

# The Transgender Question

## How to Really Love Them

Presentation by Deacon Joseph Campbell  
30 Oct. 2016

### For further study

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Catholic Church. “‘Gender Theory’/‘Gender Ideology’ – Select Teaching Resources.” USCCB. <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/marriage-and-family/marriage/promotion-and-defense-of-marriage/upload/Gender-Ideology-Select-Teaching-Resources.pdf> (accessed Oct 7, 2016).

*This is not an essay but a selection of quotations from various documents applicable to the topic of gender issues. They are from various Church documents including the Catechism, recent popes, and the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.*

Fitzgibbons, Richard, M.D. “The Desire for A Sex Change.” *Ethics & Medics: A Commentary of the National Catholic Bioethics Center on Health Care and the Life Sciences* 30, no. 10 (October 2005): 1-2. [https://couragerc.org/wp-content/uploads/transsexual\\_article.pdf](https://couragerc.org/wp-content/uploads/transsexual_article.pdf) (accessed Oct 7, 2016).

*This brief article provides a good overview of the problems with encouraging sex reassignment surgery and recommends treatment of underlying psychological issues.*

Fitzgibbons, Richard, MD., Philip M. Sutton, and Dale O’Leary. “The Psychopathology of ‘Sex Reassignment’ Surgery: Assessing Its Medical, Psychological, and Ethical Appropriateness.” *The National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly* 9, no. 1 (Spring 2009): 97-125. [http://www.ncbcenter.org/index.php/download\\_file/force/195/159/](http://www.ncbcenter.org/index.php/download_file/force/195/159/) (accessed Oct 7, 2016).

*If I could only list one source on this bibliography, it would be this. Though a little long and more technical, this essay does an excellent job of examining in depth different forms of gender dysphoria, the cause of gender dysphoria, what sex reassignment surgery entails, other psychological issues associated with gender dysphoria, and ethical objections to sex reassignment surgery.*

Furton, Edward J. “Catholic Teaching on Sex Reassignment.” *Ethics & Medics: A Commentary of the National Catholic Bioethics Center on Health Care and the Life Sciences* 41, no. 6 (June 2016): 3-4.

*In this brief essay, the author counters arguments made by Catholic ethicists in support of sex reassignment surgery. He argues that Catholic hospitals should not practice sex reassignment surgery.*

George, Robert P. *Body-Self Dualism in Contemporary Ethics and Politics*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2009.

*For a much longer and in-depth treatment of dualism, this is an excellent source by a preeminent philosopher of our time.*

May, William. *Sex, Marriage, and Chastity: Reflections of a Catholic Layman, Spouse, and Parent*. Chicago: Franciscan Herald Press, 1981.

*Though this book is excellent, it does not speak directly to transgender issues. The first chapter, however, sets out very clearly the differences between the dualist (or separatist) anthropology and the integralist (Christian) anthropology.*

Mayer, Lawrence S., M.B., M.S., Ph.D., and Paul R. McHugh, M.D. "Sexuality and Gender: Findings from the Biological, Psychological, and Social Sciences." Special report, *The New Atlantis: A Journal of Technology and Society*, no. 50 (Fall 2016). [http://www.thenewatlantis.com/docLib/20160819\\_TNA50SexualityandGender.pdf](http://www.thenewatlantis.com/docLib/20160819_TNA50SexualityandGender.pdf) (accessed Oct 7, 2016).

*Based on some of the most recent research in biology, psychology, and social sciences, the authors of this article challenge many of the common assumptions regarding LGBT issues today. This is a very long and exhaustive treatment.*

McHugh, Paul, M.D. "Transgender Surgery Isn't the Solution: A drastic physical change doesn't address underlying psycho-social troubles." *The Wall Street Journal*, May 16, 2016. <http://www.wsj.com/articles/paul-mchugh-transgender-surgery-isnt-the-solution-1402615120> (accessed Oct 7, 2016).

*In this brief article, the author argues strongly for the treatment of the psychological issues behind gender dysphoria rather than pursuing surgery. He draws on some recent data to support this argument.*

McHugh, Paul, M.D. "Transgenderism: A Pathogenic Meme." *Public Discourse*, June 10, 2015. <http://www.thepublicdiscourse.com/2015/06/15145/> (accessed Oct 7, 2016).

*In this brief article, the author examines contemporary situations like Bruce Jenner and others and shows how they are examples of our culture's improper response to the troubles of gender dysphoria.*

Schmitz, Fr. Michael. "Bruce Jenner and the Transgender Question." *AscensionPress.com*, June 10, 2015. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4-9\\_rxXFu9I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4-9_rxXFu9I) (accessed Oct 7, 2016).

*In this 8 minute video, Fr. Schmitz does a great job of examining transgender issues with simple yet clear discussion. He concludes with a good pastoral application that could be applied to anyone.*

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod: Commission on Theology and Church Relations. "Gender Identity Disorder or Gender Dysphoria in Christian Perspective."

*LCMS.org*, May 17, 2014. <http://www.lcms.org/docs/3012> (accessed Oct 7, 2016).

*The Missouri Synod Lutherans show great unity with the teaching of the Catholic Church in this document. In it they examine the topic of transgenderism in the context of scripture, Christian tradition, and pastoral application today.*

Yarhouse, Mark A. *Understanding Gender Dysphoria: Navigating Transgender Issues in a Changing Culture*. Downers Grove, Illinois: IVP Academic Press, 2015.

*The author has a lot of experience with transgender issues as a professional therapist and provides some helpful insight into the experience of those living with gender dysphoria. He writes from a Protestant perspective, however, so his conclusions at times fall short of the teaching of the Catholic Church.*

Zucker, Kenneth J. and Susan J. Bradley. *Gender Identity Disorder and Psychosexual Problems in Children and Adolescents*. New York: The Guilford Press, 1995.

*These authors dedicated their entire careers as psychotherapists to specializing in children dealing with gender dysphoria. This book, which is a product of their work, is not an easy or quick read but certainly is a valuable reference book for any who want to go deeper into this topic.*