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PUBLISHER-EDITOR,
GRACE AND LACE LETTER

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DEAR FRIENDS AND SISTERS,

GRACE AND LACE IS WRITTEN FOR CROSSDRESSERS AND BY CROSSDRESSERS WHILE WE MAY QUOTE FROM SOME ECCLESIASTICAL ESTABLISHMENT SOURCES AND IMMEDIATELY COMES TO MIND, MARTIN LUTHER AND DETRICH BONHOEFFER BOTH WHOM I REVERENCE; HOWEVER, WE WILL PUBLISH NO MATERIAL WRITTEN BY A NON-CROSSDRESSER AT THIS POINT IN TIME. WE NEED TO HEAR FROM OUR OWN PEOPLE AND THEIR EXPERIENCES IN HOW GOD HAS HELPED THEM TO ACCEPT THEMSELVES IN JESUS CHRIST AND KNOW REAL FREEDOM FROM THE FORCES OF EVIL'S BIG LIE TELLING US WE ARE HOPELESSLY LOST FOR TIME AND ETERNITY BECAUSE OF OUR SKIRTS. THEY QUOTE ST. PAUL IN 1 COR. 11:14, "DOES NOT NATURE ITSELF TELL YOU THAT FOR A MAN TO HAVE LONG HAIR, IT IS A SHAME TO HIM?" REALLY?? IT LOOKS TO ME LIKE THE LONG HAIR BIT IS A HANGOVER FROM EZEKIEL 44:20 WHERE A LEVITICAL PRIEST WAS NOT TO SHAVE HIS HEAD NOR HAVE LONG HAIR BUT TO KEEP IT TRIMMED (THUS THE BEGINNING OF THE BARBER SHOP FOR MEN). I HAVE 14 INCH LONG HAIR AND GOD DOES NOTHING BUT BLESS ME, NOT BECAUSE OF THE G&L MINISTRY OR ANYTHING I DO BUT BECAUSE I AM HIS CHILD IN CHRIST JESUS. I'M NOT A LEVITICAL PRIEST.

THEN IT HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO MY ATTENTION IN ROMANS 14:15 THAT ST. PAUL INSTRUCTS NOT TO EAT MEAT IF IT IS OFFENSIVE TO ANOTHER AND IN 1 COR. 8:13 HE SAYS, "IF . . . EATING MEAT OFFENDS MY BROTHER, I WILL EAT NO MEAT AS LONG AS THE WORLD STANDS . . . IF IT CAUSES MY BROTHER TO FALL." HE IS TALKING ABOUT MEAT HERE. JUST MEAT (FOOD). IF YOU WANT TO ALLEGORIZE THOSE VERSES BE MY GUEST. IF IT WOULD HAPPEN A SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST WERE TO VISIT ME I WOULD NEITHER EAT OR OFFER HER MEAT OR FOOD WHICH WOULD OFFEND HER.

THE BEST ONE OF ALL IS THE ONE ABOUT CD'S BEING DECEIVERS. APPARENTLY THERE IS A TRAIN OF THOUGHT THAT GOES SOMETHING LIKE THIS, "I AM A MAN TRYING TO PASS AS A WOMAN AND THAT'S DECEPTION AND A CHRISTIAN SHOULDN'T BE A DECEIVER." I GUESS THE THOUGHT IS WE APPARENTLY ARE NOT WHAT WE REPRESENT OURSELVES TO BE, WOMEN, AND I'LL SAY AMEN TO THAT. NOR ARE WE DECEIVING. WE ARE NOT DECEIVING GOD. HE MADE US THIS WAY. READ PSALM 139:15 & 16. DECEIVING HAS TO BE ON PURPOSE AND WE HAVE NO DESIRE TO MALICIOUSLY DECEIVE ANYONE. WHEN YOU ARE "READ" ADMIT FORTHRIGHTLY YOU ARE A MAN IN WOMEN'S CLOTHES. WHEN YOU DENY YOU ARE A MAN THEN YOU ARE TRYING TO DECEIVE. LET'S GO ON TO OTHER THINGS.

