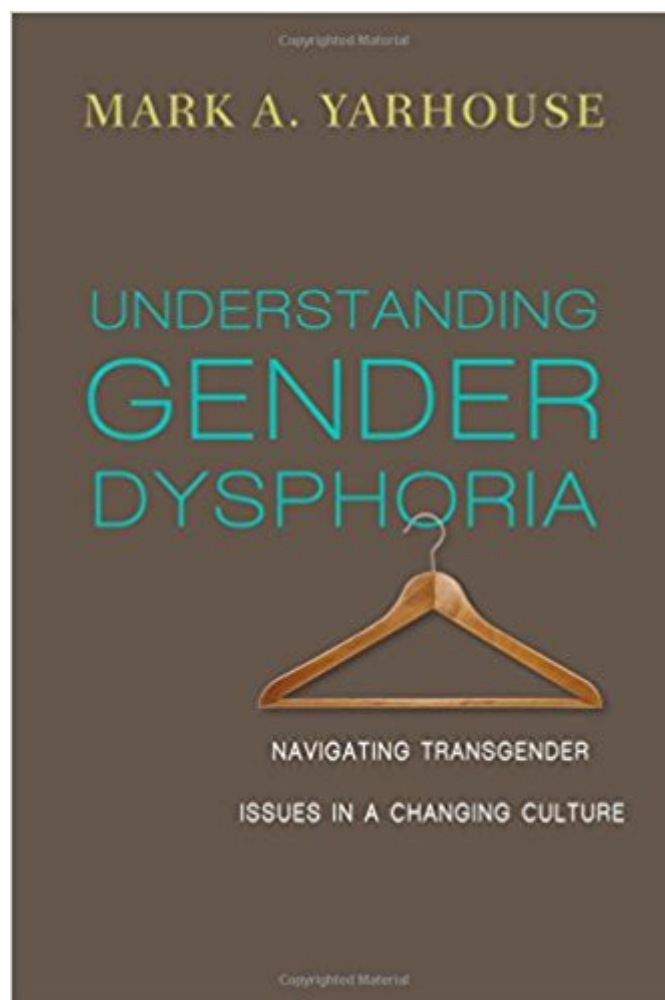




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Understanding Gender Dysphoria: Navigating Transgender Issues In A Changing Culture (Christian Association For Psychological Studies Books)





Synopsis

Foreword Reviews' 18th Annual INDIEFAB Honorable Mention for Psychology Few topics are more contested today than gender identity. In the fog of the culture war, complex issues like gender dysphoria are reduced to slogans and sound bites. And while the war rages over language, institutions and political allegiances, transgender individuals are the ones who end up being the casualties. Mark Yarhouse, an expert in sexual identity and therapy, challenges the church to rise above the political hostilities and listen to people's stories. In *Understanding Gender Dysphoria*, Yarhouse offers a Christian perspective on transgender issues that eschews simplistic answers and appreciates the psychological and theological complexity. The result is a book that engages the latest research while remaining pastorally sensitive to the experiences of each person. In the midst of a tense political climate, Yarhouse calls Christians to come alongside those on the margins and stand with them as they resolve their questions and concerns about gender identity. *Understanding Gender Dysphoria* is the book we need to navigate these stormy cultural waters.

Book Information

Series: Christian Association for Psychological Studies Books

Paperback: 191 pages

Publisher: IVP Academic (June 22, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0830828591

ISBN-13: 978-0830828593

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.5 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 50 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #22,106 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #5 in Books > Gay & Lesbian >

Nonfiction > Transgender #9 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Religious Studies > Gender & Sexuality #37 in Books > Medical Books > Psychology > Sexuality

Customer Reviews

"This work is a tour de force. With his unique combination of Christian evangelical theological sophistication, clinical sensitivity and compassion, and scientific acumen and mastery, Yarhouse establishes in this compelling book why he is the most important voice reflecting on the complex challenges of sexuality today." (Stanton L. Jones, provost and professor of psychology, Wheaton College)"*Understanding Gender Dysphoria* is a deeply practical and timely book. Many of the

