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THE PURPOSE OF GRACE AND LACE is simply to present the positive that God loves us and is on our side in life in spite of our crossdressing. His care and concern is for our souls. We, also, are His created beings and His love is for His Creation of which we are part of. Whether we wear skirts, pants or nothing at all is no issue with God. The clothes humanity wears does not validate any standing before God. Faith does. Faith in skirts, faith in pants and faith wearing nothing at all ; faith is the only criteria for pleasing God.

But without faith it is impossible to please Him;
for he that cometh to God must believe that He is (exists)
and that He is the rewarder of them that diligently
seek Him. (Hebrews 11:6 KJV)

By faith the harlot, Rahab, perished not with them that
believed not, when she received the spies with peace.
(Heb. 11:31)

Just one question. If God blessed a prostitutes faith, is there any reason whi He can't bless Daisy the crossdressers faith? At this point I could "take off" into a 3 page dissertation. As you can sense, I feel very strongly on the fact of God's love for us as His created beings. I'll spare you and tell you that I love you.

I want to make G&L a bi-monthly publication in 1992 with the first issue in February. My mail list is growing weekly in spite of the fact that there has been no letter since June. I have adjusted my work schedule to allow me the time I need. Work is a necessity as as the 20 years I spent as director of a skid-row mission in NJ had no retirement benefit. I now have the time I needed and I can see no excuse for not coming to you again in 2 months from this time.

PLEASE NOTE: I ask you to notify me if you do not wish to receive further copies of G&L. I will not think negatively of you and will thank you now for saving me the postage and copying expense. After all, not everyone likes vanilla ice cream. I like chocolate myself and I have a friend who loves pistachio. In that vein, G&L is not for everybody.

HOW IS G&L PAID FOR? I must confess that this issue has not cost me anything. Sisters have sent donations which were unsolicited. My policy is to keep G&L free of any kind of fund solici-tations. Should I ever become unable to work, that would be another story. I had a Christian Radi program in the West Indies in the '70s and never once asked directly or indirectly for any? Some day I'll tell you of the miracle of God's provision. Starting out with a \$109.00 reel tape recorder and ending up with a complete professional studio in an extra room in the Mission. I stopped only because there were more and more demands on my time locally. Anyhow, PLEASE enjoy G&L and if you need extra copies for friends, I have them and they are yours. Just ask.

No. I don't have my sights set on forming a crossdressers church. No way! The printed page and later on the spoken word via cassette tapes to all of our dear sisters is it. I do envision in some future year of having a retreat for us some weekend here in Jackson but that is in the future. There is nothing to buy or join now or anytime later. Just enjoy G&L.

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Deep within us is an amazing sanctuary of the soul, a holy place, a divine center, to which we continually return. It is a dynamic center, a created life that presses to birth within us. It is a seed stirring to life if we do not choke it. It is the presence of Christ in the midst. TESTAMENT OF DEVOTION By Thomas Kelly

Love and prayers
Lee Frances

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Lee Frances Editor & Publisher
P. O. BOX 31253
Jackson, MS 39286-1253
601-982-7678

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Dear Friends;

A word about our High Priest, Jesus Christ who was the sacrificial lamb without blemish. God would not accept the person who offered a sacrificial animal which had a blemish.

"That you may be accepted, you shall offer a male without blemish of the young bulls, the sheep or the goats.

But you shall not offer anything which has a blemish, for it will not be acceptable for you. (Lev.20:19-20)

But you were purchased with the precious blood of Christ the Messiah, like that of a sacrificial lamb without spot. (I Peter 1:19)

"Whereas this One (Christ), after He had offered a single sacrifice for our sins (that shall avail) for all time, sat down at the right hand of God." Heb. 10:12. (All quotes fr. Amplified Bible.)

Bear with me. There is a point to all of this.

Let us, then, hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we have a great High Priest who has gone into the very presence of God-Jesus, the Son of God. Our High Priest is not one who cannot feel sympathy for our weaknesses. On the contrary, we have a High Priest who was tempted in every way we are, but did not sin. Let us have confidence, then, and approach God's throne where there is Grace. There we will receive mercy and find Grace to help us just when we need it." Hebrews 4 :14-16. The Good News Bible, Today's English Version. Am. Bible Society.

