

COMPASSION WITHOUT COMPROMISE:

Considering Sexual & Gender Identity in Grace & Truth

Elder-Minister Meeting
August 13, 2020

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Vision and Purpose of the Apostolic Christian Church

Vision:

- A body of believers, bound together by our love for Jesus Christ and His Word, reflecting God's love, grace, and truth.

Purpose:

- To glorify God by loving as Jesus loves.

Question for Us Today:

- How will we, as a group of ministers of the Gospel, reflect God's love, grace, and truth and love as Jesus loves when addressing individuals dealing with LGBTQ+ issues?

Outline

1. 4 Common Questions
2. Full of Grace and Truth
3. Understanding Sexual & Gender Identity (SGI)
4. Three Lenses for Considering SGI
5. The Critical Role of Scriptures
6. Pastoral Care and Teaching in the Church
7. Q & A
8. Appendices

4 Common Questions

Questions 1 & 2

- **Do People Choose to be Gay?**
 - It depends on what you mean by "choose."
 - Do they choose to feel same-sex attraction?: No
 - Do they have a choice to take on a gay identity and to act or not on their sexual feelings?: Yes
- **At what age do most people identify as gay?**
 - Research shows the age of self-identifying as LGB is dropping.
 - Currently, the average age is around 14 to 15

Questions 3 & 4

- **What Causes Someone to be LGBT?** [see Appendix A]
 - *No simple or one-size-fits all answer to this.*
 - Both Christians and LGBTQ+ advocates have often oversimplified this.
 - Multiple factors including nature and nurture are likely involved.
 - The relative mix of those factors will differ from person to person.
- **Can people change their sexual orientation?** [see Appendix B]
 - With religiously-motivated change, some experience modest shifts, but many always have some SSA.
 - For many, the biggest struggle is with unrealistic expectations and the message from others that they're not trying hard enough or lack sufficient faith.

Full of Grace and Truth

The Mind of Christ
vs.
Our Natural Tendencies

Christ's Teaching in *Mark 10:6-9*

6. *But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female.*
7. *For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife;*
8. *And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh.*
9. *What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.*

"Here then, are three truths which Jesus affirmed:

1. Heterosexual gender is a divine creation,
2. Heterosexual marriage is a divine institution; and,
3. Heterosexual fidelity is the divine intention.

A homosexual liaison is a breach of all three of these divine purposes." —John Stott

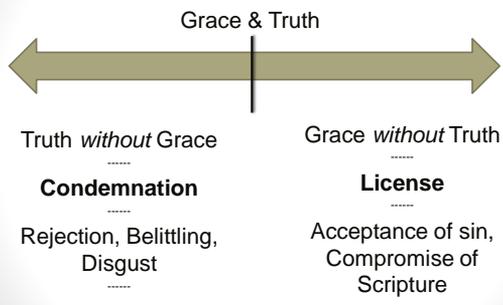
Grace & Truth: Inseparable Concepts

- *John 1:14, "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us... **full of grace and truth.**"*
- **Grace:** God's unmerited favor, kindness, and strength.
- **Truth:** God's holiness, perfection, righteousness.
- A biblical concept of God contains **both** grace and truth **without separating or violating the other.**
- *John 8:11, "... And Jesus said unto her, **Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.**"*

Guidance on Grace and Truth : 2 Timothy 2:24-26

24. *And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,*
25. *In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;*
26. *And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.*

Where Do You Fall on this Continuum?



For God so loved the world, that He gave...



For God so loved the world, that He gave...



Understanding Sexual & Gender Identity (SGI)

Drawing heavily from the work of Mark Yarhouse Psy.D.



Understanding the Terms

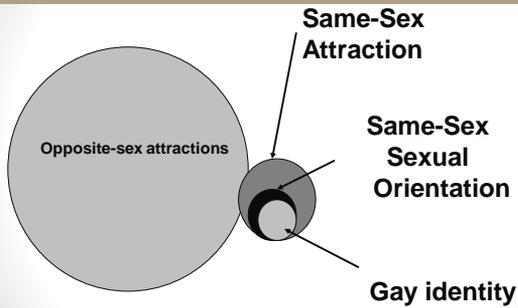
(See Appendix C)

	Meaning	Sexual Orientation	Gender Identity
Binary	Either-Or Categories	Lesbian Gay Heterosexual Bisexual	Biological Sex of male or female; Transgender
Non-Binary	Continuum/ Fluidity	Pansexual Queer	Genderqueer Transgender

Three Tier Distinction: Definitions

- 1. Same-Sex Attraction (SSA):**
 - May range from mild/transient to strong.
 - Does not indicate one's behavior or identity.
- 2. Sexual Orientation:**
 - The SSA is *strong* enough and *persistent* enough to feel oriented toward the same sex (or bisexual).
 - Does not indicate one's behavior or identity.
- 3. Gay Identity:**
 - A socio-cultural label (that often identifies with a contemporary movement) that goes beyond describing an experience and forms an identity.

