

# Dealing with Tough Stuff

## Resources for difficult questions

These last two weeks have been extremely difficult to navigate in regards to human sexuality. The world we live in seems to get more complicated with each passing day. The values and standards that many of us have grown up with are quickly disappearing. The issues we are faced with are nuanced. We have what we believe to be God's Word, but how we understand His Word is being challenged by culture *and* other Christians and Bible scholars.

This is a time when many people are asking difficult questions—kids are asking parents, co-workers are asking peers, teens are seeking answers on social media. Most of us feel ill-equipped to handle some of the questions being raised by well-intentioned people. It's with this in mind that we are giving you this resource. Our goal is not to be combative, but rather to approach difficult concepts with truth and grace. These resources can help us navigate our own mindset as well as guide conversations we have with others.

We don't want this to be a time of fear, "...for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control" (1 Timothy 1:7, ESV). Let's ask the Holy Spirit for guidance as we navigate these new waters. Let's lean on Jesus for understanding rather than our own emotions ("I dare not trust the sweetest frame but wholly lean on Jesus' name" as the hymnist declares). Let's seek understanding and truth together.

## ONLINE RESOURCES

Understanding the terminology

<http://www.focusonthefamily.com/socialissues/citizen-magazine/transgenderism-blurring-the-lines/what-does-that-mean-understanding-transgenderism-terminology>

How to talk with your children about transgender issues:

<http://www.focusonthefamily.com/socialissues/sexuality/talking-to-your-children-about-transgender-issues>

Several different links to issues on transgenderism

<http://www.focusonthefamily.com/socialissues/defending-your-values/understanding-transgenderism>

Download free "Empowering Parents" how to guide

<https://focusonthefamily.webconnex.com/co-truetolerance2014>

Four Questions I Have About Transgender Identity

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/amyjuliabecker/2014/july/four-questions-i-have-about-transgender-identity.html>

How Should We Respond to Caitlyn Jenner

[http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/how-should-we-respond-to-caitlyn-jenner?fb\\_action\\_ids=10153334663769166&fb\\_action\\_types=og.shares](http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/how-should-we-respond-to-caitlyn-jenner?fb_action_ids=10153334663769166&fb_action_types=og.shares)

## RECOMMENDED BOOKS

*Note: I have not read these books through yet. The second book was mentioned by a Christian expert on teens. He has not read the book yet, but says it's one he plans to read.*

Uncommon Decency: Christian Civility in an Uncivil World by Richard J. Mouw

Understanding Gender Dysphoria: Navigating Transgender Issues in a Changing Culture by Mark A. Yarhouse

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