# Conservative Christians Grapple with Gender Identity Shifts



### Conservative Christians Navigate Gender Identity Issues

Andrew and Debbie James, evangelical Christians living in Denver, faced a crisis when they discovered their oldest child, Lilia, was transitioning. Initial reactions included distress and advice from their pastor to expel Lilia from their home, which they ultimately did not follow. As time passed, the family engaged in readings and discussions to better understand and accept Lilia's identity.

This story reflects a broader trend among conservative Christians who are grappling with increasing visibility of transgender identities. Within conservative circles, opinions vary, often creating conflicts between traditional beliefs and emerging understandings of gender.

Therapists like Julia Sadusky in Colorado work with conservative Christian families to navigate these issues, emphasizing hospitality and understanding rather than immediate judgment. Counseling and church discussion panels are becoming common as these communities attempt to reconcile deeply held beliefs with compassionate responses to gender dysphoria.

Organizations such as Embracing the Journey and Transmission Ministry Collective offer support and information, striving to bridge gaps between traditional Christian teachings and the experiences of LGBTQ+ individuals. Despite significant challenges, some families and churches are finding ways to balance faith with acceptance.