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As crossdressers (CDs) we are all prone to feel something is standing between us and God. It is not the "sin"* of CDing for the simple reason CDing is not a sin. What stands between us and God is the sinful nature with which we were born. CDing does not add to our sinfulness. This is the universal sin we were born with; inherited from Adam. Thus the "Adamic nature" we hear about and our first expression of it was in babyhood when we couldn't even talk yet but we learned what no-no meant when we wanted to do something and would not heed the no-no but went ahead and did it anyhow. Rebellion. If we were forcibly stopped from doing something we wanted to do but shouldn't do we fussed and fumed or in some cases, threw a temper tantrum which is a display of the Adamic (sinful) nature. I don't want to take time here to show how this sinful nature plagues us all of our lives. We all taste of it. Yes, even we who call ourselves Christians. May I suggest you write for the very first issue of G&L I sent out to 50 Sisters 2 years ago. It is 10 pages of articles demonstrating why CDing is not a sin. It will clear up a lot for you. Jaye Reverie has a devotional in it which is a classic.

"Yes, I crossdress, BUT" Wow-dee-dow! Now comes the litany of. "(BUT) I am not an immoral person, I don't lie or cheat (IRS-take note)**I am not a greedy person I never deliberately hurt my fellowman. I am an upstanding member of my community and a credit to my employer and I am a good provider and love my family dearly. The only fault I have is CDing and that hurts no one." With all of that rationalization and attempted pacification you are still uncomfortable in your relationship with God. Could it be you are attempting to justify yourself before God on the basis of what you are not? Let's see.

There was a fellow in Jesus' time, a pharisee, who was going into the Temple to pray. Another fellow was going for the same purpose but he was a tax collector. In those days tax collectors were independent contractors. The government told them how much \$ they expected from a given area. A tax collector was assigned and he was the one who determined the amount of your tax and they really laid it on everyone and especially the poor suffered under the tax burden. The tax collector kept, for his remuneration, everything ^{above} the specified amount the govt. wanted from his territory. The collector was a hated, miserable worm and a poor excuse for a human being.

So there they go. Two men widely divergent in philosophy and social station in life; yet both seeking the same God. The self-righteous Pharisee prayed :

"The Pharisee took his stand ostentatiously (showy display; pretentiousness) and began to pray thus before and with himself: 'God, I thank You that I am not as the rest of men, extortioners (robbers), swindlers--unrighteous in heart and life--adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and I give tithes of all that I gain.'" (Luke 18:11 & 12 Ampl. Bible)

Pity the poor tax collector listening to all of that "Holy an'I" stuff.

"But the tax collector, (merely) standing at a distance, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven; but kept striking his breast, saying, 'O God, be favorable (be gracious, be merciful) to me, the especially wicked sinner that I am!'"

But I tell you, this man went down to his home justified- forgiven and made upright and in right standing with God- rather than the other man; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted. (Luke 13 & 14 Ampl.)

There is no sense in being Pharisee-like before God. To try to justify our CDing by saying, "well, women wear pants and men's shirts and now men's boxer shorts followed up by what a good person you are. That kind of rationalization just won't fly. It's only when we realize ^{THE} toll sin has taken on our lives and become aware we can in no way make it up to God; it is then that we can avail ourselves of impact of the cross. God, in the person of Jesus Christ, paid the death penalty He demanded for sin," . . . "the soul that sins shall die." (Ezekiel 18:4). He paid for our sins. we could never pay for our sins nor can we repay The Christ of God for what He has done for us.

In all of this I am trying to say that God takes no joy in our suffering. The satanic forces do. As long as we believe the lie that CDing is a cardinal sin against God is just how long we will suffer. In faith, do what the tax collector did.

-LEE FRANCES

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So many of the perceptions people have of themselves are wrong. If they rely on their own wisdom they will come up very short of what God really wants of them. You need to learn how to escape your own wisdom, because it isn't wisdom after all. It is more likely lies that have been pounded into your head . . . you must learn to leave your own wisdom and begin to rely on God's wisdom. (Day BY Day Love Is A Choice Daily Devotional.)

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* See G&L first issue. Write for a free copy

** Humor! No inference intended.

This is an excerpt from a letter received last Spring from Dr. Jaye Reverie, PhD,ThD. Jaye's writings touch my heart in such a way that I am witnessed to by the Holy Spirit. No amount of education is able to convey the Holy Spirit. Read and be blessed!!

As you can infer from the above, a lot of my time has been spent pressing the hard seats of classroom chairs, both in my various professions and in an intellectual pursuit of Theological knowledge. Well I'm here to say, all the intellectual knowledge and credentials (which are man made ideas) have really little value. The knowing of a personal relationship with Christ and the infilling of the Holy Spirit on a moment by moment basis while walking in a simple child like faith... is what really counts. I am reminded Jesus did not speak of credentials, of training, of His authority... He merely taught and left it to the Holy Spirit to empower what was taught. If, and I believe with all my being, HE is to be our guide, or example... we don't need credentials, we need simply to follow the lead of the Holy Spirit within and walk in a simple faith...

