



Innovations in Counseling: Working with Minority Populations- Part 5

Session 4: History, the Bible, and Counselors Helping LGBT Clients

Webinar Follow-up Question and Answer Session with Dr. David Ford

Question from Ayoka Clifford

Excellent point to take into context the era when the bible was written. How would you communicate that to a client without minimizing the connects they are making?

Answer from Presenter

First, I would ask the client about his/her own relationship with their Higher Power and how he/she makes meaning out of that relationship and what is in The Bible. I would also find out how the client makes meaning out of his/her relationship with his/her spiritual leader. I would make sure I am educated about the passages that marginalize homosexuality and passages that present a loving Higher Power. Using CBT to assist the client and seeing the importance in his/her relationship with his/her Higher Power, the messages he/she receives from his/her Higher Power, and the meaning he/she makes out of that relationship.

Question from Matthew Smith

What do you make of Lot's decision to hand over his daughters to the mob, ostensibly to be gang raped? (To say nothing of Lot later sleeping with his daughters a few chapters later in Genesis)?

Answer from Presenter

Well, I am no theologian, but I would imagine that Lot did not want to suffer the wrath of God if he let the members of the mob “know” the travelers. He did not see that he was sacrificing his daughters. He was having an Abraham/Isaac moment and using his daughters to please God. Doing so was in line with the patriarchy of that period and their view that women were possessions.

Question from Kerry Kelly

What does he think about the fact that God doesn't make mistakes and being born as gay?

Answer from Presenter

I am no theologian, but that premise just means that God intended for that person to be gay. His/her sexuality is not a mistake.

Question from Peter Chirinos

David, what does the bible say about transgender and gender queer identities?

Answer from Presenter



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There is no mention of those identities in The Bible. There is no word for homosexuality in the ancient texts. The closest identity to transgender and/or genderqueer may be the Eunuchs, in my humble opinion.

Question from Peter Chirinos

Are there any therapeutic techniques that you have found have been helpful in helping clients who have been severely traumatized by religious structures like the Mormon church & Muslim faiths? I'm speaking specifically about BDT, Trauma informed CBT, EMDR, etc.

Answer from Presenter

I would integrate Trauma-informed CBT and Narrative Therapy with those clients.

Question from Peter Chirinos

Can you also speak about GLBT+ asylum seekers from persecution from their home country... what do therapists need to know about this clinical and social (global) issue?

Answer from Presenter

Therapists need to know historically how those societies view Queer identities and how the current climate is toward Queer identities. Therapists need to listen to the client's story, validate their experience, and be able to provide resources for affirming congregations or places of worship for the client.

Question from Valerie Latney

Is the question when we counseling more about sexuality or is the big picture about them and their love of GOD and that relationship and their belief in JESUS and what His Blood has done?

Answer from Presenter

With intersectionality, we cannot separate the parts, but deal with the whole. Our goal is to assist the client in integrating their intersections.

Question from Jessica Endres

Is your suggestion that "eunuch" could refer to a third gender or maybe sexual orientation? Could you provide some resources/references for the history of the term "eunuch" in the Bible or where there is discussion as the term as potentially signifying gender or sexual orientation?

Answer from Presenter

The "Eunuch" could be considered a separate identity under the Queer umbrella. Historically, they were men who were castrated while they were young (before the age of consent), some were born that way, and some because Eunuchs voluntarily. There is no allusion to them being a third gender or their sexual orientation. One



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can only speculate those intersections. One source is <https://www.compellingtruth.org/Bible-eunuch.html>. Another source is <https://www.gotquestions.org/eunuch-eunuchs.html>.

Question from Allen Vosburg

What is your feeling on self-disclosure of the counselor's beliefs and connecting with the client without becoming over involved?

Answer from Presenter

Self-disclosure should be used sparingly unless the client benefits. If the client will benefit from hearing your own story regarding your process integrating your spirituality with your sexuality, please share it, but be cautious about doing it as to not imply that your way was the best way.

Question from Teresa Barrios

I do I help my clients that are LGBT are being told by families they are gay because they have demons making them do this?

Answer from Presenter

I would check in with the meaning they make of those messages. I want to know how the client feels about himself/herself and provide messages of a loving God. Emphasize their own relationship with their Higher Power and how that relationship is important to them. As a Counselor, try not to demonize the family during the therapeutic process while not wanting your client to be harmed by being called demonic.

Question from Alexandra Maria Hillebrand-Voiculescu

Transgenders are people who changed their gender by surgical interventions. Is not this intervention contradicting the initial plan of the Superpower, of God?

Answer from Presenter

If we truly serve an all-wise God, He/She already knew the individual was going to engage in gender alignment surgery. For someone who is transgender, they are becoming more aligned with God's will.

Question from Alexandra Maria Hillebrand-Voiculescu

If during the intervention we highlight how God is loving us for what we are as persons, and that He had a plan with us, as he created us, does this mean that we contradict ourselves?

Answer from Presenter

I would be careful about doing that because you could be passing judgment and invalidating the client's identity and his/her relationship with a Higher Power. Only the client can tell you God's plan for his/her life.



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Question from Stephanie Fedor-Joseph

Is there a website to refer gay clients to read about the biblical interpretations that affirm and encourage? I have an African American gay client whose father is a minister and forces her to prayer an hour a day to turn away from her "evil" lifestyle. They think I'm misinformed because I'm not a minister, so I need other resources.

Answer from Presenter

Try <https://www.gaychurch.org/homosexuality-and-the-bible/the-bible-christianity-and-homosexuality/>.

Question from Angela Pencoske

Do you have any reading recommendations for books that explain bible passages in their historical and cultural contexts?

Answer from Presenter

Some books include: *Same-Sex Attraction and the Church* by Ed Shaw, *What Does the Bible Really Teach about Homosexuality* by Kevin DeYoung, *The Ambassador's Guide to Understanding Homosexuality* by Alan Shlemon, *Is God Anti-Gay?* by Sam Allberry, *People to Be Loved*, by Preston Sprinkle, *Loving My (LGBT) Neighbor* by Glenn Stanton, *Love Into Light* by Peter Hubbard, *Compassion Without Compromise* by Adam Barr, *The Gay Gospel?* by Joe Dallas, and *UnClobber: Rethinking our Misuse of the Bible on Homosexuality* by Colby Martin.

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