Three Tier Distinction



Gallop Survey Findings

- **Question:** “Just your best guess, what percent of Americans today would you say are gay or lesbian?”
 - As of May 2019, US adults thought the mean amount of Americans that were gay or lesbian to be **23.6%** of the population.
- **Question:** “Do you, personally, identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender?”
 - As of 2017, **4.5%** of Americans sampled said ‘Yes.’

<https://news.gallup.com/poll/259571/americans-greatly-overestimate-gay-population.aspx>
<https://news.gallup.com/poll/234863/estimate-lgbt-population-rises.aspx>

Positions on LGBT Within Broader Christendom

Side A Christians: Believe same-sex sexual relationships are morally permissible. (i.e., “affirming churches”)

Side B Christians: Believe same-sex sexual relationship are not morally permissible. (i.e., “affirm the traditional Biblical sexual ethic”)

Side C Christians: Are undecided about whether same-sex relationships are morally permissible.

Side X Christians: Believe that same-sex sexual attractions themselves are morally wrong and should be completely changed. (i.e., ex-gay)

Quoted in Yarhouse and Zaporozhets 2019 Costly Obedience originally from Bridges Across the Divide

Same-Sex Attracted vs. Gay Celibate Christians

- Ongoing debate among Biblical Christians in how to self-label. Both:
 1. Agree with the traditional Christian sexual ethic of heterosexual marriage and sexuality.
 2. View their core identity as in Christ.
- 1. **“I am a Christian who is Same-Sex Attracted.”**
 - While their attractions are oriented to the same sex, they seek to maintain a distinction from taking on a gay identity.
- 2. **“I am a Celibate Gay Christian.”**
 - They acknowledge their attractions are oriented to the same sex and want to note they are living according to Biblical standards of sexual behavior.

Understand Your Audiences – Part 1

1. **Traditional Believers:**
 - Individuals and churches who want to know, follow, and teach biblical truth about sexuality, gender, marriage, sin, salvation, overcoming, behavior, etc. even when it is counter-cultural.
2. **Impacted Families:**
 - Believing family members (often parents) who have a child/family member who is living an unbiblical LGBTQ+ lifestyle.
3. **Committed Overcomers:**
 - Believing individuals who are dealing with SGI issues and are seeking to live out their identity in Christ consistent with Scripture.
 - a) **Christians w/SSA/Celibate Gay Christians:**
 - Single, experience SGI, and are committed believers.
 - b) **Mixed-Orientation Marriages:**
 - Male-female marriage; one of the spouses experiences SGI.

Understand Your Audiences – Part 2

4. **“Affirming Christians”:**
 - Individuals and churches who have changed their theology to view gay marriage and same sex behavior among committed individuals as morally permissible and acceptable to God.
5. **Secular LGBTQ+:**
 - Individuals who reject Biblical values and are living out their sexual and gender identity in unbiblical ways.
6. **Secular World & Allies:**
 - Secular culture uninterested in Biblical truth that believes that no one has the right to judge the behavior of consenting adults.

Three Lenses for Considering Sexual and Gender Identity

Drawing heavily from the work of Mark Yarhouse Psy.D.

The Integrity Lens

Intent	Strength	Weakness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To view sexuality biblically as created by God and under the authority of scripture. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focuses on identifying what scripture says and holding closely to it. Fights for truth, right belief, and holy living. Proclaiming truth even when it is contrary to culture. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can be cold, unloving, and judgmental. Can forget that sincere individuals can struggle with these issues. Can reinforce incorrect stereotypes about the Christian church.

