

“No Longer Afraid”

To Talk About Same Sex Attraction

Selected Scriptures

Presented by

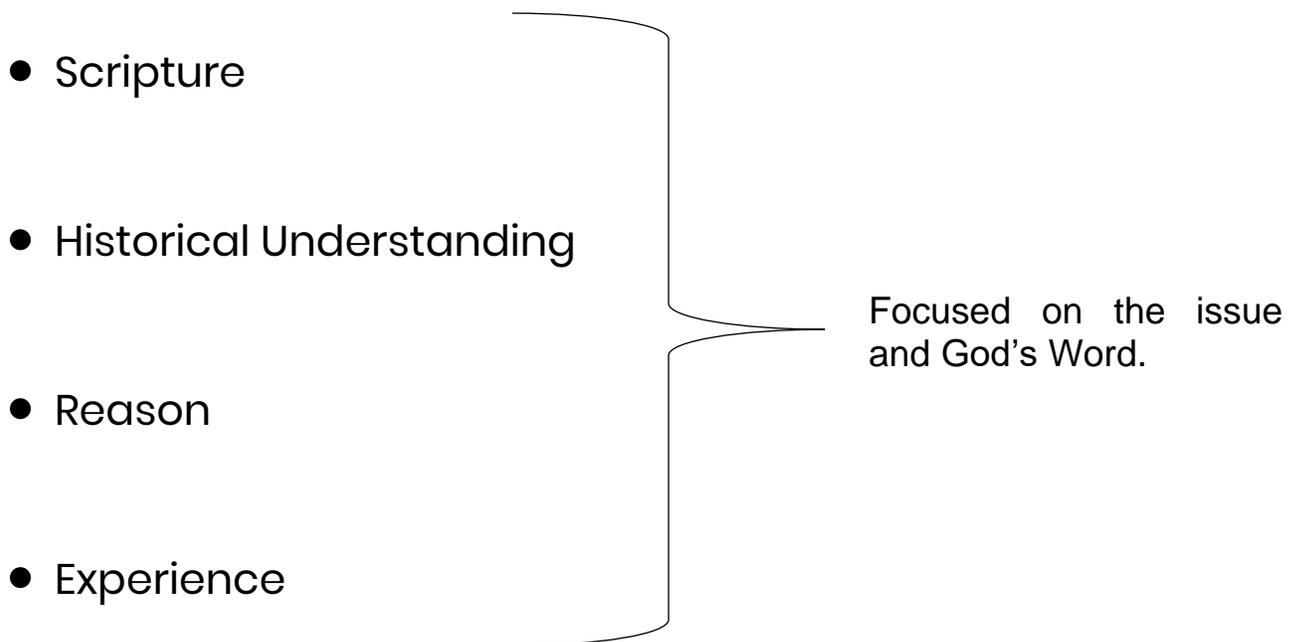
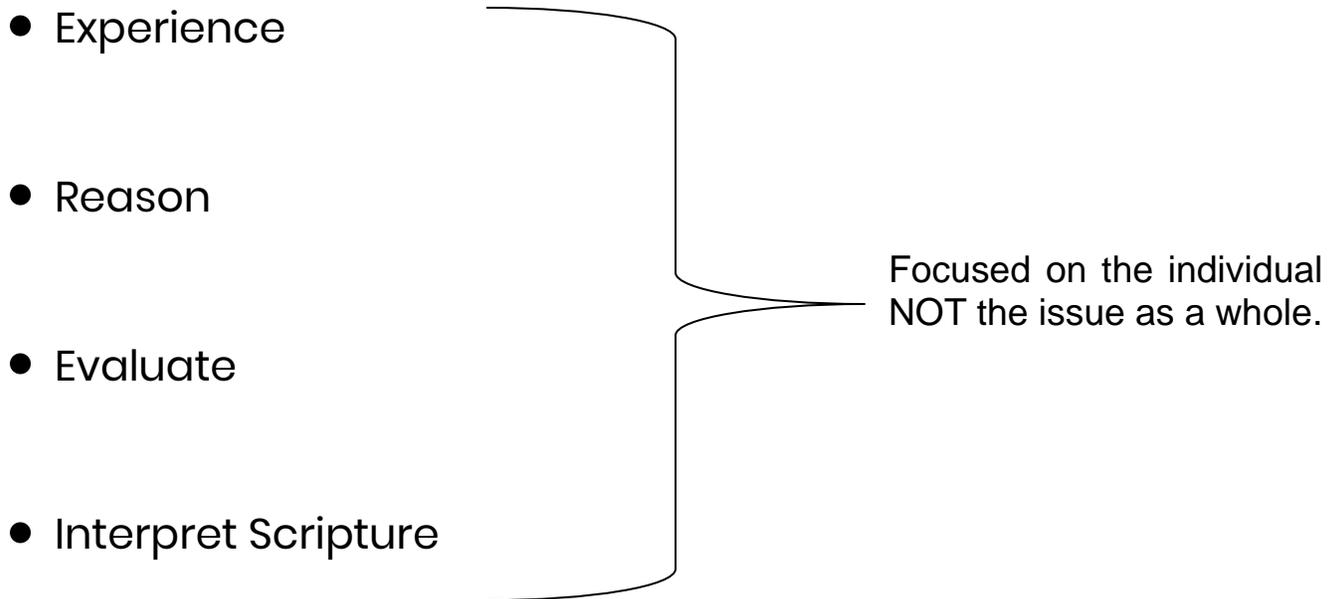
Pastor Justin Greene

