

“Homosexuality and Holiness”: Three interactive mini-seminars encouraging a balanced view of an important issue

There is a growing body of scientific research which indicates that homosexuality is changeable. Popular media reports and general understanding about this issue are often confused and fail to reflect this fact. Important work is being done to support individuals who wish to exit the gay lifestyle. Evidence suggests that some motivated individuals who identify the homosexual impulse within themselves, and who do not wish to identify as “gay” do find help to develop their full heterosexual potential.

How do local church communities support those seeking to overcome homosexuality and those called to support such individuals? Is the journey to wholeness the entire responsibility of those who struggle, their counsellors and therapists, or do local churches have a significant but sometimes neglected or rarely understood role to play in the process?

Three interactive, mini-seminars exploring homosexuality and how it affects individuals, the church and society are offered. The sessions are open to individuals wanting to explore this topic for personal or professional reasons, including the desire to support those working through these issues.

The sessions are designed to cover the scientific, therapeutic and Biblical dimensions of this important issue. The seminars start from the premise that ordinary Christians and church

fellowships have an essential role in supporting those struggling to overcome. The sessions embrace the idea that God encourages in all His people, not only wholeness, but also holiness of heart and experience. Many of the principles examined are applicable to a wide range of issues impacting on individuals, families, the church and society in the 21st century.

Mini-series contents

Three 2 hour mini-seminars will cover the following

Seminar 1 Lens One: Walking with the wounded
Seminar 2 Lens Two: Listening to the researcher
Seminar 3 Lens Three: Supporting the therapist

Seminar 1 - Lens One: Sat 19 Dec 2009 8.30 -10.30 “Walking with the Wounded”

- Identity and orientation – what’s the difference?
- The ‘orientation’ debate and some myths
- A developmental model and gender wholeness
- Affect-focused therapy, ‘transitioning’ and ‘grounding’

Seminar 2 - Lens Two: Sat 16 Jan 2010 8.30 - 10.30 “Listening to the Researcher”

- The bi-polar and multi-dimensional models
- Multi-causation, measurement and the ethics and politics of ‘change’
- The genetics of behaviour – gender non-conforming children
- Neuroscience and therapy – the interface

Seminar 3 - Lens Three: Sat 27 Feb 2010 8.30 -10.30 “Supporting the Therapist”

- Intellectual, emotional, physical and spiritual needs: the whole person
- Homo-emotional and hetero-emotional wounding – how to work
- Female and male homosexuality – what’s the difference?
- Behavioural, cognitive and psychodynamic components of Gender Affirming Therapy

Who for? Lay men and women (including those seeking to overcome and those supporting them,) professionals, church and ministry leaders who:

- have compassion for those walking a difficult path to wholeness
- are aware of those struggling with addiction, compulsion and destructive habit
- want to walk faithfully and in an informed way, with those caught in homosexuality

Seminar style

These three mini-seminars will make use of action methods, including socio-psychodramatic technique. A range of information giving resources (video, sound-bite) will be used. Discussion will be encouraged, the setting informal.

The focus of the seminars will be to provide information in an experiential model. Online resources, including lists of references and important available papers will be provided in the online VLE associated with www.core-issues.org.

Seminar presenters



Dr Mike Davidson
BTh BA BEd UED PhD FHEA

Mike has worked in the higher education sector for the past 25 years. For the past 15 years he has worked in academic development within the university sector and prior to that as a teacher trainer. He has also trained for the pastoral ministry, and was ordained in 1986. He is currently a trainee psychodrama psychotherapist, registered with the British Association of Psychodrama. He leads a ministry which aims to empower local church congregations to support those working through issues of homosexuality and relational conflict. Mike can be contacted on info@core-issues.org



Dr Paul Miller
MD BCh BAO DMH (Belfast)
MRCPSych

Paul has worked in both General Adult and Old Age Psychiatry since he qualified, both within the NHS and in the private sector. His special interests include trauma work and sexuality and gender. He is also an experienced EMDR consultant and facilitator. Paul is UK & Ireland regional representative for the International Federation for Therapeutic Choice (IFTC). He is Director of ABEO an organisation of like minded professionals seeking to support individuals wanting the best in their lives through personal change. Paul can be contacted on ABEO@hotmail.com

"...there is the need for those who have same sex attractions to grasp that it is not easy for those who wish to be genuinely caring yet maintain Biblical integrity without giving the impression that in doing so they are rejecting the person..."

[Presbyterian Church, Ireland. Board of Social Witness, Social Issues and Resources Panel Pastoral guidelines: - Homosexuality March 2007]

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Venue:

Ballynahinch Baptist Church
24 Lisburn Rd
Ballynahinch, BT24 8BL

Cost: freewill offering

Please register your intention to attend by emailing both:

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Dr Paul Miller: abeo@hotmail.co.uk

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