The Disability Lens

Intent	Strength	Weakness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be compassionate, understanding that all of life is touched by the fall and that human beings experience brokenness in all areas of life; including their sexuality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Views individuals dealing with SGI issues with love and compassion. Seeks to provide information, support, counseling to help people work through SGI issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can overly identify the person dealing with SGI by their struggle. Can accidentally view the individual's life as 'on hold' until the individual is "cured."

The Diversity Lens

Intent	Strength	Weakness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To understand and celebrate the uniqueness of each person while providing them with acceptance and community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognizes the value of all people regardless of SGI or marital status. Doesn't force people into molds. Desires each person be included and loved in a caring community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May elevate SGI to be the most important part of a person's identity. Sinful behavior may be overlooked as individuality is elevated. May not see the need for repentance or salvation.

Errors Around the Lenses

- Forgetting Generational Differences**
 - Assuming that each generation views LGBTQ+ issues similarly...they do not!
- Forgetting to Balance the Message**
 - When we teach it is very easy to make a point that is technically true, but also leaves the audience with an imbalanced perspective or perception.
- Forgetting the Minority**
 - When talking or preaching, assuming that no-one in your audience is dealing with these matters.

Integrating the Best of Each Lens

- Integrity Lens**
 - Holds and teaches biblical literacy, values & ethics.
 - Truth
- Disability Lens**
 - Provides compassion, love, support to help people overcome.
 - Grace
- Diversity Lens**
 - Recognizes all people have value to God and they have different callings/vocations (e.g., celibacy).
 - God is honored as we live in unity around Christ in the diversity of the body (involving all in the body).
 - Love

The Critical Role of Scripts

Drawing heavily from the work of
Mark Yarhouse Psy.D.

The Critical Role of Scripts

- Scripts reflect the **expectations of our culture** in terms of how we are supposed to live and how we should relate and behave.
- Scripts also **extend** into the world of expectations we have for our **sexuality**.
- In our culture today, experiences of same-sex **attraction** are typically treated as **synonymous** with a gay **identity**.

A comparison of scripts is available in Appendix D

Quoted from Yarhouse 2010 p. 48.

A Common “Gay” Script in Society Today

1. Same-sex **attractions signal** a naturally-occurring **distinction** between homosexuality, heterosexuality, and bisexuality.
2. Same-sex **attractions are the way you know** who you “really are” as a person (emphasis on discovery).
3. Same-sex **attractions are the core** of who you are, and same-sex behavior is an extension of that core.
4. Living out your sexual identity, including behavior that matches who you “really are,” is **crucial for your fulfillment**.

From Yarhouse 2010

“In Christ” Script

1. Same-sex **attraction doesn’t signal** a categorical distinction among types of people, but is one of many human experiences that are “not the way it’s supposed to be.”
2. Same-sex attraction may be part of your **experience**, but is **not the defining element** of your identity.
3. You can **choose to center your identity** around other aspects of your experience, including your identity in Christ, biological sex, life’s vocation/calling, and so on.
4. The most compelling aspect of personhood for the Christian is one’s **identity in Christ**. All other aspects of identity and life fall under the authority of this one.

From Yarhouse 2010

A Common “Singleness” Script in the Church Today

1. Marriage represents Christ and the church; singleness doesn’t represent anything in particular.
2. You grow up, repent, marry, have kids and so on.
3. Your life is “on-hold” until you get married; Your job is to keep yourself sexually pure until you can finally get married... whew!
4. Singles are not fully complete and may even be “a bit off.”
5. Singles and marrieds socialize separately. You’re in the “young group” until marriage.
6. We assign roles in the church based on age, gender, and marital status even when Scripture does not. The “important” roles in the church are for married people.

A Biblical Script for Singleness

1. All people are created in God’s image and flourish in relationships.
2. Marriage & singleness are both options that glorify God.
3. Some people are single by choice and some are single by circumstance. Regardless, singleness is not a second-class status (e.g., Jesus; Apostle Paul).
4. Celibate life is dignified as an honorable vocation/calling of undivided devotion to the Lord (*1 Corinthians 7:32-35*)
5. Regardless of why someone is single, we intentionally integrate them throughout the intergenerational Body of Christ.
6. We recognize that God has gifted single individuals with diverse talents and spiritual gifts and facilitate their meaningful use in the Lord’s work.

