

III

***SPIRITUAL ENCOURAGEMENT
FOR
CROSSDRESSERS,
THE TRANSGENDERED
AND TRANSSEXUALS***

Lee Frances Heller

***THE CHRISTIAN LOVE LETTERS
1997-2000***

LOVE LETTER

by Lee Frances Heller

Six months after I accepted Jesus' atonement on the cross for my sins, I realized I was not being fed a full plate of Biblical fare. Something was missing, but I didn't know what. Have you ever felt that way about Christian teaching? How something was lacking? Did you ever tell yourself, "If this is all there is to it, then I am missing the mark because I don't have the deep down satisfaction other church members profess?"

I was "born again" in 1947 and I discovered what was missing in 1967 in a home meeting where a well-heralded Bible teacher in northern New Jersey, Earle Davis, was teaching on *2 Corinthians 3:6*. But first read this quotation from Bishop John Shelby Spong's book, *Resurrection, Myth, or Reality: a Bishop's Search for the Origins of Christianity* (Harper Collins 1994)

...Biblical higher criticism, the Protestant alternative to literalism, is preserved in the particular enclave of academic Christian scholarship and is thought to be too unfruitful to share with the average pew-sitter, for it raises more questions than the church can adequately answer. So the leaders of the church would protect the simple believers from concepts they were not trained to understand. In this way, that ever-widening gap between academic Christians and the average pew-sitter made its appearance.

Clergy were introduced in their theological training to this new way of reading and understanding the Bible, to these new theories about how the Bible came to be written, and of new ways of interpreting the tales of the supernatural; but they were encouraged not to use this new knowledge when speaking from the pulpit to their congregations. Far better, they were told, to simply keep on telling the old, old story with only an occasional modern accent.

That night in that home, the Holy Spirit quietly opened my eyes to the truth of God's unadulterated love for me and His created human race. An unconditional, unqualified love, not based on how well I kept the legalistic practices of my Protestant church. His love is based in Jesus Christ. It was that lesson on *2 Corinthians 3:6* that changed my entire Christian life. My eternal thanks to God for brother Earle Davis.

As God's created beings, we need a life with Him. A spiritual life. We need to open up the "God hole" in our soul; that special place each of us has for God to dwell within us and become a part of our very being.

If you don't believe in God, you can stop here and send me your address and I'll scratch it off the mailing list. *Love Letter* is published to tell you that no matter what YOU think of yourself, God does love you and wants to be in your life. We need someone who understands us and who can console us in compassionate love. One who is concerned with our future and present well-being.

...NO MAN CARED FOR MY SOUL. I CRIED UNTO THEE, O LORD, I SAID THOU ART MY REFUGE, MY PORTION IN THE LAND OF THE LIVING.... BRING MY SOUL OUT OF [ITS] PRISON, THAT I MAY PRAISE THY NAME. THOU SHALT DEAL BOUNTIFULLY WITH ME.
(*Psalm 142:4,5,7*)

Back to your personal need for a spiritual life with God.

You may attend church with your family and that's fine, or you may have been passed over by the church and have understandably developed some aversion to God because of the homophobia of the church or some particularly well-meaning Christian who suggested you are less than welcome. On the other hand, you may know little or nothing about God, but instinctively feel that you have crossed over the line of social acceptability. If there is a God, He wouldn't want to have anything to do with you. You can put that thought out of your mind because "...its source is the pit of hell and it really smells of smoke!" (Steve Brown) The devil will do anything to keep you from God. Satan uses *Deuteronomy 22:5* against you. If he could, he would emblazon it in neon lights around the world. He makes good use of scripture and your human reasoning to get you as far from God as possible.

Old "fire-sides" has one up on you. He believes in one God. James wrote in the Bible,

YOU BELIEVE THERE IS ONE GOD. YOU DO WELL. EVEN THE DEMONS BELIEVE AND TREMBLE. (*James 2:19*)

So thinking God doesn't want anything to do with you is contrary to the truth.

You may have been invited to "accept Christ as your personal Saviour" at some time or another. That's not quite right. You might do so in the hope that God will accept you and if you do, how can you be sure He accepts

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you? Torturous thinking! Trying to live on an “I hope He does accept me” level of life is like walking a tightrope and hoping you won’t fall.

...TO THE PRAISE AND GLORY OF HIS GRACE BY WHICH HE MADE
US ACCEPTED IN THE BELOVED (CHRIST). (*Ephesians 1:6*)

Who is accepted in Christ by God? You are. But aren’t I rejected by Him until I come to Him? No. Throughout the Bible you will find many, many instances of the people rejecting God. The Lord told Samuel that the people have not rejected you but they have rejected Me. This is just one of many examples.

Have you rejected God’s acceptance of you? I’m sure you know Christ said, “Come unto me...” Many of us are aware of the fact that Christ died for our sins in order to restore us to fellowship with God in the sense of a Father-Child relationship with us. I don’t believe Christ died for me as a boozier or pill taker; however, He did die for the principle of sin in us that causes all those things. CD/TG/TS is not a sin but the way we were born.

The objective is a personal relationship for us with God. How do you go about that? It’s not all that complicated. You haven’t considered a relationship with Him due to the bad press the church gives Him where we are concerned.

“Huh!” you say. “He rejected me, so I don’t want Him!” We know now He does want us, so here’s what to do.

Pray. That’s right, pray. In your own words ask God to open your spiritual eyes so you can see His love for you. Pray for an hour? No, Pharisees like to do that. Pray for *one minute or less*, longer if you like, but the idea is that you see, first of all, His love for you. No promises. Don’t try to cut deals with God. It won’t work.

This is a very simple first step. Do it every day, even if your prayers are going no higher than your head. In the Old Testament Daniel prayed and it took three weeks for his prayers to reach God because of the forces of evil hindering his prayers, and you can bet old firesides doesn’t like you praying to God, because he is going to lose you to the competitor. Just keep praying for a minute or less every day. You don’t have to kneel. King David laid on his bed and prayed. You can pray anywhere at any time. God hears you as soon as you open your mouth in prayer.

I'm going to stop now. Accepting God's acceptance of you is not complicated. There is no long list of rules to qualify you. It's as simple as this: you discover a person loves and accepts you and you accept that love and encouragement. So you accept God's love and encouragement to you the same way. That's where we'll start the next time. God Bless You.

Lee Frances Heller
Love Letter
Summer 1997

By the Grace of God

THERE'S ROOM AT THE CROSS FOR YOU

by Lee Frances Heller

Christianity starts from the offer of God's *unconditional* grace. An offer extended to all, of whatever age, stage, or *condition*."

"Christianity starts with the sinner opening an empty hand to receive God's *undeserved* grace. It starts with Luther's recognition that God offers His acceptance as a free gift, the assurance that God's acceptance comes *before* and is far more important than anything we can do either for ourselves or for Him."

"What Luther realized is of tremendous importance – that God's acceptance [of us] is the beginning of spiritual living, *not its goal*."

"Justification by faith means not simply the individual rejoicing at his or her acceptance by God – basic and fundamental as that is. It means also recognition that justification stands *opposed* to any and every nationalistic or racialist [or conditional *ed.*] narrowing of God's grace." (*The Justice of God*, Dunn and Sugate)

Striving to attain God's acceptance is not our goal.

God said, "I love you," to His created beings. No exceptions. There is not one valid reason why we CD/TG/TS cannot have a loving relationship with God. And we can have an even better relationship than "church people" can. They think they deserve a good relationship. We think we don't because we have been led to think we are inferior and second-class humans by those very people.

We finally discover that, while they may exclude us, God doesn't. He includes us. This opens the door to an appreciative relationship with God because we thought we were excluded and now we find we are included in His Kingdom. We have accepted His acceptance of us, and like all of humanity, we have now joined the ranks of ordinary sinners. We no longer harbor the false notion that because of our lifestyle we are exceptional sinners. There are no degrees of sinners.

To single us out and categorize us as "bad sinners," is the pot calling the kettle black. There are two categories of sinners. Sinners and saved sinners. Did the church teach you that as soon as you "accepted Christ" your sins were gone and now you are a Christian? That's right, but you didn't lose your sinner status. No one loses their sinner status in this world. Christ *forgives* our sins. We Christians continually need to go to Him for forgiveness because the sin prin-

ciple is alive in us. Making a “decision” for Christ doesn’t eradicate the principle. It *forgives* us of the sins committed because of the principle that caused us to commit those sins. We have come to the cross of Jesus Christ, confessed our sins and opened up our heart to Him. At that moment all of our sins are forgiven and we feel great. The sins are gone but not the principle. John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist church, said, “I confess daily before God.” The sin principle in us is greatly subdued, but not eliminated, by the Holy Spirit. This then enables us to live a life in harmony with God.