Typically human, we tend to intellectualize spiritual truth and in the process tend to get lost in the details. We get bothered by things Christ has already solved for us and are then beset with the temptation to become mired in a performance based economy one of my correspondents called: "Kissing God's ass" in order to reap a desirable reward. We can in no wise earn a desirable reward. We lack the capacity. We cannot earn what has been given to us free. We cannot, by means of any performance criteria manipulate God into opening the gates to Heaven for us. If we concern ourselves with trying, we are wasting our time and His... we are already adjudicated GUILTY and sentenced. If, on the other hand, we concentrate on and focus our attention on Christ, walk in a simple childlike trust in His promises, we need not concern ourselves at all with all the nitpicking details. The LAW as spelled out in the OT was given in perfection and in nitpicking detail... it was intended to establish the Jews as a peculiar and set aside people clearly identifiable by their behaviour as being different from those surrounding them. Further the LAW remaining perfect and a reflection of God's perfection serves for the Gentile and Jew alike in this dispensation of Love as a mirror in which we can see, if we will turn off our pride and stiff neckedness, our imperfection and need for the redemptive sacrifice of Christ. The law, Deut 5:22 included, is not to illuminate our path to salvation. It is set forth to demonstrate to us our incapacity to walk that path alone. Once the believer is "In Christ" he-she is a new being and no longer subject to the Law, having been granted insight to the Truth which we are told will make us free.

This understanding did not come with achievement of a Doctorate level in Theology. All that did was add meaningless credentials and fill my head with a lot of the facts of the patent failures of humankind in ritualizing faith. All the pursuits of Psychology to the highest advanced levels did nothing to speak to the spirit within. All Psychology did was give some theoretical understanding to the workings of the mind, the development and emergence of the persona and how it interacts with the sociological milieu. Neither academic pursuit spoke "Spiritual" at all.

All this time, since I first learned to feel guilty for loving to dress in feminine things... and interestingly enough, we all have to learn to feel guilty... the guilt is not spontaneous, as it would be were it a spiritual matter... I have contended with the desire to crossdress. The history is essentially "standard" in this regard. Mine is not really atypical of those others we both know... early onset, prepuberty, surreptitious practice, exposure, castigation, guilt, purging, self deprecation, — the whole gambit.

What is significant is working through all the socially dictated guilt and coming to an understanding of God Loves Me just as I am, without one plea... and this includes me in full feminine flair... not because of something good I have done or can do, but because I am God's creation... and this includes my need to express my God given femininity by means of outward attire selection. Now, mon ami, this was no small task. The guilt training I'd received, the conditioning of society, and the horrible experience of the disillusionment with formal churchiosity concomitantly with being ultimately rejected by my wife of 25 years... divorce... seeing my kids hurt by it... WOW... One day, standing in my office when there were no patients coming in for a while... I recall seeing a vision as it were... There stood the shell of me... all around were piles of fragments of me... some were the good parts... some were the not so good parts... I had the sensation I was totally fragmented, broken apart and swept together in piles... I had the impression this was an opportunity for me to experience perestroika... to restructure selecting among the broken bits and discarding those bits of no retention value, rebuild a me I could love. I sensed I did not like, did not love the me I had been... but could become a me I could love... This has come to pass... not of my doing but of the doing of the Lord and by the power of the Holy Spirit.

I foolishly thought the perestroika would result in diminution of my desire to crossdress... wrong! I was puzzled. I had a sense I could love myself dressed or not. I had a sense I was different for ordinary folks for a reason. I had a sense I did not have to know what that reason was. I had a sense all I needed to do was leave the whole thing up to the Lord. Even with a towering IQ sometimes I am not very smart... it took me a while to figure it out... It took me a while to let go and let God, in this most intimate aspect of my life. I still don't know why I am a heterosexual male who is more woman than man in innermost persona. I don't know why I was given such a consuming desire to study and earn both Theology and Psychology. I don't know why all this and more. I believe it was so I would have a lot of the Love of Christ to share with others troubled by the same persona difference... feminine persona in a hetero male body... I don't have a clear sense of being "called" to minister in any particular way, other than to be the ME God has made me to be and be free to share it with those whom God brings to me and opens the door for such sharing.