Pastoral Care and Teaching in the Church

A Vision Forward

Pastoral Care with Struggling Individuals

- **Love well:** What to say to someone who shares SSA.
 - "I love you and God loves you."
 - "How can I be a good brother (or sister) in Christ to you?"
- **Listen well:** hear their story.
- **Combat Shame:** Most people who will talk to you about their SSA already feel shameful about it.
- **Distinguish:** Help the person to see the distinction between the *experience* of same-sex attraction and same-sex *behavior*.
- **Teach Scripts:** Remind the person that they have the choice of which script they follow.
- **Support:** Develop an "anchor group" of people to provide support, mentoring, and encouragement.
- **Counsel:** Help them find good counseling to help them find congruence with their beliefs and values.
 - Consultation and information from ACCFS.

Pastoral Care with Parents of LGBTQ+

- **Love well and listen well.**
- **Support through Emotions:** Help the parents process through the shock, denial, fear, and anger (often similar to grief cycle).
- **Combat Shame:**
 - Parents often feel intense shame and ruminate about failing as parents. Beating themselves up for what they didn't know in the past, isn't helpful. Help them identify and focus on what they can and can't control going forward.
- **Grace & Truth:**
 - Encourage them to respond to their child in grace and truth; often one parent reacts more to one side than the other. Neither license nor condemnation is helpful.
- **Educate:** Help the parents to get accurate information.
- **Support:** Help them develop an "anchor group" of people to provide support, prayer, and encouragement.
- **Counsel:** Help them find good counseling to help them find congruence with their beliefs and values.
 - Consultation and information from ACCFS.

We Must be Realistic Regarding SGI and Marriage

- Marriage does not, itself, change sexual orientation.
- Fulfilled mixed-orientation marriages are possible, but take work.
- When SGI is a factor for an individual seeking marriage, the potential couple should discuss SGI prior to marriage.
- It is key that church leadership provide counsel through this process.

Leading the Congregation

- Church leadership provides the modeling with how to deal with LGBTQ+ issues (e.g., silence is modeling too!).
- Confront unloving speech toward LGBTQ+ individuals.
- Becoming more educated: See Appendix E
- Topical presentations to the church, Sunday School.
- ACCFS Resources: www.accounseling.org
 - Website has podcasts, articles, webinars, books, etc.
 - Presentations and seminars.
- Parents should be encouraged to enter an ongoing dialogue with their children about Godly, healthy, sexuality.
 - God's Design for Sex Series of books for parents & children.
- Consider making these books available to parents in your churches or in a church library.

<p>Brian Sutter in Sex Education August 15, 2019</p> <p>Teaching Our Children God's Design for Sex</p> <p>READ MORE</p>	<p>Brian Sutter in Sex Education April 12, 2018</p> <p>Shaping Sexual Character in Our Children Podcast Episodes</p> <p>READ MORE</p>	<p>Brian Sutter in Sex Education April 11, 2018</p> <p>The Talk</p> <p>READ MORE</p>
<p>Brian Sutter in Sex Education April 11, 2018</p> <p>How To Talk To Your Children About Homosexuality</p> <p>READ MORE</p>	<p>Brian Sutter in Sex Education April 10, 2018</p> <p>How & When To Talk To Your Kids About Sex</p> <p>READ MORE</p>	<p>Brian Sutter in Sex Education April 10, 2018</p> <p>Shaping Your Child's Sexual Character</p> <p>READ MORE</p>

Q & A

Appendix A

Influences on the Development of LGBT

Genetic and Biological Influences on LGBT

- **Nature:** Genetics and biological causes likely play a role, but are, in themselves, insufficient.
- May impact temperament, tendency toward artistic or aesthetic interests, etc.
- LGBT advocates tend to highlight nature (i.e., the 'born this way' narrative) and downplay the role of nurture.
- There has long been talk about finding the "gay gene." There is no single gene for. Sexuality is significantly more complex than that.
- Ganna et. al (2019) in a genome-wide association study of 477, 522 individuals for same-sex behavior found, "In aggregate, all tested genetic variants accounted for 8 to 25% of variation in same-sex sexual behavior, only partially overlapped between males and females, and do not allow meaningful prediction of an individual's sexual behavior."
 - For context, genetic studies have found that up to "as much as half of a person's risk of becoming addicted to nicotine, alcohol, or other drugs depends on his or her genetic makeup." www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/genetics-epigenetics-addiction

Social and Environment Influences on LGBT

- **Nurture:** Family of origin, social environment, and childhood experiences also likely play a role, but there is no single pattern of development.
- Christians tend to downplay genetics/biological causes and focus on the causes being (1) unhealthy family dynamics or traumatic life experiences (i.e., the 'find a cure' narrative) or (2) an individual's choices and not submitting to God.
- Just because someone is LGBT doesn't mean they had a traumatic childhood or had a bad relationship with their parents. Some did. Some didn't.
- There has been significant controversy about the merits of conversion therapy with many laws and bans about sexual orientation change efforts (SOCE) or gender identity change efforts (GICE) being put into place today.

