

**Transforming Grace Series – First Pres. Church, Jackson MS**  
**The Unending Bending of Gender: Biblical Clarity, Courage and Compassion**

Ellen Mary Dykas  
[ellen@harvestusa.org](mailto:ellen@harvestusa.org)

**Introduction: stories**

**What exactly IS the gender 'revolution'?**

**Defining our terms**

1. Gender
2. Gender dysphoria
3. Transgenderism
4. Gender identity
5. Gender bending/fluidity
6. Intersex conditions

**How gender struggles develop**

(Genesis 1-3; Deut. 5:1-7; Luke 4:16-20)

1. God's created design
2. The far-reaching impact of the fall
  - a. Feelings
  - b. Experiences
  - c. Influences outside of our control
  - d. Beliefs

**How the gospel gives hope to a person struggling with gender**

(Romans 12:1-2; 2 Cor. 5:14-17, 12:7-10)

1. Truth and compassion (a biblical worldview)
2. An eternal, unchanging identity

3. Hope and perseverance in the midst of suffering
4. Family of faith
5. Restoration

### **Helping those who struggle**

(Romans 2:4; 12:1-2; Col. 3:1-4)

1. Compassionate presence
2. Encourage and help this person to
  - a. bring God into their situation
  - b. pursue authentic and loving relationships
  - c. pursue help to address deeper issues

### **Helping families navigate the gender storm**

1. Establish your primary loyalty: to Jesus and God's word
2. Disciple children that life is for the glory of God
3. Model how to struggle well with pain and disappointment
4. Teach kids about gender and avoid rigid stereotypes
5. Engage kids who are experiencing gender confusion/dysphoria
6. Redirect children who express a desire to pursue medical action
7. Don't walk this out alone! Lean on God's people

### **Recommended Resources**

*God and the Transgender Debate*, Andrew T. Walker

*Engendered*, Sam Andreades

"Transgenderism: The Reshaping of Reality", Harvest USA magazine available online at:

<https://www.harvestusa.org/magazines/>.

**Harvest USA Blog**, <https://harvestusa.org/blog/> - You'll find many articles related to transgenderism on our blog at: <https://www.harvestusa.org/category/transgenderism/>