When writing on this inflammatory subject, Erwin Lutzer says, “I cannot stress too strongly that we must not view homosexuality as a sin that is divorced from our own sins within the church – adultery, greed, gossip, and pornography, to name a few. Ed Dobson (no relation to James Dobson), former pastor of a large church in Grand Rapids, Michigan, received criticism when his church launched an outreach to gays several years ago. Some feared the church might be “overrun” with gays.

Ed Dobson countered, ‘If the church gets overrun with homosexuals, that will be terrific. They can take their place in the pews right next to the liars, gossips, materialists, and all the rest of us who entertain sin in our lives.’ He concludes by saying, ‘When I die, if someone stands up and says “Ed Dobson loved homosexuals” then I will have accomplished something with my life.’ No wonder homosexuals came to his church even though they knew that he did not approve of their lifestyle.”¹

With that well said... Where do we go from here?

PROCESSES USED TO SEEK SPIRITUAL TRUTH



SELF-FULFILLMENT



Key Questions:
Will this make me
happy?
Will this meet my
felt needs?



REJECT:

Those things that
interfere with a
positive answer to
these questions.

SELF-SACRIFICE



Key Questions:
Will this make
God happy?
Will this meet the
needs of others?



REJECT:

Those things that
interfere with a
positive answer to
these questions.

THREE CONCERNS

➤ 1. Concern for the discouraged: Is this an area **where your opinion is so emotional** that you would not change even if God says you should?

➤ 2. Concern for those who are fighting the wrong war.

~After the Ball by Marshal Kirk and Hunter Madsen

~The moral majority

~Paul:

1 Corinthians 5:12-13 New International Version (NIV)

What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? **13** God will judge those outside. "Expel the wicked person from among you."

➤ Concern for those who are no longer sure they can discover the truth.

- 60% believe that they are the best source of truth

~ We have the wrong frame of reference - slide

~ We use the wrong frame of reference to seek spiritual truth.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

- God designed human sexuality to be expressed and enjoyed between a man and a woman in an exclusive relationship (Gen 2:21-25).
- Suitable = Ke - Negdo a counterpart that is the opposite of him
- Homosexuality was not a part of this plan (Lev 18:22; 20:13; Deut 23:18).

➤ New Testament

- Christ affirmed the purpose and plan for marriage (Mt 5:31-32; 19:3-9) and discouraged those operating outside that plan from continuing (Jn 8:11; Mk 7:20-23).
- Paul indicates that homosexuality is a sign that God is releasing a culture to go its own way (Rom 1:24-27).
- Paul indicates that homosexuality is a sign that culture is ignoring His law (1 Cor 6:9-11).

OBJECTION!

➤ Isn't homosexuality genetic?? or "If God made me this way, shouldn't I embrace it?"

- Scientists agree that a genetic predisposition does not mean that something is inevitable or good (i.e. cancer, alcoholism, obesity).

- An argument must work both ways.

➤ Isn't it hypocritical for Christians to single out homosexuality as wrong when divorce, coveting, and reviling are as strongly condemned?

▪ **YES...**

- The foolishness or failure of God's people to live up to what they believe does not change the truthfulness of His Word.

➤ Isn't the silence of Jesus on this subject proof that He was not concerned about it?

- Jesus was also silent on bestiality, incest, and pedophilia (all topics from Leviticus).
- Jesus strongly affirmed marriage and condemned sexual activity outside of it (Mk 7:20-23).

➤ Isn't there a lot of confusion and debate among scholars over the relationship of David and Jonathan, the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah, and the prohibition of homosexuality being coupled with a prohibition against eating shellfish and wearing plaid?

- There has been no confusion until recently.
- Ezek 16:49 says "love of personal comfort and ² lack of concern for others led Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction..." Homosexual rape was a product and not the sole reason.
- Sometimes plaid is still wrong...

➤ "What if I can't change my orientation?"

- Temptation is not sin.
- God promises assistance as we yield...

WHAT SHOULD WE REMEMBER?

1. Faithful believers will lead with the Gospel (2 Cor 5:18,19).
2. Faithful believers will not stigmatize sin (1 Cor 6:9-11).

~ such were some of you

3. Faithful believers will be known as friends of the LGBTQ community. (Jesus was a friend of sinners Mt 11:16-19).

~ Romans 2:1-4 - The kindness of God leads **you** to repentance.

4. Faithful believers will proclaim the truth in love.

~ will not be bullied into embarrassed silence

~ will not bully