Spiritual Influences on LGBT

- **Spiritual:** The role of spirituality as a cause of LGBT depends on one's worldview with some people viewing it as 100% spiritual while others view it as 0% spiritual.
- From a Biblical worldview, someone who is walking away from God and is living for their own flesh may seek out same-sex behavior and identity (*Romans 1*).
 - Note, that this describes one situation and does not describe all people dealing with SSA.
- From a Biblical worldview it can be assumed that there is a spiritual battle around sexual and gender identity and behavior.
 - LGBT is not simply a matter of demonic possession (i.e., cast out a demon and the issues go away).
- Christians who oversimplify LGBT issues sometimes sound like they think people can turn their attractions on/off like a light switch. Remember, however:
 1. Unconverted people won't desire truth or have the power to live in truth.
 2. It takes a heart seeking Biblical truth to seek God's grace and to received strength to live in sync with the Word.
 3. Telling people to simply try harder to make themselves feel a certain way often sounds like one is telling them to simply "pray the gay away."

Appendix B

Understanding Change

Change: Cynical Pessimism	Realistic Biblical Hope	Change: Arrogant Optimism
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The only way to be truly you is to embrace and live out your feelings. Anything short of that and you aren't being true to yourself and you are living under the bondage of outdated morals. It is intrinsically harmful to try to change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your true identity is in Christ. As God's child, the process of living for Him means bringing all aspects of your life into obedience to Him. He will give you grace to live an overcoming and abundant life in Christ. Many people do not experience the degree of change they had hoped for, but some people do. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you truly submit to God you will feel and be 100% heterosexual and not longer be tempted by same-sex attraction. There is no risk in attempting to change.

Change: Cynical Pessimism	Realistic Biblical Hope	Change: Arrogant Optimism
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Those who say sexual attractions and orientation can change are selling you "snake oil." Sexual orientation is absolutely unchangeable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People on both sides overstate their case. There is a kind of natural fluidity for some people, but not for all. Research suggests some people may experience meaningful change, but it is unlikely to be 180-degree or categorical. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Those who say otherwise are promoting the "gay agenda." Sexual orientation is definitely changeable. Anyone can experience large change if they try hard enough or have enough faith.

Appendix C

Terms & Definitions

LGBTQ...How Many Letters?

1. Lesbian	L
2. Gay	G
3. Bisexual	B
4. Transgendered	T
5. Questioning	Q
6. Queer	Q
7. Intersexed	I
8. Asexual	A
9. Ally	A
10. Pansexual	P

- Will there be more?! Yes! There already are!!
- There is not universal agreement.

Key Terms Regarding Same-Sex Attraction

- Lesbian**
 - Women sexually oriented to women.
- Gay**
 - Men sexually oriented to men.
 - The term gay is also used broadly to describe anyone who identifies as LGB.
- Bisexual**
 - Person sexually oriented to both men and women.
- Homosexuality**
 - Term used to describe same-sex sexual orientation.
 - This term is being used less and less over time as it is culturally associated with pathology and mental disorder.

Key Terms Regarding Gender and Transgender

- Biological Sex**
 - As male or female (typically with reference to chromosomes; gonads, sex hormones, and internal reproductive anatomy and external genitalia).
- Gender identity**
 - How you experience yourself (or think of yourself) as male or female, including how masculine or feminine a person feels.
- Gender Role**
 - Adopting cultural expectations for maleness and femaleness.
- Transgender**
 - Someone who identifies with the gender that they feel psychologically and emotionally (subjective) rather than their biological sex (objective).
- Cisgender**
 - A word to contrast with transgender and to signify that one's psychological and emotional experience of gender identity is congruent with one's biological sex.
- Gender Dysphoria**
 - The experience of distress associated with the incongruence wherein one's psychological and emotional gender identity does not match one's biological sex.

