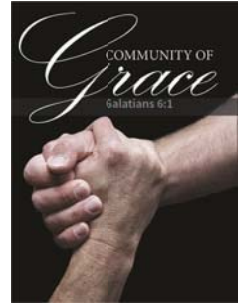


Grace Bible Church  
2016 Biblical Counseling Conference  
Track Two



Session #2

Counseling and Homosexuality

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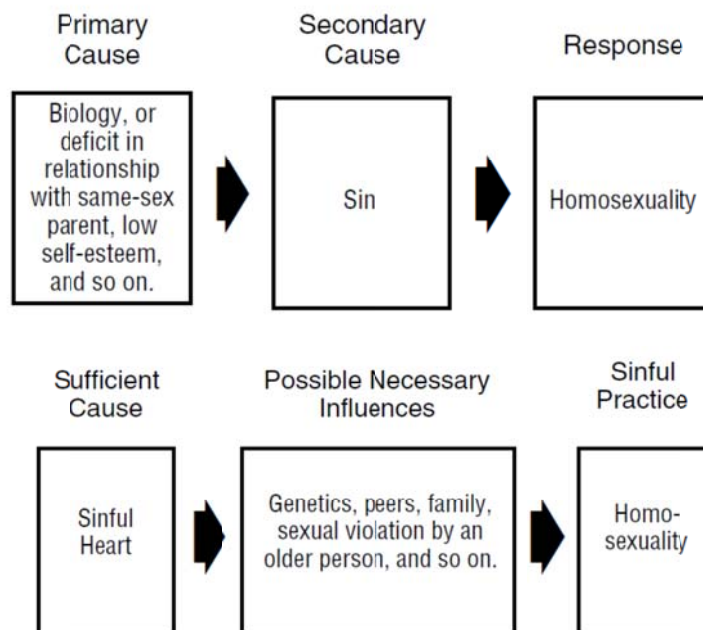
**Notes from Jason**

## I. Is homosexuality a sin or is it genetic?

- Today's culture and the problem with living by your feelings
- Critical biblical texts regarding homosexuality:
  - 1) Genesis 1-2; 19:5
  - 2) Leviticus 18:22; 20:13
  - 3) Judges 19:22, 23
  - 4) Romans 1:26, 27
  - 5) 1 Corinthians 6:9, 10
  - 6) 1 Timothy 1:9
  - 7) Jude 7

## II. Issues for the counselor to consider

- It is crucial for the counselor to think correctly first (Matthew 7:1-5; Galatians 6:1-5).
- The counselee usually comes because there is a perceived need. Be prepared to minister with humility, compassion, grace, the offer of forgiveness and hope without compromise – the ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:17-21).
- It is important in your own mind to normalize the abnormal (1 Corinthians 10:13).
  1. You will have well-meaning friends and family of the counselee misinterpret the problem.
  2. You will have well-meaning counselees misinterpret the problem.
- Don't forget that although homosexuality is a sexual sin; there are many other issues involved. Counseling will be a process and not an event.
- There are a number of factors that are blamed as 'cause' for homosexuality: family dynamics, molestation, pornography, culture, and biology. The counselor must always remember that although these influences are important to understand, these are never determinative.



[from Ed Welch, "Homosexuality: Current Thinking and Biblical Guidelines," JBC (13:3) 27]

## III. Counseling tips for the counselor

- When you begin to data gather, ask enough questions to know the extent of a person's sin or struggle. You want to counsel appropriately to the person's experience of sin or struggle.

- Be aware of what literature/resources are available and to the nature of the author's writing style. Potentially too much detail is given and can minimize effectiveness for the counselee.
- Listen well. Ask good questions. Many homosexuals believe that Christians will not listen.
- Counsel does include 'steps' for victory, but the Gospel must drive the ministry to the homosexual. Behavior always follows the heart (Mark 7:21-23).
- Once the pattern of sexual activity has been established, interrupt or break the pattern.
- Often the person practicing homosexuality lives inside of the homosexual community. It is necessary to leave this community of societal influences (friends, bars, parks, churches).
- Recognize that many times this lifestyle is filled with deception.
- Listen for the 'planning' that takes place among some homosexuals. Often homosexuality is not practiced as 'just' a sex act; instead, there is intricate planning that takes place (the chase).

