

- **Regular attendance with a Christian counsellor and willingness to submit to their guidance and counsel.** Recovery from trans-genderism is a long process involving intense counselling, prayer and a willingness to submit to the authority of the counsellor's directions.
- **Recognition of the detrimental impact of his trans-gender demands have on his spouse and children.** Until a husband recognises how damaging his trans-gender behaviour is to his wife and family and is prepared to change, reconciliation in marriage will be impossible.
- **Ongoing accountability to an older Christian man specifically regarding trans-gender matters.** The husband must be prepared to build a strong mentoring relationship with another older Christian man for long-term accountability.

The consequence for broken boundaries

What do you do if your husband keeps breaking the boundaries? Not only is it essential that boundaries are insisted upon, it is equally important that there is a consequence when they are not honoured. If boundaries are consistently broken or pushed, there is a need for a period of separation. The period of separation is necessary for respect to be regained and for the husband to recognise all that he could lose if he does not honour his commitment to his wife and family.

How long do I wait?

If the husband has shown a repentant and humble heart and has made a commitment to change the wife must, through a commitment to her marriage vows, keep the door open to maintain a climate for the marriage to be reconciliation.

Marriage reconciliation is only possible when both parties are prepared to enter into meaningful dialogue with a goal to re-establishing a lasting trusting relationship.

Over a process of time the wife will need to gain reassurance that the actions or behaviour that caused the marriage breakdown have been consistently dealt with. All of these steps have been discussed in more detail in my upcoming book, "

Is Divorce necessary?

Often our mind jumps forward to this question even before it is necessary for consideration. Before divorce is even contemplated, it is necessary for every effort to be made to reconcile the marriage. Only then should divorce be considered.

From a Biblical perspective we see three main reasons why divorce may be necessary:

1. To protect the sanctity of God's pattern for marriage. A wife must not remain married to a man who is parading himself as a woman. To do so would be emulate a lesbian communion which is abominable to God.
2. To protect the wife's witness to others. Divorce separates a husband and wife so they are no longer joined spiritually, physically and emotionally. It is as final as death. If a union has become so vulgar that it damages one's witness to others, the union must be severed.
3. For the purpose of remarriage. Every effort must be made to maintain a climate for the marriage to be reconciled. In the context of the sexual immorality of trans-genderism and the surgical changes initiated by trans-sexuality, a wife has the freedom to remarry in accordance with Matthew 5:31-32.

Hand your husband's trans-genderism over to God in prayer (Philippians 4:6-7). He promises to walk hand-in-hand with you through the entire journey. Take the first step and share the burden of your husband's trans-gender secret with a trustworthy and caring Christian friend.

This pamphlet has been prepared from my upcoming book "**He became the other woman: A Christian wife's struggle with her husband's trans-genderism**". If you would like to order a copy when it is printed, please email Gae Hall at gae.hall@gmail.com.

**Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.
But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light for whatever makes manifest is light.
Ephesians 5:12-13**



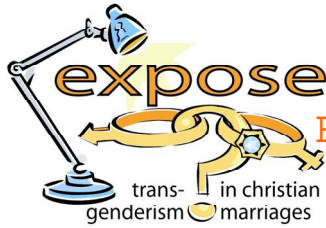
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Help!

I've just discovered my husband is cross-dressing ...



An action plan for Christian wives as they wrestle with the shock of discovering their husband is trans-gendered ...



Shock Anger expose Confusion Bewilderment

Whether you came across a hidden suitcase stuffed with unrecognisable women's clothing, or you made the discovery by walking in on him unexpectedly while he was dressed up as a woman - the shock is still the same.

As a Christian wife who has walked this road, my ministry is to shine a glimmer of light onto your path hopefully making it less bumpy and with a shoulder to the situation.

Your initial reaction, whether it is anger, confusion, grief or a deep sense of remorse is common to all wives who have faced this confrontation.

This pamphlet is to help you get past the initial thump and walking towards a path which has solid ground.

Recognition of denial: When a shocking discovery or disclosure is made, often the first reaction is denial. Denial expresses itself in a number of ways. Most women have a deep desire to fix things and we are usually too ashamed to let others know our secret family dilemmas, especially one that is so shameful.