Adapted from Yarhouse 2015 [Understanding Gender Dysphoria](#)

Other Terms

- **Questioning**
 - A person who is trying to figure themselves out in terms of their sexual identity and gender.
- **Queer**
 - Used in a variety of ways; some in the community use it, others don't like it since it can also be used as a slur.
 - Generally, it is used as a label to denote political and attitudinal challenges to moral values including sexual anarchism.
- **Intersexed**
 - Hermaphrodites – one born with ambiguous sex characteristics; genetic causes (e.g., Klinefelter Syndrome).
- **Asexual**
 - Those not emotionally, romantically, or sexually attracted to others.
- **Ally**
 - Someone who is not LGBT... But who supports and rallies behind those in this community.

Appendix D

A Comparison of Scripts

"Gay" Script	"In Christ" Script
1. Same-sex attractions signal a naturally-occurring distinction between homosexuality, heterosexuality, and bisexuality.	A. Same-sex attraction doesn't signal a categorical distinction among types of people, but is one of many human experiences that are "not the way it's supposed to be."
2. Same-sex attractions are the way you know who you "really are" as a person (emphasis on discovery).	B. Same-sex attraction may be part of your experience, but they are not the defining element of your identity.

"Gay" Script	"In Christ" Script
3. Same-sex attractions are the core of who you are, and same-sex behavior is an extension of that core.	C. You can choose to center your identity around other aspects of your experience, including your identity in Christ, biological sex, life's vocation/calling, and so on.
4. Self-actualization of your sexual identity (including behavior that matches who you "really are") is crucial for your fulfillment.	D. The most compelling aspect of personhood for the Christian is one's identity in Christ, a central and defining aspect of what it means to be a follower of Christ (emphasis on integration).

Singleness Script in the Church	Biblical Script for Singleness
1. Marriage represents Christ and the church; singleness doesn't represent anything in particular.	A. All people are created in God's image and flourish in relationships.
2. You grow up, repent, get married, have kids and so on.	B. Marriage and singleness are both options that glorify God.
3. Your life is "on-hold" until you get married; Your job is to keep yourself sexually pure until you can finally get married... whew!	C. Some people are single by choice and some are single by circumstance; regardless, singleness is not a second-class status (e.g., Jesus; Apostle Paul).

Singleness Script in the Church	Biblical Script for Singleness
5. Singles are not fully complete and may even be "a bit off."	E. Celibate life is dignified as an honorable vocation/calling of undivided devotion to the Lord.
6. Singles and marrieds socialize separately. You're in the "young group" until marriage.	F. We intentionally integrate singles socially throughout the Body of Christ.
7. We assign roles based on age, gender, and marital status even when Scripture does not. The "important" roles in the church are for married people.	G. We recognize that God has gifted single individuals with diverse talents and spiritual gifts and facilitate their meaningful use.

Appendix E

Resources

A Comment on Resources

- Understand that resources on this topic are emerging very quickly as the Christian community grapples with these topics.
- Authors claiming to be writing from a Christian perspective may be coming from vastly different perspectives including Sides A, B, and X.
- Even in very helpful resources you will need to be discerning and you will likely find parts that you may not agree with.

Selected Resources - 1

- **ACCFS Website –**
 - www.accounseling.org
 - Look under the Sexuality theme or use search feature for terms: sexual identity, gender identity, sex education
- **The Center for Faith, Sexuality & Gender**
 - Principle: Preston Sprinkle
 - <https://centerforfaith.com> – articles and resources
 - **LGBT & the Church** digital course www.digitalleadersforum.org
- **Sexual and Gender Identity Institute (Wheaton)**
 - Principle: Mark Yarhouse
 - www.wheaton.edu/academics/school-of-psychology-counseling-and-family-therapy/sexual-and-gender-identity-institute
 - Book: [Homosexuality and the Christian](#)
 - Book: [Understanding Gender Dysphoria](#)
 - Book: [Costly Obedience](#)

Selected Resources - 2

- **Sam Allberry**
 - Book: [Is God Anti-Gay?](#)
 - www.livingout.org
- **Lead Them Home**
 - Principle: Bill Henson
 - www.leadthemhome.org
 - Book: [Guiding Families of LGBT+ Loved Ones: For every pastor, every parent, and all who care](#)
- **Matt and Laurie Krieg**
 - <https://lauriekrieg.com>
 - Mixed-orientation marriage resources