variables surrounding the transgender community are nuanced and intense, yet completely unknown to the evangelical world. Mark provides helpful working knowledge of key terms, concepts and relevant issues. And with humility and great care he directly addresses how individual Christians and the broader evangelical church can respond. Although this book is academic in nature, it should be required reading for all church leadership. This is my new go-to book for the Marin Foundation's work with evangelicals on the topic. Mark's research must be paid attention to." (Andrew Marin, author of *Love Is an Orientation*) "This book is a must-read for pastors, educators and those who want to engage the cultural discussion around human sexuality. Yarhouse is a first-rate scholar, educator and therapist who also loves Jesus and Scripture. He deeply cares for people and the church. His approach to this complex topic is not to tell the reader what to think, but to teach the reader, who then can wisely discern how to apply the information to their particular context. This book educates so that people can lead wisely, pastor compassionately and build community that lives out the great commandment to love God and others." (Shirley V. Hoogstra, president, Council for Christian Colleges & Universities) "I deeply respect the work that Mark Yarhouse has done in this field and have benefited greatly from his thinking." (Bill Hybels, senior pastor, Willow Creek Community Church) "It's hard to keep up with current words and acronyms for sexuality and gender, much less understand what they really mean. Even more challenging is evaluating and engaging these issues from a Christian perspective. Thank God for Dr. Mark Yarhouse! Yarhouse articulates a goal many Christians will quickly claim as their own: to rise above political and ideological battles to provide ministry, pastoral support and compassionate care to all persons. Yarhouse helps us begin to put this ideal into practice by explaining gender dysphoria, transgender, and gender normativity and non-normativity, based on stories, professional counseling experience and research, some conducted by him and his graduate students. He treats all persons equally, asking of us all, 'How does gender permeate our lives and how should it?' His voice is clear and serious, his perspective well-informed and studious, and his heart pastoral and concerned for the well-being of individual persons, especially those who seek support and community within Christian churches. If you've wondered how Christians and churches can support people with gender dysphoria who are seeking a meaningful story, lifeway and community, read this book!" (Jenell Paris, professor of anthropology, Messiah College) "Speaking as a pastor to church leaders, I enthusiastically commend my friend Dr. Mark Yarhouse for his unflinching courage, heartfelt compassion, biblical loyalty and rigorous scholarship in addressing the painfully complex and controversial issue of gender dysphoria. This book is an exquisite gift of understanding that I believe is absolutely essential to the church's crafting of ministry to hurting

people that reflects the grace and love of Jesus. Unwrap and use it as soon as possible!" (Andrew McQuitty, author of *Notes from the Valley: A Spiritual Cancer Travelogue*) "Could the timing be better for a book to be released on the topic of gender dysphoria? Were you aware of this term a year ago and what it means? Whatever you knew or didn't know then, now you have an excellent resource in Mark Yarhouse's most recent work on the topic. He has written extensively on sexuality and gender, and in this book he offers a scholarly look at the issue of gender dysphoria. . . . From the first to the final page, Mark Yarhouse writes to inform, educate and challenge readers to be aware and sensitive to this demographic. . . . I cannot think of a more important time than the present to be gathering information on this topic, to help shape your position, refine it or perhaps change it. . . . Yarhouse has presented a thoughtful, scholarly work on this current cultural issue. I cannot stress strongly enough that this book should be read and available to every ministering person who has opportunity to work with people in the church!" (Kent Miller, *YouthWorker Journal*, November/December 2015) "Never losing touch with the human stories that underlie any scientific or clinical discussion of the issue of gender identity, Yarhouse (psychology, Regent Univ.) has written a timely, often trenchant account of the complex cultural and psychological terrain in which the issues of gender dysphoria and transgender circulate. . . . Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty and professionals; general readers." (M. Uebel, *CHOICE*, November 2015) "Mark Yarhouse's *Understanding Gender Dysphoria: Navigating Transgender Issues in a Changing Culture* is a book that has the potential to change the conversation surrounding transgender, genderqueer and gender non-conforming people and our role in the church. Mark writes from a fairly conservative evangelical perspective, but there is one critical difference between his approach and the approach I usually see from conservative writers: Mark has actually listened to trans people with a view to understanding, and his goal is to help churches provide pastoral care to a group that has traditionally been stigmatized and marginalized." (Melinda Selmys, *Patheos*, July 3, 2015) "Understanding Gender Dysphoria is a valuable work for those wishing to engage with transgender issues. It doesn't answer every question that might come up, but it does give readers the tools to come up with their own answers while doing so in a loving and Christian way." (J. W. Wartick, *Always Have a Reason*, July 29, 2015) "Mark Yarhouse has written yet another important contribution to the church's discussion about LGBTQ issues, this time focusing specifically on questions related to transgender people. This book is informed by studious attention to the Bible, sound theological reasoning and deep psychological wisdom, all of which is sifted through a compassionate heart that wants to see people experience the deep love of Christ. This book is a must read for any Christian who wants to think Christianly about what it means to be

transgender. Mark's pastoral posture and commitment to biblical truth is a model for every evangelical Christian." (Preston M. Sprinkle, vice president, Eternity Bible College Boise extension)"Mark Yarhouse is knowledgeable, instructive and compassionate. These attributes are helpful for those working through the topic of gender dysphoria and also to those of us who are new to this conversation. We may not all agree with his final suggestions, but it is worth taking the time to consider the content of this text." (Stephen T. Beers, Advance, Fall 2015)

