

What's a Parent to Do? (Talkin' to You, Christian Mom and Christian Dad!)

WHEN YOUR CHILD PRESENTS WITH GENDER ISSUES

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More and more parents, Christian ones included, are being confronted with confusing statements from their children and adolescents. These come as questions, but many times as declarations:

"Mom, what gender am I?" (6 year old boy)

"Girls can have a penis and be girls" (7 year old girl)

"I learned today that I can be any gender I want" (4th grader)

*"Margo said today that she isn't going to use 'she' anymore,
and that I shouldn't use 'he.'"* (9 year old boy)

"I want to tell you that I'm trans" (13 year old female)

"You don't know me! If you did, you'd know I'm trans and go by Mory at school!"
(16 year old male)

Welcome to "the gender moment," the gender revolution that started a decade ago but is now in full swing. Not all bad or foreboding, since it's made us realize that how we categorize people can be a limitation for those that are *born* with intersex genitalia, or those that are ultimately and well diagnosed as being *gender dysphoric*.

That said, we still face *a social movement of self-representation*, one that wants all which has a gender label to either be erased, or made a choice. This choice, irrespective of any anatomical, hormonal, or other historical attributes the person may have. I'm talking here about the corollary movement to free society from gender labels—or if that can't be done—to insure the person, *not* their anatomy, *not* their birth sex, *not* their social constructions or cultural requisites, have the last word on who they portend to be.

And this trend has been amplified by social media, where kids have increasingly experienced chat rooms, linked sites, and even video games which allow them to question gender and sex of birth as effortlessly as they generate Avatars and play characters. Older teens experience peer pressures to not conform, particularly to social gender labels—these are 'out' and a new wave of self-descriptors are 'in.' It's *cool* and *hip* to be a *nonbinary*, *noncisgender*, *questioning*, *genderfluid* kid these days. (Your kids may use terms and vocabulary you've never heard. You are told you need to get the *facts*, Mom!)

In fact, schools are now part of the agenda to insure equity and inclusion—all well and good—however, teaching a kindergartner about gender and using books like the “*Rainbown Unicorn*” to suggest they may be born in the wrong body is, to me, going a bit far.

So what is a parent to do?

This is why I wrote *A Christian’s Guide to the Gender Revolution: Gender, Cisgender, Transgender, and Intersex*” (Cascade, 2020/1)! As a professor of human sexuality for more than 38 years, and being a sexologist for more than 42, living through the gender moment with Christians who are totally confused as to how to approach the questions, all this prompted me to write this.

This is not a book promotion article! It is to say that asking and answering the question, “What is a Parent (a Christian parent in particular!) to Do” is the subject of Chapters 5 and 6 in the book!

I could duplicate the chapters here, but they’d be out of context. In those chapters I help walk parents through the very significant questions of their children, and how to address presentations which claim to reveal something of their child’s gender they didn’t apparently know! Or, those questions that children bring home from exposures outside the home—from peers, from school, from other sources you may not know about.

I advocate you listen to your children and adolescents, absolutely! I advocate that you not debate or ridicule them. I suggest you get informed, and show you how to do that, given today’s incredible and reliable academic and medical platforms.

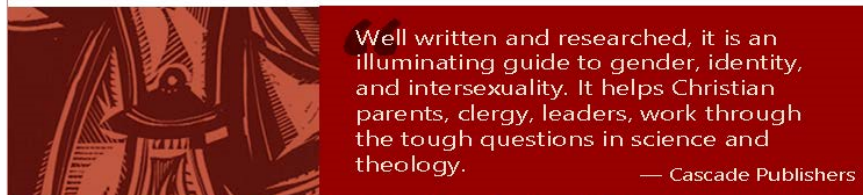
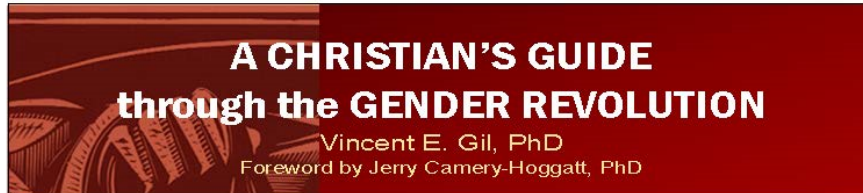
You never want to shut conversations down by your reactions. At the same time, you need to investigate the sources of your child’s feelings; and for that I do recommend therapeutic help. How to get it, where to get it, what to ask of therapists to make you and your child/adolescent comfortable, is also found in Chapter 5!

Chapter 6 is special in that it clearly moves parents through the medical information of gender transitions. This is an especially important chapter for children/adolescents who have been—eventually—diagnosed with *gender dysphoria*. What you as a parent need to know; what is ahead as both decisions and as outcomes of hormonal and surgical transitions, is all spelled out in Chapter 6. Do transitions work? Do they work in the long run? What do the studies that are available say? Come read, and find out the details—details that are important to know and *understand* when you have a diagnosed preteen or teen confronting any transition.

In all, I hope it’s a useful book to you. I’ve tried to keep Christ up front and central while explaining a lot of technical material, I hope, simply. Below is information on how you can order

the book, from Amazon.com, Barne & Noble, Wipf & Stock Publishers, in three formats: Hardcover, paper, and Kindle!

My best to you as you navigate the gender moment as a parent!



Praise for *A Christian's Guide through the Gender Revolution*

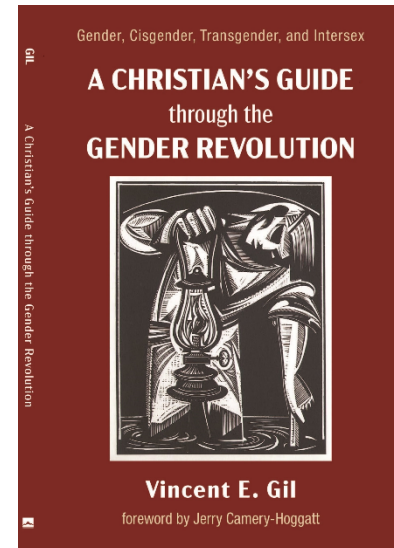


With an irenic spirit and open mind, he helps us understand the questions better.
— James Beilby, PhD
Professor, Systematic & Philosophical Theology
Bethel University

This is the book... Vince Gil's Guide moves us through the gauntlet with narratives that are biblical and scientific.
— Erin Donovan, MA
Former Director, HopeSprings



I cannot put it down! Vince Gil has tackled the leading challenge of our times. As Christians, *gender* is a venue we ignore. This book should be required reading for every Christian with a pulse!
— Barbara Allen, PhD
Education Administration, CA and VA



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A CHRISTIAN'S GUIDE THROUGH THE GENDER REVOLUTION

Gender, Cisgender, Transgender, and Intersex

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Foreword by Jerry Camery-Hoggatt, PhD

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A Christian's Guide tackles contemporary questions of gender and identity while guiding the reader through every intersection of biology, psychology, and social issues that deal with gender. Deftly presenting a Christian response that centers on the *person*, it argues in honest and refreshing tones for a theology of being that moves us toward a more empathic, Christ-like understanding of the gender moment.