Many Christian CD/TG/TS have told me they are still tinged with a remote guilt feeling about their lifestyle. This is not to be ignored or brushed under the table. Remember the principle (spelled “Satan” or “devil”) is very much alive and wants to pick at us and nag us and tell us we are all wet if we think we’re OK with God. We are OK. The principle doesn’t like it because every human being who comes to Christ for His salvation is one less disciple Satan has. It’s a loss for him because he loves to revel in our misery. He taunts us with, “men in skirts and women in pants? Why, that’s an abomination to God!! Just who the hell do you think you are?” And he continues to sow doubt in us, forgetting that “THE HANDWRITING OF THE ORDINANCES THAT WAS AGAINST US” has been erased. *Deuteronomy 22:5* was one that was nailed to His cross and wiped out. Removed. Gone. No longer in effect. Read *Colossians 2:11-14*. And while we listen to him, we forget those good things Christ did on the cross of which we are the beneficiary.

I used to pray, “O God, deliver me from this horrible crossdressing thing.” I prayed that for all of the usual reasons: family, job, church, etc. It was the grand prayer of the grand hypocrite. My “inner me” didn’t think it was horrible. I thought it was great and really didn’t want to be delivered, but I was kissin’ butt with God. I thought He’d be delighted to hear I wanted deliverance and that I thought it was horrible! Talk about the principle at work in a Christian! That prayer was a lie in the face of God. Those were the days when I was a pillar of society and a Deacon in the church. I was offered ordination three times in my life, and refused every time, because I knew I didn’t fit into the scheme of things. I didn’t yet know where I did fit in, but it wasn’t there. I found it after my wife died in 1984 and God sent me here to Mississippi. The rest is history.

It grieves me to see so many of us that *want* to come to Christ but fear rejection. Read this letter over again and come on and join us in praise of Him who loves us and accepts us. As the old hymn goes: “*There’s room at the cross for you.*”

Lee Frances Heller Love Letter Issue #2, 1997

WHY DO I FEEL GUILTY?

by Lee Frances Heller

This question is a perfectly legitimate question. It's a question that 100% of Christians ask themselves. Some won't admit it. The answer? It's the sin principle alive in us Christians. But let St. Paul attack it. Here he is, a Christian and serving the Lord and guided by the Holy Spirit and finding himself in the same dilemma we are in, and he addresses it thus:

WE KNOW THAT THE LAW IS SPIRITUAL; BUT I AM A CREATURE OF THE FLESH, HAVING BEEN SOLD INTO SLAVERY UNDER [THE CONTROL OF] SIN. FOR I DO NOT UNDERSTAND MY OWN ACTIONS. I DO NOT PRACTICE OR ACCOMPLISH WHAT I WISH, BUT I DO THE VERY THING I LOATHE [WHICH MY MORAL INSTINCT CONDEMNES]. NOW IF I DO WHAT IS CONTRARY TO MY DESIRE, I ACKNOWLEDGE AND AGREE THAT THE LAW IS GOOD AND THAT I TAKE SIDES WITH IT. HOWEVER, IT IS NO LONGER I WHO DO THE DEED, BUT THE SIN [PRINCIPLE] WHICH IS AT HOME IN ME AND HAS POSSESSION OF ME. FOR I KNOW THAT NOTHING GOOD DWELLS WITHIN ME, THAT IS, IN MY FLESH. I CAN WILL WHAT IS RIGHT, BUT I CANNOT PERFORM IT. FOR I FAIL TO PRACTICE THE GOOD DEEDS I DESIRE TO DO, BUT THE EVIL DEEDS THAT I DO NOT DESIRE TO DO ARE WHAT I AM DOING. NOW IF I DO WHAT I DO NOT DESIRE TO DO, IT IS NO LONGER I DOING IT, BUT THE SIN [PRINCIPLE] WHICH DWELLS WITHIN ME. SO I FIND IT TO BE A LAW THAT WHEN I WANT TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT AND GOOD, EVIL IS EVER-PRESENT WITH ME AND I AM SUBJECT TO ITS INSISTENT DEMANDS. FOR I ENDORSE AND DELIGHT IN THE LAW OF GOD IN MY INMOST SELF. BUT I DISCERN IN MY BODILY MEMBERS A DIFFERENT LAW AT WAR AGAINST THE LAW OF MY MIND AND MAKING ME A PRISONER TO THE LAW OF SIN THAT DWELLS IN MY BODILY ORGANS. O UNHAPPY AND PITIABLE AND WRETCHED MAN THAT I AM! WHO WILL RELEASE AND DELIVER ME FROM [THE SHACKLES OF] THIS BODY OF DEATH? (*Romans 7:14-23 Amplified*)

Let's look at what we have so far. A pretty miserable picture of a great saint wrestling with the same problems we have. St. Paul, saved by our Lord on his journey to Damascus and called into God's service, is a human being made of the same flesh you and I are made of. He, in his career of service, was flogged, beat up, shipwrecked and still came up for more. So don't get the idea that because he outlines the cause for persistent guilt that he lived a lawless life. He didn't use the above information to justify a lawless or

hedonistic life. He explained the “how come?” of our guilt feelings. The sin principle alive in us.

Christ died for our sins but did not remove the sin principle. When we are saved, we are not sinless. We have forgiveness and that’s constantly available to us. Don’t ask me why He didn’t remove the sin principle. I don’t know. God knows what He is doing. The theme of the Old Testament is forgiveness of sin and the various sacrifices and means used to gain God’s forgiveness. There is not one mention of the removal of the sin principle. That happens when you get to heaven. The theme of the New Testament is the New Birth and the attendant forgiveness of sin. No mention of the removal of the sin principle.

Read the Ten Commandments found in *Exodus, chapter 20* and then write down the ones you have been able to keep. You’ll discover an amazing fact. You need Jesus Christ and His salvation.

So anyhow, we know why we have those guilt feelings and why when we set out to do something good it blows up in our faces. Don’t be discouraged. You are a child of Adam and adopted by God through Christ.

Everything I’m saying here is for *us*. Everything in the Bible applies to crossdressers, transgendered, and transsexuals. Don’t let the sin principle tell you anything to the contrary. If you accept Christ’s atonement on the cross for your sins, then you “stand in” with God the same as Billy Graham does. God even loves Jerry Falwell. You, me, Billy Graham and Jerry Falwell may not agree on a lot of things, but we love and are loved by God equally.

We certainly are included in the following from *Colossians 2:14-15*:

HAVING CANCELED AND BLOTTED OUT AND WIPED AWAY THE HANDWRITING OF THE NOTE WITH ITS LEGAL DECREES AND DEMANDS WHICH WAS IN FORCE AND STOOD AGAINST, HOSTILE TO US, THIS [NOTE, WITH ITS REGULATION, DECREES AND DEMANDS] HE SET ASIDE AND CLEARED COMPLETELY OUT OF OUR WAY BY NAILING IT TO HIS CROSS. [GOD] DISARMED THE PRINCIPALITIES AND POWERS THAT WERE RANGED AGAINST US AND MADE A BOLD DISPLAY AND PUBLIC EXAMPLE OF THEM, IN TRIUMPHING OVER THEM IN HIM AND IN [THE CROSS].

By virtue of our Saviour we are Ms., Mrs., Miss or Mr. Average normal crossdresser, transgender, or transsexual citizen. We are partakers of all that

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God is and has made available for His children through the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

I got carried away. I want you to know I love you and want God's best for you.

Back to *Romans*. St. Paul was crying out,

WHO... SHALL DELIVER ME FROM THIS BODY OF DEATH? (*Romans 7:24*)

Here in verse 25 he answers his own question with a triumphant:

O THANK GOD! [HE WILL!] THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD!
SO THEN I, OF MYSELF, SERVE THE LAW OF GOD, BUT WITH MY
FLESH, THE LAW OF SIN.

All of which makes us two in one. Saint and sinner in one body.

My one concern is that you know you are loved by God, regardless of what organized religion says. They say they represent God and stand in judgment of not only us, but many other things that don't come up to their man-made standards.

Never mind our critics. Stand tall in the knowledge that we are LOVED BY GOD, who is love. Possess His love which He has loved you with. You'll find a whole new source of peace and comfort when you rest in Him.

...BE CONTENT WITH SUCH THINGS THAT YOU HAVE; FOR HE HAS SAID, "I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU OR FORSAKE YOU." SO THAT WE MAY BOLDLY SAY, "THE LORD IS MY HELPER; I WILL NOT FEAR WHAT MAN SHALL DO UNTO ME (or say about me – ed.). LET US, THEREFORE, COME BOLDLY UNTO THE THRONE OF GRACE THAT WE MAY OBTAIN MERCY AND FIND GRACE TO HELP IN TIME OF NEED."
(*Hebrews 13:5,6 and 4:16*)

Are you sure you don't want anything to do with God, you who are skeptical?