Mark Yarhouse (PsyD, Wheaton College) is the Hughes Endowed Chair and professor of psychology at Regent University where he directs the Institute for the Study of Sexual Identity and is a core faculty member in the doctoral program in clinical psychology. A licensed clinical psychologist, he practices privately in the Virginia Beach area, providing individual, couples, family and group counseling. Yarhouse has published over eighty peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters and is author or coauthor of several books, including *Understanding Gender Dysphoria*, *Modern Psychopathologies*, *Understanding Sexual Identity*, *Sexuality and Sex Therapy*, and *Homosexuality and the Christian*. He serves on the editorial board of the *Journal of Psychology and Theology* and *Christian Counseling Today*, and has served as an ad hoc reviewer with *Journal of Homosexuality*.

This book provides good information on an issue which the Christian community does not seem to really understand. It is fairly easy to read, although reads a bit more like a textbook. I would highly recommend it for Christians who are wanting to understand more about the trans-gender community, what it means to be trans-gender and how to respond to trans-gender people in a loving way. The reason I gave 4 stars instead of 5 is the writing style and because I read it on an older Kindle. The book is kind of difficult to stay engaged with, partly due to the writers style. He tended to repeat himself a lot, which by the end of the book got pretty annoying. One big theme he talks about is the different frameworks in which trans-gender issues are seen. He spends a whole chapter describing these frameworks but then whenever he refers to them throughout the book (which is often), he goes and explains each framework again adding unnecessary length to the book. Also, if you are going to read this book, buy the actual paperback because he frequently sites notes and studies which are in the back of the book which are hard to flip to with an older kindle.

I read this book as part of PSYC 345 offered at a Christian Liberal Arts University. I was informed and also agreed with a lot of what Yarhouse said. I felt that a lot of his commentary and suggestions

came from a lot of thought, research, and knowledge. Sexuality is a hot topic within a lot of churches and religion, and I felt that Yarhouse did a great job articulating his viewpoint, as well as the separate viewpoints of various churches. Yarhouse did a great job considering faith, gender dysphoria, and how these separate items can work together and both exist.

A helpful book. I think most people tend to regard transgender people as homosexual, and Yarhouse clarifies this, but not to everyone's satisfaction. He points out that there's still a lot of unanswered questions, and conflicting theories around gender dysphoria. His goal is to shed some light on a puzzling condition and urge the church to offer compassionate support. We can welcome all people, even if we don't understand why they are the way they are.

I read this book as part of PSYC 345 offered at a Christian Liberal Arts University and it really opened my eyes to new perspectives that I was previously unaware of. I admired how Yarhouse articulated the idea that all people with gender dysphoria have different stories and different experiences. No matter who we are, we cannot understand how another goes through this. Though I did not previously defend any strong positions on this topic, he made me think about my own views and opinions and whether or not they are thoroughly supported.

Psyc 345 Christian liberal arts university, this is a great book not only for Christians but anyone in understanding the psychology behind gender dysphoria. Understanding a Christian perspective and other models towards understanding this. It provides an unbiased approach towards this issue.

Still reading the book but it does help explain some of the issues I am dealing with as a family issue

This book was very informative but very hard to read with a lot of terms I'm not for familiar with. It is kind of written so a layman could understand so I was able to get a lot of info. All in all, it was a good book. I would suggest it to anyone who has a transgender son or daughter or relative or friend. It is very helpful and it will help me understand what they are going thru. Being a Christian I had some concerns on how to approach my son who is transgender in a Christian way and this book explained a lot of questions I had to allow me to be more sensitive to him.

This is an excellent resource for anyone facing this issue, including family and friends of someone struggling with gender dysphoria. The book is also perfectly appropriate for counselors and clergy.

The author writes from a Christian perspective, and is careful to respect and not reshape Scripture. This is a complex topic. I appreciate the fresh and compassionate approach of Mark Yarhouse's presentation.

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