusion. School activities such as the Switch It Up Day celebrated at Tippecanoe School For the Arts and Humanities encourage students to come to school dressing in opposite gender clothing. In addition, Jazz has a storybook titled *I am Jazz*, and a cartoon show to further promote gender confusion in the young minds of America's children. Jazz loves to wear mermaid fins and swim. Jazz's mom made a comment that he feels "free" while wearing mermaid fins in one interview. So what exactly is Jazz feeling "free" about or from? Although all children like to fantasize about being someone different, it is obvious that these sorts of articles and YouTube videos are promoting transgenderism as natural not only to adults, but to children as well. Jazz makes it seem "right" and normalizes the idea of being "born this way." But stealing one's gender is the enemy's attempt to steal, kill and destroy; to steal one's true identity, kill the Creator's creation, and destroy the individual and the family.



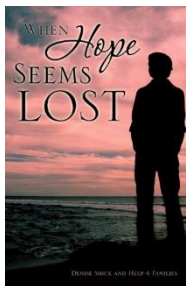
So, how does this happen and what are some of the causes of what we call gender identity dysphoria? Though we suffer the general consequences of living in a fallen world, we need to realize that there are underlying factors in this which we do not hear about from either the media or the culture. We all suffer from wounded souls. When we admit it, we all have wounds that desperately require a healing from Christ. Everyone responds differently to circumstances. For some, there is a severe disconnect with the same sex parent. The natural bonding that needed to happen during childhood was not present in many cases.

Sometimes children feel more secure in one parent's love, but not the other's, so they are attracted to and emulate the mannerisms and temperament of the close parent, regardless of gender, disengaging and defensively detaching from the other. If this attachment requires identifying with the other gender, the child becomes tormented by bitterness and cycles of shame and guilt, grows in ambivalence towards God, experiments with cross dressing in early childhood and later has poorly developed same-sex parent and/or adult relationships. They are trapped in thinking "if I become like ____ I will be loved or accepted or if I become like ____ my life will be complete."

Some who struggle with their gender have witnessed one of their parents being hurt in some way. The child may view the parent being hurt as “weak”, and make a personal vow not to be like them. Girls whose mothers were abused may reject their feminine gender in an attempt to avoid being “weak” like their mothers. Boys, observing the negative way their father treated their mother, search for ways to escape being a boy or a man so they don’t become like dad.



Some women share the rejection they felt from one of their parents. Usually they felt rejected by their father. They have bought into the false belief that if they were a ‘son’ they would be valued and loved by their dad. Some men share that they desired love and affection from their father, but felt they never received it. They seek a dad’s love and attention. The grief a grown man feels for a fatherly hug and a fatherly relationship is deep. These men have a strong desire to connect with their earthly father no matter how old he is. So, since God can be seen as their Father and Healer, it is vital for both men and women to find God and have an intimate relationship with Him. They need a secure relationship with God to resist the culture, and possibly strong peer pressure, encouraging them to transition.



We need to understand that the enemy found a crack in the door to someone’s heart. To me, it is all about Satan coming after God’s creation. After all, a person is re-creating himself or herself as the gender they desire in the flesh. Hormone therapy, SRS (sex reassignment surgery), and careful cross-dressing change the outside, but in reality people can’t change their DNA, or heal their own hearts. It is the heart of the person God is after, and that is why we need to show the love of Christ to those who battle in this way. They need the Healer’s touch, not man’s.

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People magazine photo: http://www.eluniversal.com.mx/img/2015/04/Esp/bruce_jenner_vida_mujer-movil.jpg

Jazz picture: <http://www.msnbc.com/news-nation/transgender-teen-becomes-the-face-clean-clear-campaign>

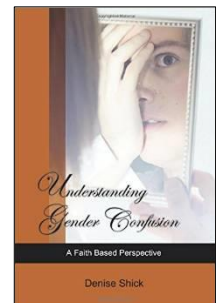
Photo of troubled couple by Nick Fuentes. Used with Creative Commons license.

Help for Families book cover: http://help4families.com/?page_id=87

Helpful resources...

Help for Families - www.Help4Families.com

This website offers many helpful resources for those struggling with gender confusion and their families. You can order two helpful books by Denise Shick, *When Hope Seems Lost* and *Understanding Gender Confusion*, and find links to support groups, articles and more.



Sy Rogers – www.syrogers.com

Sy Rogers is an excellent teacher on issues of sexual and relational wholeness. His website offers many helpful articles and video resources. Sy was living as a woman in preparation for his gender reassignment surgery at Johns Hopkins University when the university shut down the department because of the emotional complications suffered by post-surgery transgenders. Sy’s testimony is available on the DVD *One of the Boys*.