What a blessing it is to belong to Him!

Come join us and let's boldly pray, one for the other. I need your prayers.

Lee Frances Heller Love Letter Issue #3, Winter 1998

DEW OF GRACE

by Lee Frances Heller

There is never a moment in which God does not shed His infinite Love of benevolence on every human being; for being communicable in His nature, He must necessarily communicate Himself incessantly to every [human] being disposed to receive His gifts as the dew falls on every object exposed to the sky. But man is created free and has the power of shutting himself up, and of sheltering himself from the celestial dew. No sooner is the heart turned and opened a little, than the dew of grace falls gently into it, and as it is more abundant, so is the growth of love in the heart; the more widely the soul is opened to God, the more profuse is the fall of the dew. (Jeanne Guyon, 16th c.)

Each of us are one of God's created beings that He loves and wants to save and indwell. What hurts me more and more as time goes on is the gross denial of God in the lives of our people. That denial comes from their ignorance of God's love. They have fallen under loveless legalistic teaching and preaching of "Religion." Religion says you have to clean up your act if you expect God's love.

In his book, *Guilt and Grace*, the Swiss doctor Paul Tournier, a man of deep and personal faith, admits, "I cannot study this very serious problem of guilt with you without raising the very obvious and tragic fact that religion – my own as well as that of all believers – can crush instead of liberate."

Tournier is a Christian psychiatrist and he goes on: "what the patients seek is grace. Yet in some churches they encounter shame, the threat of [divine] punishment, and a sense of judgement. In short, when they look in the church for grace they often find ungrace."

And how well we all know that!

Rev. David Hansen, in his book *A Little Handbook on Having a Soul*, says, "People with too much religion in them – including preachers – are souls polluted by rules, regulations and religious experiences, which they interpret as norms for everyone. They think they know how every Christian ought to live and what every minister should and shouldn't do. They want to regulate how people think."

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Jesus said in *Matthew 11:28*,

COME UNTO ME ALL YOU THAT LABOR AND ARE HEAVY LADEN
(struggling with the issues of life) AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST.

So many have gone to their church and pastor to seek help for their gender problems but have been invited to leave.

When I was a holy fundamentalist and my soul was packed with the rules and regulations of religion, and had I been a non-TG pastor, I would have done the same. I would have felt I had just done God a favor in directing the TG or TS person to leave, thus saving the congregation from the pollution of the “unclean” thing.

This is the situation as it exists, and I want to do something about it, but I can't figure out what to do. I see God's love for us in Christ and feel absolutely powerless. I have received so many letters in which a sister tells about her TG standing being discovered by her church or her pastor. She is told to resign her membership, if she is a member, but that she is still welcome to worship in that church, *sans* membership. In other cases, involving seekers, non-members, or even members, they are simply told to leave.

Jesus says, “COME UNTO ME”, and His church says, “Get outta here!”

Vanessa Sheridan writes in her book *Cross Purposes*, “I have never fully understood why so many within the Protestant Christian religious system are eager and willing to attach various limitations and qualifiers to God's free gifts of salvation and abundant life for all in Christ Jesus. The Christian church is not an exclusive country club that only a few privileged persons may join, and it isn't a private organization that has prohibitive entrance requirements for prospective members (I don't recall Jesus from the Biblical account in *Luke 23:40-43*, requiring the thief on the cross to fill out any forms, to be voted on by a panel or congregation, or to make any kind of publicly identifiable gesture in order to gain entrance to Paradise). The church should be a place for all people everywhere who desire to have genuine communion with God in Christ and with other believers. To marginalize or discriminate against anyone who actively seeks such beneficial spiritual relationships is blasphemous, anti-human and totally unChristlike.”

Thus, my endless plea to you who deny yourselves a relationship with God in Christ on the basis of the above. I have to tell you your shoes are on the wrong feet. You don't need the church or any other human being to provide

you with permission to seek God. You know now you most likely won't find Him in any church, although I know of two here in Jackson that will welcome you. But those are the exceptions and they don't advertise the fact that they will welcome you. So what's to do? Do you have a Bible? Bible or not, you can initiate your personal relationship with our God with a prayer to Him.

LET US, THEREFORE, COME BOLDLY UNTO THE THRONE OF GRACE THAT WE MAY OBTAIN MERCY, AND FIND HELP IN TIME OF NEED.
(Hebrews 4:16)

...FOR HE HAS SAID, "I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU NOR FORSAKE YOU." SO THAT WE MAY BOLDLY SAY, "THE LORD IS MY HELPER AND I WILL NOT FEAR WHAT MAN SHALL DO UNTO ME."
(Hebrews 13:5b-6)

You can have your own private, personal relationship with Him.

FOR WHOSOEVER SHALL CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD SHALL BE SAVED. *(Romans 10:13)*

You say you are not worthy and there is too much sin in your life and you would never qualify. You're right. I fall into that category too. My sins are too many to ever get even a glimpse of heaven, let alone have a working relationship with God. And He knows that about both you and me.

We have recourse. My relationship with God is maintained by Christ who died for our sins and made us acceptable to God and fit for fellowship with Him. I am not able to get out to any church anymore except on occasion. My relationship is not based in any church. My relationship with God is in Christ. It's a sustaining relationship. No more "training wheels." I was forced to drop them (the church) and God is doing such a fine job. No reason why you can't enjoy the same in the quietness of your life.

You want Him, but the church has put too many qualifiers on you. God hasn't. The church can't save your soul. Jesus Christ can. God is with you in the darkness of your sickroom and in the worst of your moments. The church isn't. You feel the pressures of your transgenderism and you have to talk. After the church has closed her doors to you, as probably ninety percent of churches do, God welcomes you into His presence on the spiritual plane. He wants you. Meet Him on His ground, in the Bible. His Word is consuming and comforting.

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This could go on endlessly, so I'll close now.

God is going to give us a group of our peers banded together for the express purpose of doing what the church has failed to do in caring for us, nurturing us, and helping us along our Christian pathway in this life. This is a dream of mine but won't be fulfilled in my lifetime. But you can look forward to it and pray for it and I join you in it.

In the meantime you will receive *Love Letter*. My mission is singular. To tell you that God loves you exactly as you are and to open yourself to that love. May the dew of His Grace fall gently into your heart.

Lee Frances Heller
Love Letter
Issue #4, March 1998

ABOMINATION? WHO? ME?

by Lee Frances Heller

I'm sure I don't want to be an abomination to God. And I'm sure you don't either. The Bible says in *Deuteronomy 22:5* that we who are transgendered are an abomination to God because we wear the clothing of the opposite sex. That tortured me for many years. Here I was in a situation I had tried to correct by sheer force of my own will. It didn't work. I found myself under the pulling power of an evangelist's persuading pleas and the promise of a freer, fuller life if I would only seek God's forgiveness and dedicate my life to Him that I and others would have power over the "sin that so easily besets." It didn't work. I went on to a "try-it-by-the-force-of-MY-will" route once more and pulled myself up by my bootstraps and determined never to engage in this abomination again. It worked! I had a real purging of the feminine wardrobe and got "her" out of my life. Yes, it really worked!

For six months.

And then, "she" came back home to Poppa here, and were we ever happy to see each other! So now I'm an abomination again. I have always been a glutton for punishment, but this beat it all. It's startling when you think how a four-to sixteen-ounce article of feminine attire can wield a spiritual death blow to a 250-pound Christian man. Four to sixteen ounces of utter defeat!

Where was God?

I'm His child and was taught that He would protect me from such attacks. Ha! A fine kettle of fish I'm in now. I'm superintendent of a rescue mission on the east coast, counseling and telling alcoholics and drug addicts how to find victory over those things in Jesus Christ and the salvation He made possible at His cross. By the grace of God and leading of the Holy Spirit I was able to help many. But I was a "do-as-I-say-not-as-I-do" preacher. Drugs and alcohol were ruling their lives. Four- to sixteen-ounce pieces of ladies' clothing were ruling mine!

Yes, WHERE WAS GOD?! Thus begins the unraveling of a mystery. After all, every "good Christian" knows crossdressing is a sin and an abomination before God. I considered myself a "good Christian" and therefore duly confessed it to God. I felt I had made the first step toward a complete deliverance from crossdressing. Based on my confession, God was obligated to honor

By the Grace of God

His word:

IF WE CONFESS OUR SINS HE IS FAITHFUL AND JUST TO FORGIVE
US OUR SINS AND CLEANSE US FROM ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS.
(1 John 1:9)

I confessed, but was not delivered from this abomination as promised by God.

Where was God?