I HOPE TO GET AT LEAST 4 ISSUES OUT THIS YEAR AND THIS IS THE FIRST ONE FOR 1992. I HAVE ENOUGH SUBJECTS TO WRITE ON FOR AS LONG AS I WILL LIVE BUT IT'S A MATTER OF TIME AND HEALTH. I WILL DO THE VERY BEST I AM ABLE TO. WHY DON'T YOU SEND IN AN ARTICLE AS MENTIONED ABOVE OR ON ANY OTHER CHRISTIAN SUBJECT. THE GUIDELINES ARE SIMPLE. G&L IS AN EVANGELICAL PUBLICATION SO WE WANT ARTICLES IN THE EVANGELICAL MODE. WE HAVE NO COMPUTER SO YOUR COPY MUST BE TYPEWRITTEN AND COPIER READY. YOUR COMPUTER PRINTOUT IS FINE IF IT IS IN 8 1/2" X 11" SEGMENTS. AGAIN, THIS ISSUE WAS ALMOST ALL PAID FOR BY CD'S VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS. STAMPS BEING THE BIGGEST ITEM. I ADMIRE KIMBERLEIGH RICHARDS OF "CROSS-TALK" NEWSPAPER. SHE HAS A LITERARY SERVICE FOR US IN HER PAPER AND SHE PAYS FOR IT OUT OF HER OWN INCOME. SHE HAS A FEW SUBSCRIPTIONS @ \$24. A YEAR TO HELP OUT BUT SHE HAS BEEN THRU THE MILL TRYING AT TIMES TO GET ENOUGH \$ TOGETHER FOR THE NEXT ISSUE. SHE'S LIKE THE BATTERY BUNNY-----SHE JUST KEEPS GOING AND GOING AND GOING. I AM MORE THAN WILLING TO PAY THE COST OF G&L AND I ALSO AM THANKFUL FOR THOSE WHO HAVE HELPED. G&L IS FREE FROM ANY COST OR CHARGES TO YOU AND IT WILL STAY THAT WAY. I AM NOT SHOOTING FOR A HOLY FINANCIAL EMPIRE. I DON'T WANT TO DO ANY BOOKKEEPING OR HAVE A SPECIAL ACCT. FOR G&L. I WANT TO WRITE OF GOD'S LOVE FOR US IN SPITE OF WHAT WE THINK OF OURSELVES AND OUR SELF INFLICTED GUILT. CHRIST AROSE FROM THE GRAVE AND NEVER WENT BACK BUT WENT UP WHERE HE LIVES TODAY READY TO MAKE SONS OF GOD OUT OF WHOEVER CALLS UPON HIM. WHOSOEVER (CD'S INCLUDED) SHALL CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD SHALL BE SAVED." I LOVE YOU AND PRAY FOR YOU DAILY.

*Love and Prayers
Lee Frances*

Some Thoughts on Telling Children About Crossdressing

by Paula Jordan Sinclair
of the Renaissance Education Association

Lee, your unfortunate experience with three of your children after the airing of the "Sally Jessy Raphael Show" in November confirms what I have thought for some time: that there is an optimal time to tell children about parental transvestism. While it depends, to a great degree, on the individuals concerned, a rule of thumb can be developed.

There are those who advocate telling children at a very young age, saying that young children have open minds uncontaminated with society's false notions of two totally separate genders. Unfortunately, children this age also have open mouths, and cannot be expected to keep a secret. Putting this burden on them is both unfair and unwise.

There are those who say that teenagers can keep secrets (and often do from their parents), so tell the kids when they are teens. This may not be so good because the teen years are already full on conflict. While adolescent boys are wondering about their own sexuality, teenagers of both sexes are overly concerned about peer pressure. An additional complication for teenagers is that they are trying to break away from their parents and become individuals in their own right. A disclosure of transvestism may cause that break to be more severe than necessary.

Adulthood, then, seems to be the logical time, right? Not necessarily. By the time they reach adulthood, children have often developed an entire mythology about their parents that guides their own lives ("I want to be just like Dad/I won't make the mistakes Mom did when it comes to...") A sudden revelation that Dad (or Mom for that matter) isn't who they thought they were could shake the child's confidence in who they are and where they are going with their own lives. The result, dear Lee, can be rejection of the parent who is the cause of the trauma: no parent, no trauma.

