

# TERMS & DEFINITIONS

*Below is a short list for common terms and definitions that may be helpful for today's conversation*

- **LGBTQIA+** : an acronym that stands for "lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, and asexual." The '+' represents other identities with in the LGBTQIA+ community, such as pansexual, agender, and more!
- **Gender identity:** one's internal, deeply held sense of gender
- **Gender expression:** the external manifestations of gender, expressed through things such as names, pronouns, clothing, haircuts, behavior, voice, body characteristics, and more
- **Sexuality/sexual orientation:** describes who you are attracted to (either romantically or physically)
- **Sex assigned at birth:** typically assigned to us at birth based on a combination of bodily characteristics including chromosomes, hormones, internal, and external reproductive organs and secondary sex characters. Does *not* determine our gender identity.
- **Transgender (adj):** an umbrella term that describes someone whose gender identity *differs* from the one that was assigned to them at birth (may be abbreviated as "trans" or "trans\*").
- **Non-binary (adj):** an umbrella term that describes someone whose gender identity or expression falls *between or outside* of male and female (may be abbreviated as "enby").

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- **Cisgender (adj):** describes someone whose gender identity *matches* the one that was assigned to them at birth
- **Pronoun (n):** a word that can function by itself as a noun phrase and that refers either to the participants in the discourse (eg., *I, you*) or to someone or something mentioned elsewhere in the discourse (eg., *she, it, this*).
- **Personal pronoun:** pronouns referring to a unique and individual person.
- **Two Spirit:** a cross cultural term used by some Indigenous people of North America that refers to a person who identifies as having both a masculine and feminine spirit. *note: this is a broad definition, and will vary on individual experience and identity, as well as the tribe that an Indigenous person belongs to.*
- **Intersex:** describes someone who is born with a reproductive or sexual anatomy that doesn't seem to fit the typical definitions of female or male. Intersex people are as common as red heads in our society.
- **Queer:** a reclaimed word that is sometimes used as an umbrella term for people who are not heterosexual and/or cisgender.

# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

*A short list of resources to continue your education and understanding!*

- **Websites:**

- **pronouns.org**
  - Resources on personal pronouns, what they are, why they matter, and how to use them.
- **thetrevorproject.org**
  - Suicide prevention & crisis intervention; resources for supporting and affirming LGBTQ young people
- **transmissionministry.com**
  - Transmission Ministry Collective is an online community dedicated to the spiritual care, faith, formation, and leadership potential of transgender and gender-expansive Christians
- **enfleshed.com**
  - Spiritual resources for collective liberation
- **qchristian.org**
  - Community groups, resources, and more

- **Books:**

- "Beyond the Gender Binary" by Alok Vaid Menon
- "Welcoming and Affirming" by Leigh Finke
- "Queerfully and Wonderfully Made" by Leigh Finke
- "Our Lives Matter" by Pamela R. Lightsey
- "Transforming" by Austen Hartke
- "The Black Trans Prayer Book" edited by Lady Dane Figueroa Edidi and J Mase III

- **Mental Health Resources:**

- **The Trevor Project:**
  - 1-866-488-7386 (call)
  - Text 'START' to 678-678
- **Trans Lifeline (translifeline.org):**
  - 877-565-8860 (call)

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