Yes, where was God? We have all prayed about our situation and I can't account for God, but maybe the following record will help you as it did me. I can now live with myself, accept myself and my self-esteem has gone from a two, on a scale of one to ten, to an eight. I have lived as a woman since November 1992. I have no men's clothes.

With a lot of help from J. Vernon McGee, here is the record:

If you will remember, at the crucifixion, two thieves were crucified with Christ. One on His right and one on His left. In the first hours both robbers reviled Jesus but as time went on one robber

(Begin JVMcG) "...recognized that this was a transaction between God and the man on the cross, and the man on the cross was God. Then he turned to Him in faith:

AND HE SAID UNTO JESUS, "LORD, REMEMBER ME WHEN YOU COME INTO YOUR KINGDOM." JESUS SAID TO HIM, "VERILY I SAY UNTO YOU, TODAY YOU WILL BE WITH ME IN PARADISE." (Luke 23:42-43)

"That very day this thief who was not fit to live on earth, according to the Roman government, went to be with the Lord. This man was a bad thief, not a good one, but because of his faith in the Son of God he became a saved thief. This man had faith to believe that the Lord Jesus was coming into a kingdom and it would come after His death! Obviously, this thief had come a long way theologically while hanging on that cross. Our Lord made the remarkable statement that this thief would be with Him in paradise that very day. These two thieves had been arrested for the same crime, tried for the same crime, condemned for the same crime, and were dying for the same crime. What was the difference between them? There wasn't any – both were

thieves. The difference lies in the fact that one believed in Jesus Christ and one didn't." (McGee).

Amazing what was accomplished. There were no denominations there to ask the thief to join church. To sign a statement of faith and agree to abide by the rules of that little extra-biblical book called "Church Discipline." No. Jesus said TODAY you will be with me in paradise and the thief went into the presence of God because of his faith in Christ. That's where God is, in heaven waiting to receive those that have put their faith in Christ. Faith is the issue. Not CD/TG/TS. All of us who have such faith will go to heaven where there is no CD/TG/TS. We join the happy throng as children of the Most High God.

To my legalistic sisters and brothers I offer the following. You see, God has made every provision for us. Only the self-righteous people and the church condemn us in the light of Scripture which has only one negative statement regarding us in *Deuteronomy 22:5*, which is only one of the hundreds of ordinances in *Leviticus* and *Deuteronomy* that no human could live up to.

As Paul now turns to the error of *legality* we will again find the answer is (for us) to come to the word of God and through it to come into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

BLOTTING OUT THE HANDWRITING OF THE ORDINANCES THAT WAS AGAINST US, WHICH WAS CONTRARY TO US, AND TOOK IT OUT OF THE WAY, NAILING IT TO HIS CROSS. (*Colossians 2:14*)

When the Lord Jesus died, Pilate wrote a title and put it on the cross;

"THIS IS JESUS OF NAZARETH, KING OF THE JEWS" (see *John 19:19*).

He was being publically executed on the grounds that He had led in a rebellion. This was, of course, not true. But that was the charge against Him. When the people standing there read that sign, they understood that He had been disloyal to Caesar in that He had made Himself to be a King. To them, that was the reason He was dying on a cross.

But when God looked upon that cross He saw an altar on which the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world was offered. God saw another inscription there, high above the inscription that man had written.

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BLOTTING OUT THE HANDWRITING OF ORDINANCES THAT WAS AGAINST US, AND TOOK IT OUT OF THE WAY, *NAILING IT TO HIS CROSS.*

What did God write on that cross? He wrote the ordinances – He wrote the Ten Commandments. He wrote a law which I cannot keep, ordinances which I am guilty of breaking. When Christ died there, He did not die because He broke them; He was sinless. But it was because I broke them, because I am a sinner, because you are.

FOR ALL HAVE SINNED AND COME SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD.
(*Romans 3:23*)

You see, the law was given to discipline the old nature. But now the believer is given a new nature and the law has been removed as a way of life (McGee).

Enjoy the freedom of life in Christ. It hurts me to see so many carrying a false burden which says CD/TG/TS is a sin. Many give up on God because some well-meaning Christian or church leader has told them they are an abomination to God until they rid themselves of their lifestyle. I can and will continue to write positively on the subject of CD/TG/TS and our relationship to God. None of us are capable of loving Him as we should, but His forgiving love for us in Christ is a perfect love.

Lee Frances Heller
Love Letter
Issue #5, July 1998

WHOSE SUFFICIENCY?

by Lee Frances Heller

The family car stalls on a busy expressway and refuses to budge, no matter how long Dad grinds the starter...or how many wires he jiggles under the hood. Before long the kids are stirring restlessly. Mom is asking, “What are we going to do?” Just then a car pulls up in front of them and a man in coveralls gets out and says, “I’m a mechanic, do you need some help?”

It’s a grandmother’s birthday and the whole family is helping her celebrate by going out to a dinner and a concert. Shortly before intermission, she nudges her daughter and whispers, “I don’t feel well – please help me to the lobby”. They start out, but before they reach the lounge area she faints and slumps to the floor. As the frightened, tearful daughter kneels beside her stricken mother, a man touches her shoulder. “I’m a doctor, would you like me to try and help the lady?” (Vicki Jamison, *El Shaddai*)

I, the authoress, was recovering from a thirty-day hospital visit and the recovery was not going at all well. I reached the point where a nursing home was next for me. I was becoming helpless. No assisted care would be of any avail now. I sat in my chair and simply told God to take me or give me His power to recover. I went to bed disgusted with myself, as I have a strong will and it wasn’t working. I had been praying a lot also, but to no avail. The next morning I got up and from that day to this I have been gaining strength and, once again, a will to live.

We are not sufficient unto ourselves. Our sufficiency has a failing point but God’s hasn’t.

“God wants to do great things in our lives. He wants you to throw open the windows of your inner being and allow the fresh breeze of the Holy Spirit to air out anything that might be festering or becoming stagnant” (Jamison).

Don’t let your naturally acquired inferior feelings stand in your way to replacing your insufficiency with the sufficiency of God. James puts it forth-rightly when he says:

IF ANY OF YOU LACK WISDOM, LET HIM ASK OF GOD, WHO GIVES TO ALL OF US LIBERALLY AND UPBRAIDS NOT, AND IT SHALL BE GIVEN TO HIM. (*James 1:5*)

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Being brainwashed by men's opinion of you because you are transgendered, you automatically shift into rejection of that verse as being non-applicable to your life. I fail to find any conditionals in that verse, or any other, that disqualify us from asking Him for wisdom. He made us. We are His creation and were made by Him. Read about it in *Psalms 139:13-16*. Being of His creation, we are inheritors of all of His promises made to His created beings. No exceptions. He loves us even when we don't love ourselves and bemoan the fact of our transgenderism. I too have cried out, "Why God?! Why me?" The unalterable fact remains that He made us this way and the sooner we accept it the sooner we can accept the promises of God.

God doesn't want to judge you. He wants to bless you. You may not love yourself but He loves you...in spite of yourself! We have that going for us, so why not ask Him for wisdom in your situation. Think of the times your impulses take over and everything gets messed up. It's Christ who died for our sinful nature and its fruits. Why not accept that sacrificial act on our behalf and let Him guide with His wisdom? It works! Stop suffering now!

I have a lot of real Christian love for you and my mission to the last day of my life is to tell you that God loves you with a love far greater than mine. If you hope in me, I'll fail you. But if your hope is in Him, He will never fail. God give you the desires of your heart as you pray now.

Lee Frances Heller
The Christian Love Letter
1999, issue 1

OUR LIFE BEFORE OUR LIFE

by Lee Frances Heller

BUT WHO ARE YOU, A MERE MAN, TO CRITICIZE AND CONTRADICT AND ANSWER BACK TO GOD? WILL WHAT IS FORMED SAY TO HIM THAT FORMED IT, WHY HAVE YOU MADE ME THIS WAY? (*Romans 9:20*)

FOR YOU DID FORM MY INWARD PARTS. YOU DID KNIT ME TOGETHER IN MY MOTHER'S WOMB. I WILL CONFESS AND PRAISE YOU FOR YOU ARE FEARFUL AND WONDERFUL AND FOR THE AWFUL WONDER OF MY BIRTH! WONDERFUL ARE YOUR WORKS, AND THAT MY INNER SELF KNOWS RIGHT WELL. MY FRAME WAS NOT HIDDEN FROM YOU WHEN I WAS BEING FORMED IN SECRET, INTRICATELY AND CURIOUSLY WROUGHT [AS IF EMBROIDERED WITH VARIOUS COLORS] IN THE DEPTHS OF THE EARTH. YOUR EYES SAW MY UNFORMED SUBSTANCE AND IN YOUR BOOK ALL THE DAYS [OF MY LIFE] WERE WRITTEN BEFORE EVER THEY TOOK SHAPE, WHEN AS YET THERE WERE NONE OF THEM. (*Psalms 139:13-16*)

“Thou art the owner of my inmost parts and passions. Not the indweller and observer only, but the acknowledged Lord and possessor of my most secret self. God does not only inspect and visit, but it is His own. He is as much at home there as a landlord in his own estate or a proprietor in his own house. YOU DID KNIT ME TOGETHER IN MY MOTHER'S WOMB. There I lay hidden, covered by You. Before I could know you, or anything else, You had a care for me, and did hide me away as a treasure till you should see fit to bring me to the light. Thus the psalmist describes the intimacy God had with him. In his most secret part. Yet unborn, he was under the control and guardianship of God.