From my own experience, and from talking to other transvestites, I believe that the best time to tell a child is just before the teenage years, say ages 9 to 12 to give a rough approximation. Children at this age understand the need for discretion (if it exists for the family) and are surprisingly open minded about such things.

I hasten to add that these are only guidelines, and apply only to "typical" children. Of course no parent believes his or her child is typical, so individual judgment is best. But hopefully this will give transvestite parents a framework on which to base their judgments about their own children.

Thanks, Paula, for this timely article
on a subject we know little about.
This is a big help. Thank God for
FAMILIES!

L. J.

GRACE AND LACE LETTER, MARCH 1992
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DEAR SISTERS AND FRIENDS

I MUST AGREE WITH SOME OF THOSE IN COMMUNITY WHO SAY CHRIST HAS NO PLACE IN OUR SORORITIES, CLUBS AND CD ORGANIZATIONS. THEY ARE NOT CHURCHES.

CHRIST'S PLACE IS IN THE HEARTS AND SOULS^{OF} THE MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZATIONS OF WHICH SOME OF OUR NUMBER HAVE ALLOWED HIM TO TAKE UP RESIDENCE IN THEIR LIVES AND WHO TRUST HIM. IN SOME CHRISTIAN CIRCLES THAT ACTION IS KNOWN AS BEING "SAVED" WHILE IN OTHERS IT'S AN ACT OF SURRENDER TO HIS LORDSHIP.

REGARDLESS OF WHAT TERM IS USED THE SALVATION OF OUR SOULS GOES FAR BEYOND THE CIRCUS-LIKE ATMOSPHERE OF AN "ALTAR CALL" AND PEOPLE RUNNING DOWN THE CHURCH AISLE WITH THE CONGREGATION SINGING "JUST AS I AM". NEXT COMES THE CALL FOR BACKSLIDERS TO RETURN TO GOD AT THE ALTAR. THAT FAILING TO BRING ANYONE TO THE ALTAR THE CALL IS ISSUED TO "REDEDICATE YOUR LIFE TO THE LORD. AMID ALL THAT HOOPLA POOR DAISY THE CROSSDRESSER (CD) WHILE THE FORCES OF EVIL, NAMELY THE DEVIL TELLS HER (HIM) SHE (HE) CANNOT BE SAVED BECAUSE GOD HAS SAID A MAN WHO WEARS WOMEN'S CLOTHES IS AN ABOMINATION TO HIM (DEU. 22:5) AND THAT MAKES POOR DAISY CRINGE WITH GUILT AND EVEN THO SHE DOES NOT WANT TO BE AN ABOMINATION SHE IS FORCED TO BRAND HERSELF A BAD SINNER. SINNER BECAUSE OF CDING SHE IS NOT (SEND FOR THE ARTICLE, "IS GOD AGAINST US" AND G&L #] FREE) AND SHE HAS NOW DISQUALIFIED HERSELF FROM BEING A CHILD OF GOD BECAUSE OF HER PURPORTED "ABOMINATION".

GOD KNOWS HOW HARD SHE HAS TRIED TO STOP HER CDING SHE (HE) HAS SWORN OFF, PURGED AND PROMISED GOD SHE'LL DO ANYTHING IF HE WILL ONLY REMOVE THIS "CURSE" FROM HER. NOTHING HAPPENED AND NOW SHE SITS THERE, UNAVOIDABLY CUNNING, PLANNING HER NEXT DRESSING SESSION AND NOT WANTING TO PLAN IT, BUT SUBCONSCIOUSLY IT'S WORKING ON HER. (FOR SOME ENLIGHTENMENT SEE DR. SHELIA KIRK'S ARTICLE ON SOME OF THE "WHY'S" OF CDING IN TAPESTRY # 60) SO DAISEY LEAVES THE CHURCH FEELING LOWER THAN A SNAKE'S BELLY.

