

## Oprah Winfrey Show Features Children with Gender Identity Disorder

*Being "born in the wrong body" can be a source of beauty and wisdom, therapist says*

Talk show host Oprah Winfrey's August 24 show featured a discussion of children who wish to have sex-change operations.

Winfrey interviewed her first guest, who appeared to be a normal 11-year-old boy. In actuality, this boy was a girl but was living as a boy.

According to Winfrey, "right now, according to experts, there are thousands of children who are living what appear to be very normal lives, but deep inside they know something is terribly wrong or they feel that something is terribly wrong, and these children are saying that they were born in the wrong bodies. Their parents have to decide whether or not to let their children live as the opposite sex."

Winfrey interviewed Jana Ekdahl, a self-described transgender therapist who told parents that children can become transgendered in the womb, with brain development going one direction and the body going the other, and that such a state is a thing of beauty and a source of special wisdom.

According to Ekdahl's web site, she views "gender-variant youth" as "changing the face of gender for us all. I sometimes view them as archetypal warriors on the cutting edge

of that space between the two polarities that we hold onto so tightly. Perhaps it would serve us all to go to that place ... that special space between genders ... and see what we find there."

Ekdahl says, "I embrace the philosophy of Carl Jung and Depth Psychology. The union of East and West is essential to my work, as I have studied to learn about the modalities of each. Buddhist thought and Native American spirituality are interwoven into the fabric of my psyche. I have access to this wisdom to share with my clients, either directly or otherwise."

Dr. Joseph Nicolosi observed of Winfrey's show: "Oprah's compassion is badly misplaced. A girl can't become a boy; she was designed to be a female, and to tell a child she can be something she is not is an abdication of adult responsibility. What if she were born black, but thought she was actually white? Should her parents have her skin whitened? "

"There are news stories now," he continued, "about people who believe they really should have been born legless, and they ask a doctor to amputate their legs. This, like gender confusion, is a sad delusion with which no doctor should collaborate."