“MY FRAME WAS NOT HIDDEN FROM YOU. The substantial part of my being was before Your all-seeing eye. The bones which make my frame were put together by Your hand. The essential materials of my being before they were arranged were all within the range of Your eye. I was hidden from all human knowledge but not from You. You have ever been acquainted with me.

“WHEN I WAS MADE IN SECRET. Most chastely and beautifully is here described the formation of our being before the time of our birth. A great artist will often labor alone in his studio and not allow his work to be seen until it is finished. Even so did the Lord fashion us where no eye beheld us until every

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part of us was complete. Much of the formation of our inner self still proceeds in secret.

“AND CURIOUSLY WROUGHT IN THE DEPTHS OF THE EARTH. Embroidered with great skill is an accurate description of the creation of muscles, veins, sinews, nerves, etc. What tapestry can equal the human fabric? God’s intimate knowledge of us from the beginning and even before, it is here most charmingly set forth. Cannot He who made us thus wondrously when we were not yet born, carry on His work of power till He has perfected us, though we feel unable to aid in the process, and are lying in great sorrow and loathing, as though cast into the lowest parts of the earth?”

“YOUR EYES SAW MY UNFORMED SUBSTANCE, YET BEING UNPERFECT. While yet the vessel was upon the wheel the potter saw it all. The Lord knows not only our shape, but our substance. *Your eyes saw...* Moreover the divining mind discerns all things as clearly and certainly as men perceive by actual eyesight. His is not hearsay acquaintance, but the knowledge which comes by sight.

“...AND IN YOUR BOOK ALL THE DAYS OF [MY LIFE] WERE WRITTEN BEFORE EVER THEY TOOK SHAPE, WHEN AS YET THERE WERE NONE OF THEM. An architect draws out his plans and makes out his specifications, even so did the great Maker of our frame write down all our members in the book of His purposes. That we have eyes and ears and hands and feet is all due to the wise and gracious purpose of heaven; it was so ordered in the secret decree by which all things are as they are. God’s purposes concern our limbs and faculties. Their form and shape and everything about them were appointed of God long before they had any existence. God saw us when we could not be seen, and He wrote about us when there was nothing of us to write about. When as yet there were none of our members in existence. All of those members were before the eye of God in the sketchbook of His foreknowledge and predestination.” (Spurgeon, *Treasury of David*, vol. 3).

“...despise not what others are or have, though they are not such exact pieces, though they have not such excellent endowments as yourselves; yet they are what God has made them. Despise not what yourselves are. Many are ashamed to be seen as God made them.” (Abraham Wright, 19th c.)

As I was copying the above, I perceived the activity of God in putting us together and framing our lives and writing it all down in His book of life. He knows our end from the beginning. He knows us before we exit the womb. I take great solace today in knowing God knew from the beginning I would

be a transgendered person. This is the way He made me. I don't know how anyone, CD/TG/TS, can think God is mad at them because of our lifestyle. Our life, before we ever entered the womb, was laid out for us. He entered us in His book. To try to understand is far greater than our human understanding can conceive. The course of our lives was laid out by Him in His book, just as an architect lays out the plans for a house before the piece of wood is ever purchased, before the foundation of the house is laid. The owners who have never seen the house know exactly what it will look like and exactly how it will be constructed. So it is with God and our body of flesh. Our God, who was never created but always was and always will be and unrestricted by time, knows every fiber of our being.

Is God going to get "mad" at the way He created us? CD/TG/TS was not our choice in life. We entered the womb this way and the construction of the body began. It's the Satanic force that makes us hate ourselves and makes us feel we are offending God. Does the vase the potter made turn around and ask, "WHY HAVE YOU MADE ME THIS WAY" (*Romans 9:20*)? No. The clay has to accept the way it has been made into a vase to ever display the beauty of the flowers put into it. God has given us a beauty of soul that only each individual person possesses. We are gentle, loving people. We are genuinely caring people. Our basic nature is inoffensive, plus many other positive traits. He made us according to His plan and only His plan in us and for us can satisfy Him. Everyone, including the mighty bastion of the Church, has tried to remake us and it can't be done. THEY are the ones mad at us. Not God.

Stop pronouncing judgement on yourselves. ACCEPT the fact you are made as God made you. I am well aware that in many cases you must live your God-given feminine life in secret and away from family, friends, and employers. It's not a great way to live and that sets forth the dire need to worship our creator. The church service opens and the moderator says, "The Lord is in His Holy Temple," meaning the church. Yes! The Lord IS in His Holy Temple. Our bodies.

DO YOU NOT KNOW THAT YOUR BODY IS THE TEMPLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT THAT LIVES WITHIN YOU, WHOM YOU HAVE RECEIVED FROM GOD? YOU ARE NOT YOUR OWN. (*1 Corinthians 6:19*)

Too many are trying to live without Him because they believe the lie of Satan that they are not acceptable to God because of being CD/TG/TS. Liar, liar, pants on fire!

Accept His love for you as His creation in the turmoil of our lives. I have,

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to this very day, turmoil with my children because of my transgenerism. We don't cut God out of our lives. Stop and thank Him for His love for you. Give Him your heart in love. Worship Him in the silence of your being. You don't have to be in church to do that.

Before I was aware God made me a crossdresser I used to get all dressed in my Sunday finest and sit in my closet with the drapes drawn and door locked and turn on one of these television evangelists and just sit there singing along and praising the Lord. I have sat in churches sending up my own personal praise and worship totally oblivious to the service going on around me. God has blessed all of it. I was in the drunk tank in a New York City jail in 1961 and went to a church service there and discovered the verse in the Bible that changed my life.

I KNOW THE THOUGHTS THAT I THINK TOWARD YOU, SAITH THE LORD. THOUGHTS OF PEACE, NOT OF EVIL, TO GIVE YOU AN EXPECTED END. (*Jeremiah 29:11 KJV*)

That was the first revelation in my unsaved life that God had any thoughts at all about me. God thinks GOOD of me! Wow! Cool, cool! He got me locked up for public drunkenness to tell me He was thinking of my peace and welfare. At that time of my life God was the ONLY one that thought good of me. As I prayed to Him, in succeeding months there was a divine deliverance from the alcohol I was addicted to. Alcohol that robbed me of wife and family and put me in the Bowery in New York City. Praise His Holy Name! I tried to pray away my crossdressing but to no avail. Alcohol, smoking and the overuse of prescription drugs all went down the tubes into God's forgetfulness, but crossdressing? No! Why not? He made me this way and when I learned that, I became a transgendered person and have been blessed by Him in so many ways since then. Gosh! The above is a departure from my writing of this article. Perhaps someone will be encouraged by it all.

Back on track now. God saw the state of man, totally corrupted, dripping with sin. That's when He became a human being in the person of Jesus Christ. He had decreed death to all of us for our sins. Not for our crossdressing, transgenerism, or transsexualism. He made us this way! He came among us and took our sins upon Himself and paid for us the death penalty He had decreed. But what good is a dead Saviour? He knew sin wouldn't stop. The flood taught Him that. His death didn't remove our sin, but paid the penalty for it. Sin, past, present and future. Of course, if you are saved and never sinned again since Christ came into your life, please advise me. I'm looking

for such a person. God knew we would need His personal strength in our battle with life and to accomplish that for us, He rose from the grave where His dead body had been laid. He was taken “up” into heaven from where He sent His Holy Spirit to indwell in us. That occasion is commemorated with what we call the Day of Pentecost.

Thus, before the womb and even to this very day God has been and is with us. He loves us AS WE ARE, AS HE MADE US. Why not love yourself and love Him and take Christ into your life?

God bless you and keep you for His Glory.

I am yours, with love, in the joy and happiness of our Saviour and Lord, Jesus Christ.

Lee Frances Heller
The Christian Love Letter
1999, issue 2

GOD IS FOR US

by Lee Frances Heller

THE SON OF MAN IS COME EATING AND DRINKING; AND YOU SAY, BEHOLD A GLUTTONOUS MAN AND A WINEBIBBER, A FRIEND OF PUBLICANS AND SINNERS. (*Luke 7:34. See Matthew 11:19*)

Do the Biblical Pharisees equate with today's church? Let's see.

