

P.A.W., INC. 2013 PASTORS & MINISTRY LEADERS SUMMIT

Bonaventure Resort and Spa Weston, Fla

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2013

Plenary Session 3 • 4:10pm – 5:40pm

Can 'LGBT' People Be Active In My Church?

Bis Horace E. Smith M.D. Presenter

PASTORS, LEADERS AND SEXUAL EXPRESSION IN TODAY'S CHURCH

- There Are LGBT persons in your Church!!
- Do you know them?.....Do you want to?
- How are they identified?
- What do you do when they 'come out' to you?
- Can they be active in your ministry?

ENGAGING THE PRIMARY ISSUE: HUMAN SEXUALITY

- WHAT DO WE UNDERSTAND ABOUT HUMAN SEXUALITY?
- IS SEXUALITY OR SEXUAL IDENTITY A CHOICE?
- HOW ARE WE HANDLING SEXUALITY AND SEXUAL EXPRESSION IN THE PRESENT CHURCH?
- HOW BROAD IS OUR UNDERSTANDING OF REDEMPTION AND RESTORATION?

WHAT IS HUMAN SEXUALITY?

Sexuality is in fact a Divine gift. Human beings are created as sexual creatures by a holy and righteous God. We all therefore have been wonderfully and fearfully made, and we need to have a total vision of life and our existence in which love and salvation permeate every area of our lives---including our sexuality.

LEVELS AND DYNAMICS OF SEXUALITY Chromosomal Sex: Hormonal sexuality: Gonadal Sexuality: Internal and External Accessory organs and their behavior: Neurological/Brain development: Gender identity: The psychology of sexuality: Spiritual and Biblical dimensions of sexuality

L.G.B.T.: LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER: Defining the Community

The LGBT community, sometimes known as the gay community, is a loosely defined grouping of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender and LGBT-supportive people, organizations, and subcultures, united by a common culture and the civil rights movement.

LGBT STATISTICS: The Williams Institute: University of California School of Law

- An estimated 3.5% of adults in the United States identify as lesbian, gay, or bisexual and an estimated 0.3% of adults are transgender.
- This implies that there are approximately 9 million LGBT Americans, a figure roughly equivalent to the population of New Jersey.

- Estimates of those who report any lifetime same-sex sexual behavior and any same-sex sexual attraction are substantially higher than estimates of those who identify as LGB. An estimated 19 million Americans (8.2%) report that they have engaged in same-sex sexual behavior and nearly 25.6 million Americans (11%) acknowledge at least some same-sex sexual attraction.

TERMINOLOGY AND DEFINITIONS

Sexual orientation

"Sexual orientation" is the preferred term used when referring to an individual's physical and/or emotional attraction to the same and/or opposite gender. "Heterosexual," "bisexual" and "homosexual" are all sexual orientations. A person's sexual orientation is distinct from a person's gender identity and expression.

Gender identity

The term "gender identity," distinct from the term "sexual orientation," refers to a person's innate, deeply felt psychological identification as male or female, which may or may not correspond to the person's body or designated sex at birth (meaning what sex was originally listed on a person's birth certificate).

Gender expression

Gender expression refers to all of the external characteristics and behaviors that are socially defined as either masculine or feminine, such as dress, grooming, mannerisms, speech patterns and social interactions. Social or cultural norms can vary widely and some characteristics that may be accepted as masculine, feminine or neutral in one culture may not be assessed similarly in another.

Transgender

A broad range of people who experience and/or express their gender differently from what most people expect — either in terms of expressing a gender that does not match the sex listed on their original birth certificate (i.e., designated sex at birth), or physically changing their sex. It is an umbrella term that includes people who are transsexual, cross-dressers or otherwise gender non-conforming. Not all people who consider themselves (or who may be considered by others as) transgender will undergo a gender transition.

Transsexual

A transsexual person has changed, or is in the process of changing, his or her physical and/or legal sex to conform to his or her internal sense of gender identity. The term can also be used to describe people who, without undergoing medical treatment, identify and live their lives full-time as a member of the gender opposite their birth sex. Transsexuals transitioning from male to female are often referred to as "MTFs." Similarly, female-to-male transsexuals are frequently called "FTMs."

GENDER IDENTIFICATION: SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND THE CHURCH

The Abrahamic religions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, have traditionally forbidden non-heterosexual and non-vaginal sexual intercourse (both of which have been variously labeled as sodomy), believing and teaching that such behavior is sinful and derived from the behavior of the residents of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Today, several denominations within Christianity and Judaism accept gay, lesbian and transgender members and permit the ordination of openly LGBT candidates for ministry.

