Pastoral Response to Homosexuality

Starting to Heal

1. Develop Orthodoxy and Orthopraxy

“We have too many Christians out there who are strong on convictions but embarrass the name of Christ in how they relate to the world around them. At the same time, we have too many Christians who are remarkably civil, but you would have no idea what convictions they hold.”

2. Understand the Conflict

3. Understand the Developmental Reality

4. Acknowledge the “Scripts”
5. Address the Questions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mainstream Gay Culture Gay Sexual Identity Script</th>
<th>Average Evangelical Church Christian Sexual Identity Script</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>You were born this way</td>
<td>Silence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This is who you are</td>
<td>Heterosexual sex is yucky, dirty and gross...and save it for the one you love</td>
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<tr>
<td>It’s normal</td>
<td>Procreation (Gen. 1) &amp; Recreation (1 Cor. 7)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attractions indicate identity</td>
<td>Homosexual sex is an abomination and you need to just stop it! (Shame)</td>
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<tr>
<td>You are accepted and loved</td>
<td>You are accepted and loved</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

6. Identify the choices

7. Reach Out to the Family

8. Reach Up to God

9. Layout the Options

10. Be a Church that is Ready

“Churches should feel more like the waiting room for a doctor and less like a waiting room for a job interview.” – Tim Keller

Reframe your Discussions ... not just more Orthodoxy, but more Orthopraxy
Same-Sex Attraction

Books Dealing with Homosexual Issues (Biological, Theological, etc.)

General Works

Homosexuality & American Public Life. Edited by Christopher Wolfe. Spence Publishing Company
Homosexuality. James B. DeYoung. Kregel Publications
*** Homosexuality: The Use of Scientific Research in the Church's Moral Debate. Stanton L. Jones & Mark A. Yarhouse. InterVarsity Press
***The Bible and Homosexual Practice: Texts and Hermeneutics. Robert A. J. Gagnon. Abingdon Press

Books for Friends & Family Members of Homosexuals

Someone I Love is Gay: How Friends and Family Can Respond. Anita Worthen & Bob Davis. IV Press
When Homosexuality Hits Home: What to Do When a Loved One Says They’re Gay. Joe Dallas. Harvest House Publishers
Books for Men Struggling with Same-Sex Attractions
Growth into Manhood: Resuming the Journey. Alan Medinger. Shaw Publishing

Books for Women Struggling with Same-Sex Attractions
Restoring Sexual Identity: Hope for Women who Struggle with Same-Sex Attractions.
Anne Paulk. Harvest House Publications

Web Sites
National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality – www.narth.com
Parents and Friends of ExGays & Gays – www.pfox.org

For more teaching by Ben Mathew on this subject, go the BER webpage: www.biblicaleldership.com/same-sex-attraction