ONE OF THE PHARISEES ASKED JESUS TO EAT WITH HIM, AND HE WENT INTO THE PHARISEE'S HOUSE AND TOOK HIS PLACE AT THE TABLE. AND A WOMAN OF THE CITY WHO WAS A SINNER, HAVING LEARNED THAT HE WAS EATING AT THE PHARISEE'S HOUSE, BROUGHT AN ALABASTER JAR OF OINTMENT. SHE STOOD BEHIND HIM AT HIS FEET WEeping, AND SHE BEGAN TO BATHE HIS FEET WITH HER TEARS AND TO DRY THEM WITH HER HAIR. THEN SHE CONTINUED KISSING HIS FEET AND ANOINTING THEM WITH THE OINTMENT. NOW WHEN THE PHARISEE WHO INVITED HIM SAW IT, HE SAID TO HIMSELF, "IF THIS MAN WERE A PROPHET, HE WOULD HAVE KNOWN WHO AND WHAT KIND OF WOMAN THIS IS, WHO IS TOUCHING HIM – THAT SHE IS A SINNER." JESUS SPOKE UP AND SAID TO HIM, "SIMON, I HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY TO YOU." "TEACHER," HE REPLIED, "SPEAK."

"A CERTAIN CREDITOR HAD TWO DEBTORS. ONE OWED FIVE HUNDRED DINARII AND THE OTHER FIFTY. WHEN THEY COULD NOT PAY, HE CANCELED THE DEBTS OF BOTH OF THEM. NOW WHICH OF THEM WILL LOVE HIM MORE?" SIMON ANSWERED, "I SUPPOSE THE ONE FOR WHOM HE CANCELED THE GREATER DEBT." AND JESUS SAID TO HIM, "YOU HAVE JUDGED RIGHTLY." THEN TURNING TOWARD THE WOMAN, HE SAID TO SIMON, "DO YOU SEE THIS WOMAN? I ENTERED YOUR HOUSE. YOU GAVE ME NO WATER FOR MY FEET BUT SHE HAS BATHED MY FEET WITH HER TEARS AND DRIED THEM WITH HER HAIR. YOU GAVE ME NO KISS, BUT FROM THE TIME I CAME IN SHE HAS NOT STOPPED KISSING MY FEET. YOU DID NOT ANOINT MY HEAD WITH OIL, BUT SHE HAS ANOINTED MY FEET WITH OINTMENT. THEREFORE, I TELL YOU, HER SINS WHICH WERE MANY, HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN; HENCE SHE HAS SHOWN GREAT LOVE. BUT THE ONE TO WHOM LITTLE HAS BEEN FORGIVEN, LOVES LITTLE." THEN HE SAID TO HER, "YOUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN...YOUR FAITH

HAS SAVED YOU. GO IN PEACE.” (Luke 7:36-48)

How relevant that passage of scripture is today. Those who deem themselves to be righteous and are trying very hard to live by the Ten Commandments frown on us as gross sinners. They shun us. In one case, a transgender person was in an auto accident. When the ambulance medics discovered “she” was a “he,” they let her lay there dying while they made fun of her.

We get so beside ourselves that we finally go to our pastor with our gender problem and, of course, he has not an inkling how to handle it. You probably have quoted *Deuteronomy 22:5* to him and on the basis of that single verse of scripture he warns you that you are living in sin. If you are a Christian and even a “born-again” Christian he will cast doubts as to the validity of your faith. What he knows, but is not aware of, is the fact that *all of us have a sinful nature*. We are sinners saved by grace and grace alone. Jesus Christ died for our sins, our sinful state, but He didn’t take the sin nature out of us. Had He done that, we would be living sinless and for eternity. There would be no death. The sinless state of being is reserved for heaven and when we get there. In the meantime we have the Holy Spirit as a controlling factor in our personal Christianity and so are spared much of the grief in our lives.

We are born the way we are and have nothing to say about it. We wish we weren’t this way but we are and we have to live and cope with it. We have to put up with the Pharisees who look down on us and never offer us a drink of water or a kiss or a hug and even joke about us. We are not welcome in their church fellowship.

I know the strain of loving God and trying to worship in one of His churches – or are they really His? – knowing full well that if I were “discovered,” those dear people who treat me so nicely would turn against me. Sinners calling a sinner a sinner. The pot calling the kettle black.

If you would notice how that sinful woman ministered to Jesus’ needs. She washed His feet with her tears and dried them with her hair, and welcomed Him with kisses on His feet. She did all of this in sight of the self-righteous Pharisees. Simon called the shot when he said,

THIS MAN, IF HE WERE A PROPHET, WOULD HAVE KNOWN WHO AND WHAT MANNER OF WOMAN THIS IS THAT TOUCHES HIM, FOR SHE IS A SINNER. (Luke 7:39)

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Jesus did know what kind of woman she was but allowed her to express her love for Him. He knew because in the end, without her requesting it, He forgave her of her sins and told her that her faith saved her.

Jesus was for that woman. Her identity has never been revealed. She was not Mary Magdalene out of whom Jesus had cast seven devils. But he knew all about this woman. A friend is one who knows all about us but still loves us and fellowships with us. Jesus Christ is that kind of friend to us. The church on this earth may not befriend us but He does. Who cares what our fellow workers think of us? The Boss *loves* us! It does make a difference.

In *Psalms 56:9* King David said,

WHEN I CRY UNTO GOD, THEN SHALL MY ENEMIES TURN BACK.
THIS I KNOW, FOR GOD IS FOR ME.”

And He is for me and He is for you dear reader, whoever you are. Just as Jesus was for that poor “sinner woman” who showed Him love and kindness while He ate with the Pharisees who did not show Him those simple courtesies. Not only was Jesus for her, but He proceeded to go on a mission after He left the Pharisees’ house. Among others that He took with Him, He took Mary Magdalene out of whom He had cast seven devils. She and two other questionable women. Those women helped to support Him.

You will find that all through Jesus’ ministry, He was for the underdog. The rest of the population was so self-righteous and bent on ceremony that they had no time for anything else.

Let’s pray for those who put us down. There is hope for them. I received a call this week from a crossdresser in California and she told me how her Baptist pastor told her that he could see nothing wrong in how she dressed. It’s as simple as that, but 85% of the clergy can’t see it. Let’s pray for that 85%. Rachel Miller and Diane Zahn are making inroads in their effort to reconcile us with the Church. Many pastors are enlightened when our dilemma and phenomenon are explained to them. There’s light at the end of the tunnel.

Just remember, God is FOR us with love which makes my love pretty small, but you have it anyhow.

Lee Frances Heller,
The Christian Love Letter Issue 3, 1999

GOTTA MINUTE OR TWO TO PRAY?

by Lee Frances Heller

PRAY LIKE THIS: OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BE THY NAME. THY KINGDOM COME, THY WILL BE DONE IN EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN. GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD, AND FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS AS WE FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS. AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL. FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM, AND THE POWER, AND THE GLORY FOREVER. AMEN. (*Matthew 6:9-13 KJV*)

The Lord's Prayer is not a simple recitation. Jesus said, "Pray like this," and then proceeded to set forth what we know as the Lord's Prayer. Jesus did not pray the Lord's Prayer. It was intended to be an outline for His disciples, as at that time He was teaching them. The school of the disciples was in session with Jesus Christ as their teacher. In any Bible, *Matthew 6:6-8* will reveal to you that Jesus was teaching them on the subject of prayer and in *Matthew 6:9* He begins the outline for them and us.

We have spent our lives reciting the Lord's Prayer. It is not a recitation. It is a meaningful skeleton of what prayer should be. We flesh it out as we follow its guidelines.

OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BE THY NAME. When we pray those words we are not saying, "God, I have come to talk with You." I am now responding to God because of His love for me. I am not coming at Him with "gimmie" prayers. I have called upon Him as MY Father in heaven. Now I say to Him, "Hallowed be Thy name." Hallow means to set apart. My Father's name is hallowed, set apart from all of the joy and turmoil in my life. I am worshiping Him now. My being, regardless of its condition, is pouring itself before its Creator. Hallowed be Thy name, set apart, holy, worshiped in all that you are, God. Your power. Your love. Your wisdom. Your grace. Your mercy. God is holy, righteous, just. It's not that He has holiness, righteousness, or justice. He IS those things, and most of all He is the personification of love.

It addresses the fact of the existence of heaven. A subject I am vitally interested in. For new readers, I am eighty years old and am on oxygen twenty-two hours out of the day. I have said I will continue to write and publish *Love Letter* as long as God gives me the breath of life! He heard me. He's piping it into me now. Well, Amen! Heaven is where God is!