NOT SO WITH "PRECIOUS SUE" PRECIOUS HIT THE "SAWDUST TRAIL" AND WAS SAVED, SANCTIFIED AND DELIVERED AND WALKED VICTORIOUSLY OUT OF THE CHURCH IN HIGH SPIRITS. "OH BOY! OH BOY! FINALLY! I AM DELIVERED FROM CROSSDRESSING. NO MORE "PRECIOUS SUE" IT'S PATRICK STEPHEN FROM NOW ON AND WHEN HE GETS HOME, OUT COME THE PLASTIC BAGS AND AWAY HE GOES FILLING THEM UP WITH ALL OF THOSE BEAUTIFUL CLOTHES AND PUTS THEM IN THE NEAREST DUMPSTER OR GIVES THEM TO THE SALVATION ARMY OR GOODWILL. GOOD RIDDANCE! (BY THE BY, IF YOU ARE PURGING AND YOU ARE 5'10" AND WEIGH 250# SEND THEM TO ME!!) HERE COME THE CATALOGS AND OUT THEY GO. EVERY VESTIGE OF PRECIOUS SUE IS GONE! PATRICK STEPHEN IS NOW IN THE CLOUDS OF SWEET VICTORY OVER THE SCOURGE OF CDING. PRAISE THE LORD! GONE FOREVER! I AM NOW AN EX-CDER! EUREKA! HALLELUJAH!

IN THAT SAME MEETING WAS WILLIAM WHO EXPERIENCED ALL OF THE ABOVE BUT FOUND AFTER A FEW MONTHS HIS "WINNIE" WAS STIRRING TO LIFE AGAIN. AT FIRST HE COULD SQUELCH HER BUT HER FEMALE GRIT AND DETERMINATION WOULDN'T STAY SQUELCHED AND WILLIAM WENT DOWN IN DEVASTATING DEFEAT HE ANSWERED THE ALTAR CALL FOR THE REDEDICATION OF HIS LIFE TO GOD. HE THOUGHT HE HAD GOTTEN AWAY FROM GOD AND IF HE'D REDEDICATE HIS LIFE EVERYTHING WOULD BE OK AND WINNIE WOULD GO AWAY. NOT SO.

WILLIAM, PRECIOUS SUE AND AND DAISEY HAVE NOT RECOGNIZED THE FACT THEY ARE CD'S THEY CAME OUT OF THE WOMB CD'S. MR. "HOLIER-THAN-THOU" IN ANY POSITION IN THE CHURCH FROM MEMBER TO BISHOP HAS BRANDED THEM SINNERS AT A VERY SINFUL GAME. WE CROSS-DRESS BECAUSE WE ARE CROSSDRESSERS. CDING IS NOT SOMETHING WE DO FOR TEMPORARY "KICKS" OR AS A VEHICLE TO SEXUAL ACTIVITIES OF WHICH, PRAISE THE LORD, THERE ARE NONE FOR US. WE DO BECAUSE WE ARE AND WE ARE BECAUSE WE WERE BORN THIS WAY!!!! (SEND FOR JAYE REVIERE'S DEVOTIONAL PIECE ON THE 139TH PSALM)

UNTIL WE CAN ACCEPT THE FACT WE ARE CDERS AND ACCEPT OURSELVES AS SUCH, IS JUST HOW LONG WE WILL BE IN TURMOIL. THE TURMOIL EFFECTS US BOTH PHYSICALLY AND SPIRITUALLY. GOD LOVES YOU HAS BECOME AN EMPTY PHRASE WHICH IS CARELESSLY BANTIED ABOUT BUT THAT DOESN'T TAKE AWAY THE FACT THAT GOD DOES LOVE YOU.

THE FOREGOING THREE GIRLS ARE A COMPOSITE OF MYSELF AND EXPERIENCES I HAD IN MY QUEST FOR GOD DELIVERANCE FROM "THE 'SIN' OF CDING". HOWEVER THE LORD WAS GRACIOUS AND DELIVERED ME FROM ALCOHOL, PRESCRIPTION DRUGS AND TOBACCO. I'D BE LESS THAN HONEST IF I DIDN'T SAY HE HAD TO DELIVER ME FROM BOOZE THREE TIMES, PRESCRIPTION DRUGS TWICE THE FACT REMAINS HE DID FINALLY ALLOW ME TO PUT THEM OUT OF MY LIFE BY HIS DIVINE GRACE AND LOVE IN JESUS CHRIST. I HAVE NO RECORD OF THE TIMES I SOUGHT DELIVERANCE FROM CDING. AT LEAST A DOZEN IF NOT TWO DOZEN TIMES.