To the issue of the Law and Crossdressing... well, for me the issue is a nolo contendere. There is no contest. Intellectually, the law is plain (so is the one about eating pig meat etc, for example), but spiritually, the ever present guiding and comforting of the Holy Spirit is overpoweringly plain... I am not beyond the Law... Christ has fulfilled it for me and I have no concern for it. My concern is rightly directed to things positive, not looking back over my shoulder in some sort of paranoid guilt.

-JR

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When Christianity says that God Loves man, it means that God loves man; not that He has a mild concern for our welfare, but that, in awful and surprising truth, we are the objects of ~~HIS~~ love. You asked for a loving God; you have one. The great Spirit you so lightly invoke is present; not a senile benevolence that drowsily wishes you to be happy in your own way, but the Consuming Fire Himself. The LOVE that made the worlds. To ask that God's love be content with us as we are (Spiritually) is to ask that God cease to be God. Because He is what He is, His love is certainly impeded and repelled by certain stains in our present character. Since He already loves us, He must labor to make us loveable.. (The Problem of Pain by C.S. Lewis) Caps & parentheses mine

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The Unknown CD quotes in her book-----

Sherrill, in a powerful analysis of the connection between religion and sin noted that, "God is not concerned over the kind of rubbish which a religion piles up as it ages, its fussy little laws and lawlets with their subdivisions and exceptions, so seriously promulgated and so seriously observed, in hair-splitting distinctions between right and the wrong way of performing a ceremony or hallowing the Sabbath, or fulfilling an obligation. These are not what sin means to Jesus. Sin to Jesus, was whatever kept a man out of love with God and one's fellows. As long as a man carried hostility, his hostility was the seed-bed of his sin, as the teaching concerning forgiveness of our fellow shows." (YY21,22) This last statement is so powerful, for it simply said the sin was not in my having a feminine self (especially since the self is His creation); the sin is in the denial of that self because the denial keeps me out of love with Him.

Here is an excerpt from a book that will never be published. It's by, what I will have to call, "The Unknown Crossdresser".

I had found so exciting and challenging the prayer that was facing me on a hymnal page I opened to on the first attendance of a new church we would eventually join:

Father,

Once I had such big dreams, so much anticipation of the future. Now no shimmering horizon beckons me; my days are lack-lustre. I see so little of lasting value in the daily round. Where is Your plan for my life?

You have told us that without vision, we men perish. So, father in heaven, knowing that I can ask in confidence for what is Your expressed will to give me, I ask You to deposit in my mind and heart that particular dream, the special vision You have for my life.

And along with that dream, will You give me whatever graces, patience, and stamina it takes to see the dream through to fruition.

I sense this may involve adventures I have not bargained for. But I want to trust You enough to follow even if You lead along new paths. I admit to liking some of my ruts. But I know that habit patterns that seem like cozy nests from the inside, from your vantage point may be prison cells.

Lord, if You have to break down any prisons of mine before I can see the stars and catch the vision, then, Lord, begin the process now. In joyous expectation.

Amen.

My thoughts immediately went to my anxiety over my crossdressing, or more particular, my feminine self which was developing. I could not help but feel that God was sending me a message that day --- that my prison walls were my old self, and the new self, which contained her, the feminine, was to be the adventure I had not bargained for. There was inside me at that moment, an uncontrollable burst of emotional joy as I dared to think that it would be my new self, which included the feminine as a part, which would lead me down new paths.



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"CROSS-TALK" is a monthly newsletter containing articles of interest to the entire transgendered community, including:

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"Cross-Talk" also publishes a compilation of various resources for the Southern California TG community called the "Yellow Pages". It includes stores that welcome transgendered individuals as customers, mail order sources, area therapists and counselors who deal in gender-related issues, and other L.A. area businesses who deal openly with the TG community. Many of the sources in the "Yellow Pages" are useful in helping transgendered individuals find out more about their femme selves and to express "her" better. If you live in the Southern California area, you may order the "Yellow Pages" with your subscription at a small

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We also have available a "Best Of" compilation of articles from the first 21 issues of "Cross-Talk", covering our first two years of publication. This special reprint contains a wealth of useful, timeless information, and is a means for the new subscriber to "catch up" on articles published in our early years. It may be ordered with your subscription for a small additional charge.

The subscription list is kept completely confidential, and is used only for distribution of "Cross-Talk" and the "Yellow Pages". All publications are mailed in plain brown envelopes with only our P.O. Box (no name) as a return address.

"Cross-Talk" is also the co-sponsor of the annual "California Dreamin'" weekend, held every May in the Los Angeles area. Details are announced in "Cross-Talk", and on the "TG Community Information Line".

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