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THY KINGDOM COME, THY WILL BE DONE IN EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN. As we continue to worship Him we surrender to Him. Thy kingdom come. We welcome the theocracy we will live in someday, but in the meantime we welcome His will now in our lives. Don't be afraid of God's will for you. He won't take your all-day lollipop from you, but will give you better things. Peace of mind, quietness of Spirit, answered prayers. His will for us is good.

“I KNOW THE THOUGHTS I THINK OF YOU,” SAITH THE LORD,
“THOUGHTS OF GOOD AND NOT OF EVIL; THAT YE MAY COME TO
AN EXPECTED END.” (*Jeremiah 29:11 KJV*)

God thinks good of us and is not out to get us. Yes, Thy will be done. We open ourselves up to receive those good things He has for us. His perfect gift to us is Jesus Christ, our Saviour who gave up His life that our souls could be forgiven of sin and we could then receive God's other good gifts to us.

If you are behavior-oriented, then you will have a hard time with the above. You can't earn God's gift of salvation or any of His gifts to us. We were told, as kids, to be good and Santa Claus would give us nice gifts. Thus at an early age, we were conditioned to try to work for gifts. Not so in God's kingdom. The old cliché, “Be good for God and He will be good to you” just doesn't work. There is no way you can earn a gift. It has to come from the heart of the giver and when the giver is God, the gift is perfect and soul satisfying. Yes, “Thy will be done on earth” in our lives.

I am much aware of the age in which we live. Prayer is a subject we pass over quickly and give no thought to. It's old-fashioned and stodgy and boring and of no avail, say many of our number.

Give yourself one or two minutes to pray each day for a week. That's one or two minutes of contact with your Creator. That's one or two minutes you can give to God in praise and thanksgiving. Thank Him for the roof over your head and the food in the 'fridge and the clothes on your back. Oh! You say you got all of those things by your own hard work. Thank Him for the strength and health to work for your subsistence. Take a week, one or two minutes a day, to thank Him for your life. If you can't find anything to pray for, pray for me and if you'll send me a note, I'll pray for you. We'll pray for one another!

May the abundance of God's blessing and His love be yours always.
Lee Frances Heller, The Christian Love Letter Issue 4, 1999

SALVATION: WHAT IS IT? CAN I BE SAVED? HOW?

by Lee Frances Heller

FOR I AM NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST, FOR IT IS GOD'S POWER WORKING UNTO SALVATION TO EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES WITH A PERSONAL TRUST AND A CONFIDENT SURRENDER AND FIRM RELIANCE..." (*Romans 1:16, Amplified*)

"The Hebrew and Greek words for "salvation" imply the ideas of deliverance, safety, preservation, healing and soundness. Salvation is the great inclusive word of the Gospel, gathering into itself all the redemptive acts and processes: justification, redemption, grace, propitiation, imputation, forgiveness, sanctification and glorification. Salvation is in three tenses: (1) The Christian *has been saved* from the guilt and penalty of sin. *Luke 17:50*. (2) The Christian is *being saved* from the habit and dominion of sin. *1 Corinthians 1:18*. (3) The Christian *will be saved* at the Lord's return, from all the bodily infirmities that are the result of sin and God's curse upon the sinful world (*1 Corinthians 15:42-44*), and by grace through faith. [Salvation] is a free gift and totally without works. The divine order is first salvation then works." (C.I. Scofield)

NOT BY WORKS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS WHICH WE HAVE DONE, BUT ACCORDING TO HIS MERCY HE SAVED US, BY THE WASHING OF REGENERATION AND RENEWING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. (*Titus 3:5, KJV*)

Can we be saved? You bet your booties we can!!

What church do I have to go to? None. The church doesn't save you. The church is not your go-between with God. Jesus Christ is the Mediator between God and man (*1 Timothy 2:5*).

It used to be that folks would feel that they had to go to church on Sunday in order to answer the "altar call" that was given at the end of each service for those seeking the Lord's salvation. Imagine getting the Holy Spirit's inspiration to be saved and it's only Monday. Or you wanted to go to church yesterday (Sunday) to be saved but you unwillingly had to miss church. In either case, you had to wait six more days until Sunday and church time. And just supposing when Sunday finally got here and you went to church and the preacher preached far too long, so he had to eliminate the "altar call?" Now where are you? You still want to be saved and all you've ever

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learned is that you have to go to church in order for it to happen. Not so.

...WHOSOEVER SHALL CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD SHALL
BE SAVED. (*Acts 2:21*)

No conditions here. No qualifications other than you being a human being wanting the Lord in your life. No exceptions. I was the “whosoever” and I called upon the Lord, and as King David said:

HE HEARD ME AND SAVED ME OUT OF ALL MY TROUBLE.
(*Psalms 34:6*)

The church can point the way of salvation as much as I’m doing here, but the decision to ask Jesus into your life and save your soul is very personal. No other human being or pastor or priest or minister can pronounce you saved.

I am using a lot of Scripture here because this concerns the rest of your life on Earth and heaven to come. Whether or not you go to heaven is decided this side of the grave. Getting to heaven is not a lottery or roulette wheel outcome. Going to heaven is based on your own acceptance or rejection of Christ.

The evangelical church, sometimes known as the fundamentalist church, has hyped *John 3:16*, but totally neglected verses seventeen and eighteen.

FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON, SO THAT
EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL
LIFE. GOD DID NOT SEND HIS SON INTO THE WORLD TO CONDEMN IT, BUT
TO SAVE IT. THERE IS NO JUDGEMENT AWAITING THOSE WHO TRUST IN
HIM. BUT THOSE WHO DO NOT TRUST HIM HAVE ALREADY BEEN JUDGED
FOR NOT BELIEVING IN THE ONLY SON OF GOD. (*John 3:16-18, NLT*)

Can you fathom the simplicity of it all? Wading through a sea of theology and an ocean of hyped church promotions aimed at “winning the lost,” which is now a billion-dollar-a-year promotion in “holy products” such as tee shirts, sweatshirts, baseball caps, plus countless other products. Products all having a scripture verse, or the current rage, WWJD. No it’s not a radio station. It means *What Would Jesus Do?* I guess you’re supposed to stop and think what Jesus would do in a certain situation facing you. There is no salvation in that stuff. It’s designed not out of the love of God, but to make money off of those who love God. Well, ya’ gotta wade through all those messes and come down to basics. I might add here that there are a lot of good books on Christianity in Christian book stores. I still buy books. God has used them tremendously in my life.

Dive through the brainwashing and look at what Jesus wants you to do. Like Uncle Sam, He wants you! One more time now...

FOR WHOSOEVER SHALL CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD
SHALL BE SAVED.

I said I was a “whosoever” and called upon the name of the Lord. You are a “whosoever.” There are no exceptions to “whosoever.” “Whosoever” is a crossdresser, “whosoever” is a transgender, “whosoever” is a transsexual who can call upon the name of the Lord. It doesn’t say, “whosoever, except: three-legged people, crossdressers, hermaphrodites, transgendered, blondes or transsexuals.” NO exceptions.

Pray this in the morning: Guide us waking, and guard us sleeping; that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace.

OK, I’ve labored this cause for years among you. My end is not in sight, but when I do go, I want the comfort that I’ve done all I can to invite all into a spiritual life. **No CD/TG/TS should have to shy away from God because of their lifestyle.** God doesn’t look at lifestyles. HE LOOKS AT HEARTS. He looks at His created beings. He loves us. He wants our love for Him in return.

At 80 years old, I have finally found a church I can attend as who God made me and be accepted by God’s people for who I am and not what I should be in someone’s sight. I have been going to the church for over two years now whenever I can get a ride, and I have enrolled in Wednesday night classes to learn about the church. They have two rules and two rules only: that you love God and love your neighbor as yourself. And even in the simplicity of those rules I fall short. God IS merciful! My friend Peter takes me. The church is St. Andrew’s Episcopal Cathedral here in Jackson and the invitation is wide open for all of us. I love it there.

I’m going to end this letter, although I could go on for a couple of more pages.

You have nothing to lose by calling upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ for His salvation and guidance in your life. Do it. I’m praying for you and please pray for me.

Lee Frances Heller
The Christian Love Letter
Issue 5, December 1999

By the Grace of God

OVERRELIGIOUS PAIN-IN-THE-NECK CHRISTIANITY

by Lee Frances Heller

People with too much religion in them – including preachers – are souls polluted by rules, regulations, and religious experiences, which they interpret as norms for everyone. They think they know how every Christian ought to live and what every minister should and shouldn't do. They want to regulate how people ought to think.