Global Alliance of Affirming Apostolic Pentecostals: GAAAP

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(GAAAP) is an LGBT affirming, Oneness Pentecostal denomination, headquartered in Thonotosassa, Florida.

GAAAP was organized in 2007 by Rev. Robert Morgan of Tampa, Florida. GAAAP originally began as a ministerial fellowship, with 17 ministers by early 2008.

In April 2010, GAAAP merged with Apostolic Restoration Mission (ARM), formerly known as the National Gay Pentecostal Alliance (NGPA). NGPA had been the first LGBT-affirming Apostolic denomination, having formed in 1980 in Schenectady, New York.

By late summer 2010, the organization claimed 50 ministers in 19 States and 5 nations. It was in 2010 that GAAAP amended its constitution to become a denomination and began to affiliate churches. Another significant development in the administrative structure of the organization was the official consecration of Robert Morgan and Robert Stamper as Presiding and Assistant Bishops respectively in August, 2011. The organization hosts an annual leadership retreat in February, in Tampa, FL and an annual ONE Conference that rotates between cities.

The church is non-trinitarian in theology, holding to the belief that all the fullness of God resides bodily in Jesus, and teaches that repentance, water baptism by immersion in the name of Jesus Christ, and the Baptism of the Holy Ghost are essential elements of the Apostolic era church that must be retained in the church of God today. They also believe that speaking in tongues is the initial physical evidence of the baptism of the Holy Ghost. The church is affirming of gay people but doesn't not promote itself as a gay organization.

THE BIBLE AND SAME SEX ISSUES: AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE

Among Christians, the Bible is the highest authority in theological and ethical matters.

The question is, what does authority mean?

Does authoritative mean perfection, or inerrancy or complete consistency?

TWO BASIC VIEWS OF BIBLICAL AUTHORITY

- o The a priori view says that the Bible is authoritative in all of its parts and is so prior to interpretation. This affirmation is made not on one's own experience, but the teaching of another such as a parent, teacher or pastor.
- o The experiential or existential view says that the Bible is authoritative only in those parts that are existentially engaging and compelling—that give grounding and meaning to existence. This avowal can be made only after and in the light of one's own interpretation.

HERMENEUTICS: THE PROBLEM WITH INTERPRETATION

Determining What Matters In Scripture

The interpretation of a text is always strongly governed by its context, and this context is two-fold:

1. The literary and historical/cultural context of the text
2. The religious, intellectual, and cultural context constituted by the interpreter's pre-understanding, presuppositions, or social location.

There is no completely objective interpretation. We never have the Bible as it is in itself. We always have it from some—limited—point of view.

CHANGING ATTITUTUES

What are the spectrum of possibilities regarding these issues among contemporary Christians?

1. Homosexuals as degenerates: prior to 1960 almost all Christians saw homosexuality as sin.
2. Homosexuals as diseased: Mainline Protestants in the 1960's began to make a distinction between homosexual orientation (disease) and homosexual practice (sin).
3. Homosexuals as disordered: in 1974 the American Psychiatric Association dropped homosexuality from its list of mental diseases. However the APA did recognize a category "sexual orientation disturbances," which did not include all homosexuals but designated those who were disturbed by, in conflict with, or wished to change their sexual orientation, and those who were subjectively distressed or socially impaired by their homosexuality.
4. Homosexuals as differently ordered: this view allows that if the condition is the result of complex causes—genetic and environmental, beyond the control of the individual, then a 'cure' cannot be expected and homosexuals should live out their orientation.

BIBLICAL PASSAGES REGARDING HOMOSEXUALITY

OLD TESTAMENT

Gen 19:1-29 Jud 19 Lev 18:22 20:13

NEW TESTAMENT

Rom 1:18-28 1 Cor 6:9-10

THE WITNESS OF JESUS AND PAUL: Teaching Love and Grace

"LGBT" ACTIVITY IN MINISTRY?

THE CONUMDRUM AND THE RESPONSIBILITY OF SOULS: IS THERE NO BALM IN GILEAD?

SUGGESTED READINGS:

THE HOLY BIBLE

HOMOSEXUALITY AND THE BIBLE: TWO VIEWS

Dan O. Via and Robert A. J. Gagnon

THE SAME SEX CONTROVERSERY

James R. White and Jeffrey D. Niell

ARTICLES ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY

Rev Chris Glaser M. Div

The Bible and Homosexuality: A Christian View

Gender Identity and the Bible: Jewish and Christian Perspectives

**Issues of Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, or Gender Expression:
What Should the Church Do?**

HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN: (Official Website)

WORKING FOR LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER EQUAL RIGHTS

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