"This is our problem and we'll deal with it". Many wives attempt to deal with their husband's trans-gender habits alone. It is tempting to keep the issue hidden, all the while covering it in prayer. Although prayer is an important weapon, prayer without corresponding action is useless. Keeping the situation a secret stems from a fear of other's disapproval. This fear keeps you in bondage and allows your husband's cross-dressing addiction to continue unbridled. Your goal is to move your husband's cross-dressing from 'our' problem to 'his' problem.

"A little bit of counselling and we'll be back to normal". The feeling of wanting to fix things comes from a need to remain in control. Both are coping strategies that are clung to when confronted with a situation that is overwhelming.

Denial is evident when we fail to realise that our husband's trans-gender behaviour is going to impact

every area of our life and the life of our children. Unless confronted and dealt with, cross-dressing will be the demise of your marriage. Trans-genderism is a mental addiction which unless your husband takes steps to control will take over his whole being.

What do I do?

In chapter 8 of upcoming book, ***"He became the other woman: A Christian wife's struggle with her husband's trans-genderism"*** I recommend that wives progress through a ten step process of coming to grips with their husband's trans-gender behaviour.

Commit your heart to obeying the voice of the Lord: In Isaiah 42:16 the Lord makes a promise. You cannot face this situation alone. The Lord will walk hand in hand with you as long as you continue to seek His ways and ask for His wisdom. His response to your trust in Him is the same. He will give you His wisdom (James 1:5).

Share your struggle with an older Christian woman: Online discussion groups are becoming very popular as they allow the reader to remain anonymous. Yet they can never replace the face-to-face support of an older more mature Christian woman. You must share your husband's secret with another Christian sister who is older and more mature in the faith. This fellowship is for three reasons: **objectively, support and wisdom.** It is impossible for you to remain **objective** because there is so much at risk. **Support** is needed as it is foolish to attempt to grapple with this issue alone. The **wisdom** of God often comes through the words of another believer. In times of confusion and emotional rockiness, the objective support of a wise Christian believer is imperative.

Confront the issue of how trans-genderism is likely to impact both your life and that of your family: When I first learnt of my husband's trans-genderism, I was naive as to tremendous power it had over him. While it is tempting to minimise the effect that your husband's trans-genderism will have in your life, it is essential to face the reality that your husband is being held captive by an addiction. The trans-gender addiction is very strong. Unless you confront its impact in your life (and your children's life) and remain firm that your husband must adequately deal with his trans-gender addiction, through demonstrating consistent changed behaviour, the issue will continue to erode your marriage. The road of transformation, recovery and restoration is

long and usually takes many years. The process of restoration can only begin once your husband realises that his trans-genderism is contrary to the will of God. He must be prepared to come before God with a repentant heart that is ready to change.

Set boundaries which you believe are necessary to protect both yourself and your children

Walking in God's love does not demand that we lay ourselves down like a doormat. True love has respect, honour and boundaries. Boundaries are necessary to create a climate so that the marriage may become salvageable or if, broken down, reconciliation may begin to take place. The marriage relationship must be healthy and uplifting for both parties. Boundaries are necessary to ensure both parties are protected from abuse. Abuse is any behaviour that is used by one person in a relationship to control the other. To create a basis for your marriage to be saved it is imperative that unacceptable behaviour is censured.

We would like to make the following suggested boundaries. Of course, these should be discussed with your pastor, minister or older Christian friend.

My reasons for insisting on these boundaries are outlined more thoroughly in my book:

- **No cross-dressing of any kind.** Cross-dressing attempts to mask deep rooted emotions and scars. Ripping off the bandaid allows these emotions to surface.
- **All cross-dressing paraphernalia must be removed from the house.** The house must be safe place for all members of the family. Wives must be aware that their husbands may attempt to continue their cross-dressing habits in secret.
- **Cut of all attendance at any trans-gender support groups.** These groups attempt to promote and justify trans-gender behaviour and will encourage a husband to pursue his lifestyle choice at the detriment of his family.
- **Make no permanent physical changes to their body.** Any effort to make permanent change such as hormones, hair removal must be stopped immediately.
- **Total access by the wife to the husband's internet surfing, email and telephone.** Marriage partners must be transparent in their behaviour. In order for trust to be re-established each party must know they can trust the other. Trust is only built by consistent changed behaviour.