IN ONE OF MY QUESTS FOR DIVINE ACTION IN GETTING RID OF CDING IN MY LIFE I WAS FREE FROM IT FOR A PERIOD OF 3-4 MONTHS AND HAD THE PRECIOUS SUE AND WILLIAM EXPERIENCE. WHY DIDN'T GOD MAKE IT PERMANENT? I FEEL STRONGLY GOD HAD NOTHING IN IT. IT WAS A PSYCHOLOGICAL EXPERIENCE WHICH I CANT EXPLAIN. CROSSDRESSING IS NOT A SUBSTANCE SUCH AS ALCOHOL, DRUGS AND TOBACCO. REBECCA AND I WERE TALKING ONE AFTERNOON DISCUSSING THIS VERY SUBJECT. GOD HAD DELIVERED HER FROM A LOT OF UNDESIREABLE TRAITS WHICH ARE, OF COURSE, ACQUIRED IN ONES LIFE BUT HE DID NOTHING ABOUT HER CDING. HER CONCLUSION WAS THAT WE MAY AS WELL ASK GOD TO CHANGE THE COLOR OF OUR EYES. SO, ANYHOW, LETS GET ON HERE. AT THE AGE OF 68 YEARS I FINALLY AND WHOLEHEARTEDLY ACCEPTED MYSELF FOR HOW GOD HAD MADE ME, YOU MADE ME THIS WAY, LORD AND I ACCEPT IT FULLY AND WHOLEHEARTEDLY. MY LIFE HAS BEEN A BLESSED EXPERIENCE SINCE THEN AND I'LL BE 73 YEARS OLD BY THE TIME YOU RECEIVE THIS. I MUST SAY I WOULD NOT TRADE THE LAST 5 YEARS FOR ANY OR THE BEST 5 YEARS PRIOR TO 1987. GOD GIVE ME A LITTLE MORE TIME IN THIS WORLD TO SHARE HIS LOVE FOR US IN JESUS CHRIST WITH YOU.

WE WILL SOON GRACE THE ALTARS OF OUR CHURCHES WITH LILYS IN COMMORATION OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION. WE WILL, GUSTILY, SING "CHRIST AROSE, HE AROSE, ETC" THE CHOIR WILL SING AN "EASTER" ANTHEM AND THE DEAR PREACHER (REGARDLESS OF MY OBVIOUSLY CYNICAL NATURE, I LOVE GOD'S SERVANTS---LIKE US, THEY ARE ALL PRODUCTS OF WHAT THEY HAVE BEEN TAUGHT.) WILL PREACH A SERMON ON THE SPIRITUAL VALUE OF THE RESURRECTION. BY MONDAY IT'S ALL FORGOTTEN AND THE LILYS ARE SENT TO NURSING HOMES AND HOSPITAL WARDS. THE ALTAR IS VACUUMED AND LIFE GOES ON AS USUAL I URGE YOU TO GO TO CHURCH ON EASTER SUNDAY AND IF YOU ARE OUT OF THE CLOSET, DRESS TO THE NINES. I WILL, BUT JOIN THIS OLD LADY IN THE WORSHIP OF OUR RESURRECTED SAVIOUR WHO DIDN'T GO BACK TO THE GRAVE WHEN THEY CLOSED THE CHURCH DOORS. THE CHRIST WHO 3 DAYS PRIOR EXPIRED ON THE CROSS --WHO BORE OUR SINS AND WHO NAILED THE HANDWRITING OF THE ORDINANCES THAT WERE AGAINST US TO HIS CROSS. GOD, WHO DEMANDED BLOOD SACRIFICES FOR SIN FINALLY BECAME THAT SACRIFICE HIMSELF IN THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST AND ON THE THIRD DAY HE AROSE FROM THE GRAVE BRINGING PERSONAL SALVATION AND JUSTIFICATION TO WE WHO WILL PUT OUR FAITH AND TRUST IN HIM, WILL CLING TO TO, BELIEVE AND RELY ON HIM. CHURCH COMES ALIVE WHEN WE RETURN THE LOVE GOD HAS GIVEN TO US IN OUR SAVIOUR, JESUS CHRIST. PLEASE ACCEPT MY BEST AND HEARTFELT WISHES FOR YOUR EASTER. MAY IT BE A LIFE CHANGING ONE.