#### **IV. Necessary Truth for Long-Term Growth**

- Union with Christ with daily implications (2 Corinthians 5)
- Trials, Temptations, Heart, Desires, including contentment (James 1, 4)
- Power of Christ for living a victorious life in Christ (Ephesians 1, 2, 3)
- Christ-like love (Ephesians 3, 5; 1 John 3; 2 Corinthians 5)
- God's Sovereignty and Plan, including suffering (Romans 8; James 1)
- The Fear of God and Sin (Proverbs 1; Ecclesiastes 12; Isaiah 11; Romans 13)
- Grace, including forgiveness (Ephesians 2; Titus 2; Ephesians 4)
- Image of God, including creation and its implications for gender (Genesis 1-2; Romans 1)

#### **V. Possible heart issues for the counselee (idolatries)**

CAUTION: These are general by nature and describe many counselees; these would not necessarily be true of any one individual. Careful and thorough data gathering is essential.

- Lives for his feelings, feelings-oriented
- Craves attention of others
- Lives for pleasure, the thrill of...making encounters (the chase), doing the forbidden, extravagant living, etc.
- Longing for affection, passion, affirmation, relationship, acceptance
- Love of drama

- Rebellion to legalism, against parents (ie., anger)

## **VI. Helping the counselee change**

- Start with the surprise of the Gospel. The most attractive thing we can give a counselee is the hope of forgiveness from his sins – the hope of an authentic relationship with Christ. This is not just spoken but shown by the counselor (John 3:16; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11).
- Provide hope (1 Corinthians 10:13)
- Help him focus on and understand the idolatrous heart (Romans 1; Ezekiel 14:1-5; Luke 6:43-45; Matthew 15:16-20)
- Introduce him to the awesome and matchless character of God (Psalm 34, 36, 37, 42, 61, 62,...)
- Teach him the fear of God and hatred for sin (Psalm 130:3-4; Proverbs 8:13)
- Help him create a regular and vibrant devotional life (Galatians 5:16-25)
- Determine the best strategies for radical amputation, including bridge burning and total restructuring (Matthew 5:29-30; 1 Corinthians 15:33)
- Assign regular biblical and extra-biblical material for them to read, consider and apply (Psalm 1
- Help them create and implement strategies for serving others (Romans 12:11)
- Get them connected and involved in the local church (Galatians 6:1-5)
- Be prepared to walk with them in the journey (1 Thessalonians 5:14)
- Assign a temptation journal to help discern where growth needs to take place (Proverbs 20:5)

## VI. Helpful Resources

Allberry, Sam (2013). *Is God anti-gay? And other questions about homosexuality, the Bible, and same-sex attraction*. Purcellville, VA: The Good Book Company.

Barr, Adam T., and Ron Citlau (2014). *Compassion without Compromise: How the Gospel Frees Us to Love Our Gay Friends without Losing the Truth*. Bloomington, MN: Bethany House.

Bruce, Ruth Ann (2003). *When Homosexuality Invades the Family*. United States: Xulon Press.

Burk, Denny and Heath Lambert (2015). *Transforming Homosexuality: What the Bible says about Sexual Orientation and Change*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R.

Carson, Kevin (2012). "Homosexuality" (Chapter 8) in Scott, Stuart and Heath Lambert, *Counseling the Hard Cases: True Stories Illustrating the Sufficiency of God's Resources in Scripture*. Nashville: B&H Academic.

Deyong, Kevin (2015). *What Does the Bible Really Teach about Homosexuality?* Wheaton, IL: Crossway.

Dallas, Joe (2004). *When Homosexuality Hits Home*. Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers.

Gagnon, Robert A. (2001). *The Bible and Homosexual Practice: Texts and Hermeneutics*. Nashville: Abingdon Press.

Hubbard, Peter (2013). *Love into Light: The Gospel, the Homosexual, and the Church*. Greenville, SC: Ambassador International.

Lutzer, Erwin (2004). *The Truth About Same-Sex Marriage*. Chicago: Moody Press.

Mohler, R. Albert Jr. (2014). *God and the Gay Christian? A Response to Matthew Vines*. Louisville: SBTS Press.

Powlison, David (2006). "Sexual Sin and the Wider, Deeper Battle" *Journal of Biblical Counseling* (Spring 2006) 30-36.

Welch, Ed (1995). "Homosexuality: Current Thinking and Biblical Guidelines" *Journal of Biblical Counseling* (13:3, Spring 1995) 19-29.

For informational purposes regarding the issues of homosexuality:

Dallas, Joe (1996). *A Strong Delusion: Confronting the "Gay Christian" Movement*. Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers.

Satinover, Jeffrey (1996). *Homosexuality and the Politics of Truth*. Grand Rapids: Baker.

Riley, Mona and Brad Sargent (1995). *Unwanted Harvest?* Nashville: Broadman and Holman.

