

Ministering to the Gender Confused

Recap from last week:

- Homosexual behavior is sin.
- Homosexual orientation is not sin. It should be understood as temptation.
- Believers in Jesus are defined by their relationship with Christ not by the sin they commit. Our identity is that we are a saint.
- Homosexual orientation is not genetically determined. It can be changed in at least some people. Most people do not consciously choose this orientation.
- There are a number of factors involved in the development of a homosexual orientation since no one factor is 100% predictive of homosexual orientation.
- A primary factor in homosexual orientation is a failure to attach to the same gender parent during the years of 18 months to 3 years.

How to minister to the gender confused and others with sin issues.

- Train yourself never to be shocked by anything.

- Respond to a disclosure of sin with godly sorrow (2 Corinthians 7:8-10)

⁸ For though I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it—for I see that that letter caused you sorrow, though only for a while—⁹ I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to *the point of* repentance; for you were made sorrowful according to *the will of* God, so that you might not suffer loss in anything through us. ¹⁰ For the sorrow that is according to *the will of* God produces a repentance without regret, *leading* to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death.
2 Corinthians 7:8-10 (NASB)

- Relying on the Holy Spirit, restore a person with gentleness and humility (Gal. 6:1-2)

¹ Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; *each one* looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. ² Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 6:1-2 (NASB)

- Determine if they want to change.

- Always offer hope and truth.

¹³ No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it. 1 Corinthians 10:13 (NASB)

⁹ And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

¹⁰ Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 (NASB)

⁶ For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus. Philippians 1:6 (NASB)

⁸ Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. Philippians 4:8 (NASB)

⁶ But He gives a greater grace. Therefore *it* says, "GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE." ⁷ Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you. James 4:6-10 (NASB)

- Encourage them to look to God to meet the needs they are trying to meet through homosexual activity.
- Encourage sharing of hurts, confession, forgiveness, and reconciliation between them and their parents
- Connect them with an older person of the same gender who can be affirming & affectionate with them.
- Don't push them into dating the opposite gender or getting married.
- "What helped" list