GRACE AND LACE IS AN EXPRESSION OF MY LOVE FOR YOU BECAUSE I LOVE YOU, BE YOU CD, TG, TS, OR WHATEVER.

--LEE FRANCES



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CONFLICTS: Crossdressing and Faith.

Many of us are married. Many of us seek to insure the physical, spiritual, and emotional well-being of the wives we love. In part, this is right and proper. There are, however, limits beyond which it is inappropriate to go. There are conditions when it is inappropriate for us in our human essence to be in the "insurance" business in so far as our spouses are concerned. Among these instances is the relationship between our spouse and the Lord. Another is in the relationship our spouse has with herself.

Recently a long time friend wrote in obvious pain, how she has become convinced she cannot have a satisfactory relationship with her spouse unless she turns her back on her feminine self and returns to the way she was before she allowed the long buried parts of herself to emerge. This friendship goes back a number of years. Discussions of this topic and discussions of her Faith-Walk have been central to our friendship. Her recent epistle deeply concerned me.

It could be, as she says, the Lord has another path she's not tried. I believe this to be true. Central in this belief is a deep conviction the Lord steers a steady course and does not change course along the way. There are some further considerations too.

The Holy Will of God is two-fold. In some things, God's will is directive. God willed all creation into existence. God made us as we are made according to God's directive Will and in accordance with God's Master Plan. Being made as we are made, we have a place in the Master Plan of God. Being made as we are made we are equipped perfectly to fulfill the role in the Master Plan for which we were made as we are made. God's will is also permissive. It is herein, things get off track. We were also given free will. We are given free will to reject and to rebel, but not to will ourselves into submission to God's Master Plan for us. In God's permissive will we are taught only what we need to know of the Master Plan at the moment of our being taught. It is up to us then to submit to God's Master Plan for us and to walk the Faith-Walk trusting God to reveal even more to us as we go along. If we submit to God's Master Plan for us and step out into the unknown, the fearful unknown, in the Faith-Walk, then we are blessed. More and more is revealed to us as we grow in Faith and gain experience in walking the Faith-Walk. If we refuse to submit to God's Master Plan for us and insist on going our own way, we face confusion and are endlessly confounded in one way or another. We set forth, not in Faith, but on the basis of assumptions we make.

There are many fundamental reasons rejecting the Master Plan of God for our lives and turning our back on the fundamental elements of the total person God created us to be simply will not work. First to do this, we have to ignore all of the discussion in the paragraph above and have to impose our will in the place of God's will. Invariably we suffer the consequences when we do this. When we attempt to purge ourselves of this feminine component the Lord made into us, when we attempt what is called simply a "purge" so we can live according to the unsound stereotype society sets, we are actually attempting a form of spiritual suicide. We are attempting to kill off part of the very person God created us to be. This is nothing short of self-murder in the emotional and spiritual aspects of our humanity.

When we attempt to do this self-murder so our wives won't feel adverse feelings as a result of our discovery of who, what, and how we were created to be, then we are making some serious mistakes. We are completely wrong headed if we try to assume responsibility for the feelings of another person, wife or otherwise. If we convince ourselves we have to purge so our wives won't be hurt, then we are assuming responsibility for their feelings, which is a total violation of their right to be individuals and their right to be responsible for their own feelings. We rob them of these rights when we begin to "caretake" their emotions. When we caretake the feelings of another, we assume responsibility for what we cannot rightly be responsible. We deny others the right to feel as they feel honestly. We make all feeling aspects of our relationship with the person into a game of control and dishonest interactions. When we refuse another person the right to feel as they feel, we are denying them their humanity. Not only is it wrong to assume responsibility for the feelings of another, it is impossible for we cannot control the feelings of another. If we persist in doing this, we will destroy the fundamental foundation of the relationship and we will destroy both ourselves and the one we are caretaking, in terms of feelings. When we deny freedom to another to feel as they feel we are denying them human dignity and are attempting to control them for our own ends. In doing this we actually make a martyr of ourselves and end up with an ever growing sense of resentment and passive-aggressiveness toward the person we are caretaking. This is one of the fundamental elements in the disease of codependency.