“Rules Kill. Overreligion packs the soul so tight there's no room for the spirit of God [rules and regulations packed tight like sardines in a can]. Rules and regulations pollute a soul the way silt pollutes a river. They asphyxiate the Spirit. Tightly packed overreligion is what Jesus fought the Pharisees over. It's what hung Him on the cross.” (*Little Handbook on Having a Soul*, Hansen)

Christ died for our sins. Not to give us a new religious lifestyle. His death, burial, and resurrection were for the purpose of giving us a whole new life. Not a retread of our old life but a brand new life. Jesus says:

I CAME THAT THEY MAY HAVE AND ENJOY LIFE, AND HAVE IT IN ABUNDANCE. (*John 10:10*)

He wants us to have life to the full, till it overflows. That includes “us'ns.”

Most folks reading this have a new lifestyle, including me. The idea now is to integrate Christ into our lifestyle. By and large it's not possible, as far as some overreligious Christians and pastors are concerned. If you are seeking man's approval or acceptance of your new gender identity, forget it. No one can offer me one good reason why we cannot have a satisfying spiritual life because of our gender bending. We need something more than ourselves in our life. We need a person to lean on and a shoulder to cry on other than friends who “try” to understand. We need someone who really understands us and knows us like a book and has feelings for us. Someone who loves us in spite of everything.

ARE NOT FIVE SPARROWS SOLD FOR TWO PENNIES? AND [YET] NOT ONE OF THEM IS FORGOTTEN OR UNCARED FOR IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD. BUT [EVEN] THE VERY HAIRS OF YOUR HEAD ARE NUMBERED. (*Luke 12:6, Amplified*)

This is what we need: someone who knows us so well that they know the number of hairs on our head and even know how many days we will have on the earth.

SINCE A MAN'S DAYS ARE ALREADY DETERMINED, AND THE NUMBER OF HIS MONTHS IS WHOLLY IN YOUR CONTROL, AND HE CANNOT PASS THE BOUNDS OF HIS ALLOTTED TIME. (*Job 14:5*)

That's how well our Friend knows us.

THE SON OF MAN [JESUS] CAME EATING AND DRINKING, AND THEY [THE OVERRELIGIOUS] SAY, "BEHOLD A MAN, A GLUTTON AND A WINEBIBBER, A FRIEND OF TAX COLLECTORS AND SINNERS."
(*Matthew 11:19*)

Those of you who feel you are not "clean" enough to embrace our Friend, Jesus, read the above passage again. It's the overreligious that have laid that trip on you. Our need is for a spiritual side to our lives. No man is an island unto himself.

The social idea is to go to church and get a spiritual life. But Christ didn't die for that means of "getting" a spiritual life. Christ died for our sins and as soon as we confess to Him that we are sinners in need of a Saviour and invite Him into our lives, then we have the spiritual life we need. You may ask, "What church should I go to?" That's the thinking that "religious" man has fostered. Sort of a Tower of Babel complex. Let me find a good church and build my life toward God's approval. Noble idea. But Christ didn't die to foster noble ideas. As previously stated, Christ came to help us enjoy a full and abundant life. Go to church to worship Him.

I well realize that many cannot go to church in the gender of their choice. In ninety percent of the cases they would simply be invited to leave. So they don't go to church. In the case of the married crossdressers, they go to church in the clothes of their gender and are uncomfortable, but what can they do? Being uncomfortable in church doesn't foster a spiritual attitude.

Back in the very early post-crucifixion days there were believers, Christians who had to worship in secret. To worship openly meant death. It's hours since I wrote that last sentence. The bottom line is that I want to suggest a private worship life for you, and our Lord is leading me in the direction of telling you how I worked out my private worship life.

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I never wanted to offend the Lord with my (then) crossdressing. To compound things, He put it in my heart to start a Christian newsletter for us. I was still not clear as to where I stood in His theological economy and there was no way I'd do that without a full knowledge that my crossdressing was not an offense to Him. I had to be rid of the bugaboo of *Deuteronomy 22:5* or it was no dice. The words of the Bible came to me:

“COME NOW, LET US REASON TOGETHER,” SAYS THE LORD. “THOUGH YOUR SINS BE AS SCARLET THEY SHALL BE WHITE AS SNOW.”
(*Isaiah 1:18*)

I had come to our Lord Jesus Christ in August, 1947 and my sins were forgiven, but I did want to reason with the Lord about crossdressing and publishing a Christian journal. I asked Him to lead me as I got out my Bible. I sat down and started searching, and in forty-five minutes, through His holy word, He released me from the bondage of *Deuteronomy 22:5* and told me to name the (His) Christian publication, “*Grace and Lace*”. As far as *G&L* goes, the rest is history.

Now with a clear channel between me and God, I wanted to try my wings. This whole story takes place from the winter of 1988 to the spring of 1989. So I put my new-found freedom to the test. I got dressed up. Nothing fancy, just a skirt, blouse, and flat shoes as I was going to the supermarket. But before I left, I prayed and told God if this is His will, to bless me and protect me from being “read.” Step 1: Pray to God. He won't smash you down. He will hold you up. I went into the supermarket and suddenly I felt like a fish out of water. Gone was the protection of my home and its privacy, but I knew I had God's protection. So I proceeded to shop. I didn't need anything in particular but it was wonderful to actually “shop” and to stop and compare brands and prices. No more under the pressures of the male rush to grab a can of beans and loaf of bread and be on my way. I spent a good forty-five minutes in that store. Did anyone “read” me? Yup. Every woman and clerk in the store. Or at least I thought that, but I persevered. God was with me and I rested in Him and enjoyed my shopping. Then I checked out, Surprisingly, the cashier struck up a conversation with me, and as the store wasn't crowded (it was 7:30 AM), we talked three or four minutes and when I left she said, “Please come back again, Ma'am.” Wow! I made it and had a song in my heart to the Lord. When I got to the car I put my groceries in the back seat. I got in the driver's side and inserted the key, turned it, and not a whimper from the motor. I had left the lights on and the battery was dead. NOW what am I going to do?! I prayed and asked God for the next move. I sure didn't want to have to pay for a tow truck, and besides that I

didn't know how much longer I could keep up the "charade." I opened up the car's trunk where I had jumper cables and lifted the hood, and then stood by the car with my hands folded in front of me. "Lord, please send somebody." Well! The bagboy from the store brought a cart full of groceries next to me. He loaded them in and turned to me and said, "Can I help you, Ma'am?" I told him I needed a jump-start as my battery was dead. He saw the cables and said, "You're in luck! That's my car ahead of you." We were bumper to bumper, nose to nose, and in no time my car was running. I gave him a good tip and he said, "Thank you and good luck, Ma'am." It was He who steered me into that parking space. Home free! I sang hallelujahs to the Lord all the way home. I've been going stronger ever since.

Now my faith was bolstered and I wanted publicly to give God the glory, but now I knew of no church to go to. But who said you have to go to church and publicly worship? I can't deny myself a spiritual life just because the "church" has a ramrod stuck up their spine and shout, "Sinner!" at all who don't embrace their doctrine. Those days were the last of the dark ages taking their dying breath in the late '80's. Anyhow, I found I could foster my relationship with God by reading the Bible and listening to religious tapes by preachers I respected. I could watch a local church service on television on Sunday. One year I bought an Easter dress and wore it for the television Easter service. Silly? Nope. There is no way we can be denied access to God.

We are spiritual beings with a God-given soul and unless our lives are fed spiritually, that soul withers up like unto a withered fig. No wonder you're so bitter! Really, all of us are. We all face rejection in one way or another because of our gender bending, but the bitterness is so much less if God through Christ is in our lives.

You are fortunate because today there is a much broader spectrum of churches who will welcome us. In the meantime, be assured that God loves you and wants to bless your life and bring some joy into it. Never mind what some Christian person has done to you or spoken negatively to you. Your spiritual life is not in that person's hand. God created you and knows you and will put His life into your soul.

AND IT SHALL BE THAT WHOEVER SHALL CALL UPON THE NAME OF
THE LORD [INVOKING, ADORING, WORSHIPING THE LORD CHRIST]
SHALL BE SAVED." (*Acts 2:21*)

To draw all of this to a close, let me offer you a Bible or you can call that

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800 number associated with the book, *Power for Living*, offered for free on television. I know you've seen the ads. However, I will be happy to send you a Bible at no expense to you.* If you don't believe in the Bible, get one anyhow and let God speak to you through it as he did me regarding my transgenderism.

May the abundance of His blessings be yours as you learn of Him. My love to you.

Lee Frances Heller
The Christian Love Letter
Easter, 2000

This was the last published writing of Lee Frances. She died on May 19, 2000.

*Continuing the custom of Lee Frances Heller, anyone needing a copy of the New Testament can obtain one *free of charge* by writing Julie Ann Johnson, Post Office Box 1405, Wheaton, Illinois 60189