I believe the Lord has in store for each of us many rich blessings when we finally get past Kindergarten. I believe we are made as we are made to be special blessings to others the Lord wants to bring to us for training, for sharing, for wisdom, and for love. I believe we have to get ourselves and our exceedingly hard heads out of the decision making loop and do what Step 1 of the 12 steps of HCDA (Heterosexual Crossdressers Anonymous) says. Indeed we have to acknowledge we are powerless over crossdressing as a manifestation of who, what, and how we are by our fundamental nature and so long as we work against integration of our total selves into the full measure of our humanity, our lives are indeed out of control. I believe we have to trust the Lord to work His will in our spouses. I believe we have to quit caretaking their feelings. This does not mean being insensitive macho clods. It means being honest with ourselves and with our spouses. I believe we have to trust our spouses to act responsibly. I believe we have to quit manipulatively controlling our spouses. In so far as our relationships are involving keeping secrets, repressing fundamental parts of our selves, and caretaking the feelings of our spouses, we are involved in grossly dishonest relationships. These need to be changed.

When we find ourselves in such situations we need to be involved with CODA (Codependents Anonymous) to work out our feelings and to learn how to be honest with ourselves and with those we love. We also need to be involved with HCDA (Heterosexual Crossdressers Anonymous) so we can work out needed accomodations and integrate the fullness of our being as God created us to be into our marriages, into our lives.

If anyone reading this is interested in CODA or HCDA, you can contact the Publisher or this author directly. We will be pleased to assist you with finding or initiating a self-help group under the auspices of CODA or HCDA. You may contact the Publisher by mail at the address on the return of this newsletter. You may contact this author by writing: Dr. J. Reviere, 402 Hildred Street, Conroe, TX 77303. There is no charge for either CODA or HCDA.

Jaye Reviere

What seems to be the thrust of the leading I am experiencing as I sit here to write may be serviceable for Grace and Lace. It may not be. Never the less, here goes.

The Lord's love is constant. The Lord is supremely patient with us. We are, as the Scripture relates, a stiff necked and proud bunch. Yet, for reasons we simply cannot comprehend, the Lord loves us with a Love we cannot measure or fathom.

Part of the Lord's love for us is demonstrated in the way the Lord's perfect will is at work in our lives. To visualize this, we have to see first how the Lord's will is not a monolith, not a memorial of some sort, but a dynamic and versatile force in our lives. The Lord's will is far more than the set down in "stone" injunctions we call the Law. It is far more than the ancient Ceremonial law (variously called the Law of Moses, the Levitical Law, and such) which was given exclusively to the Twelve Tribes as a mark by which, through it's keeping, they would be obviously different from and remarkably distinct from the peoples of the land they were to inhabit. The Lord's will is directive in terms of the Lord's calling into being all which was created and setting forth the ten facets of God's perfection in the Ten Commandments. The Lord's will is also permissive in terms of giving humans their heart's desires even when the Lord knows what we desire is not in our best interest. Always the Lord with the permissive element of Divine will functioning is calling us to a FAITH WALK relationship under the guidance and real presence within us of the Holy Spirit.

We persist in rebellion. It is our sinful nature to rebel. It is our nature to seek to do our own "thing". It is our nature to insist on doing everything, even the work of the Lord, on our own "hook" and doing it our own way while presumptively insisting the Lord accept our attempts as proof of our devotion and in some way thereby assign unto us merit so our standing before the Lord is thus enhanced by our efforts. Never the less, in spite of our stiff necked pride, our blind eyes, and deaf ears, the Lord continues to love us, to woo us and to call us into the same sort of moment by moment journey of intimate FAITH bringing us into the intimate presence of God Abraham enjoyed. We can be reminded by an excerpt from the history of the life of the great Patriarch who the Scripture tells us: "continued all his days to walk with God and it was counted unto him as righteousness." So should our days be spent.

