

## **The Script: Understanding and Responding to the Five Key Assumptions of the LGBT+ Movement**

Gender issues and a proper response to the LGBT+ movement are key challenges facing evangelical leaders today. If you have not yet encountered this challenge in your church or organization, it is probably coming soon. What most believers don't realize is that there is a classic "script" that is followed in the media and contemporary culture with regard to gender issues. Unless you are aware of, and able to respond to the entire "script", your answer to these challenges will most likely be inadequate and misunderstood. In this seminar we will unpack the the five key assumptions of this powerful LGBT script and equip you with an alternative script from God's Word so you are "always prepared to give an answer... for the hope that you have." (1 Pet 3:15).

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### **A. Five common positions on LGBT+ held by Christians**

1. Condemnation - Homosexuals and transsexuals are an abomination to God. Their agenda must be refused and opposed.
2. Repair – The LGBT community should be engaged and helped. Sanctification is defined as the path of orientation change.
3. Redemption – a call to purity and becoming more like Christ irregardless of a change in orientation.
4. Same sex marriage – homosexual relationships are pure for a believer within the boundaries of marriage and fidelity to your spouse.
5. Supplementation or correction – the assumptions of Paul and other biblical writers was bound by the gender understanding of their day and need to be either supplemented or corrected by 21<sup>st</sup> century understandings. This position allows loving and consensual same sex behavior to be practiced by believers.

Sometimes these positions are divided into one of these sets of categories

1. Affirming/ Non- affirming
2. Side A, Side B
3. Affirming/ Traditional

### **B. What is the typical viewpoint of non-Christians about LBTG+ orientation?**

#### **The "Script"**

1. Same-sex attractions naturally occur for some and are an "intended by God" distinction in the way you were made.
2. Same-sex attractions are at the core of who you are as a person
3. Same-sex behavior is an extension of that core

4. Authentically living out your sexual identity (behavior that matches who you really are) is crucial for your fulfillment.
5. To deny you this right is unloving and immoral

### **C. The four moves for a faithful response**

1. Think Humanly
2. Think Theologically
3. Think Biblically
4. Think Incarnationally

#### **1. Think humanly**

Listen to the voice of this generation:

“I was physically, mentally, verbally and emotionally assaulted on a daily basis. I was told that the very essence of my being was unacceptable. I had nowhere safe to go.” Eric Borges, raised in a conservative Christian home, committed suicide in 2012 at age 19.<sup>i</sup>

“My dad would later tell me the day I came out to him was the worst day of his life. His sister had passed away the year before; his father years earlier. But the day I said “Dad, I’m gay” was the worst day of his life.” Matthew<sup>ii</sup>

“I wanted to be a boy. Change the name, live from the new identity, Be a boy, not a girl. That’s what I wanted.” Melissa<sup>iii</sup>

How do you emotionally or verbally respond?

As believers we should not be...

Shocked by sin

Disgusted with people

Unmoved by other’s pain<sup>iv</sup>

## 2. Think Theologically

So God created man in his own image,  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.

Genesis 1:27

Who is God?

1. The Creator – Gen 1:1, 1:27, Rom 9:20
2. Good – Psalm 119:68
3. Sovereign – Isaiah 46:10, Isaiah 45:9-10
4. Loving – I John 4:7-21

Who are humans?

1. Created in the image of God – which carries great value – Gen 1:26
2. Created humans as Male and Female – Gen 3:27, Mark 10:2-9
3. Fallen – Romans 3:23, Jeremiah 17:9
4. Able to be redeemed and restored through repentance and faith in the work of Christ – John 10:10, Col 1:12-14, 20-22

What is God intention for Marriage?

1. A helper suitable (opposite) – Gen 1:18  
Ke – like  
Neged – opposite  
  
Kenedgo – suitable
2. Between a Man and a Woman – Gen 1:22-23
3. Results in a one flesh union – Gen 1:23
4. Creates family and offspring – Gen 1:28

At a Grand Rounds presentation in May sponsored by the Women's Behavioral Health Division of Yale School of Medicine's Department of Psychiatry, Dr. Page traced the origin of the human X and Y chromosomes that determine each individual's sex

Page argued that there are intrinsic biochemical differences between XX and XY cells that affect tissues and organs across the entire body and have a significant impact independent of sex hormones. And medical practitioners must understand these differences to properly treat their patients.

Because there are no obvious anatomical distinctions accounting for these and many other differences, Page urges researchers to examine how XX and XY cells work differently throughout the body.

“Those cells know at a fundamental level whether they are XX or XY,” he said, arguing the state of our current molecular knowledge of sex differences is the equivalent of the knowledge of anatomy in the 16th century. <sup>v</sup>

### 3. Think Biblically

There are 6 passages in the bible that speak directly about homosexuality

1. Gen 19:1-13, Jude 1:6-7
2. Lev 18:22
3. Lev 20:13
4. Rom 1:26-27
5. I Cor 6:9-11
6. I Tim 1:8-11

**In summary**, the Bible is clear that it is against God's design to enter into sexual relationship with your same gender, or actively live out a different gender identity than the one you were born with.

### 4. Think Incarnationally

The Bible teaches that homosexual behavior is sinful and not pleasing to God. How can this be good news to someone experiencing same sex attraction or gender dysphoria?

**Your main message** – the danger of “the great exchange”

*“Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they **exchanged the truth about God for a lie...**”*  
*Romans 1:24-25*

When you trade truth for a lie **you lose twice**.

First you **lose the truth** because you have left it

And eventually **you lose the lie** because it is an illusion, a copy, a fake

Truth by nature is **reality, full of substance, and life-giving**

Lies by nature are an **illusion, without substance, and life-taking**

Gravity exists without regard for my feelings or opinions. I will pay the price if I don't adjust my opinion to its true nature.

Your good news may save them from “the great exchange”.

## The Six “Big Ideas”

1. Gender is not something we chose but something that we receive. Every cell of your body is marked with gender and behaves in a way that reflects its nature as XX or XY, male or female.
2. Orientation is something we experience. Because of a wide range of factors that are not fully understood some people experience attraction to their same sex, or feel that they are a different gender than the one they were born with. Most do not sense they have chosen this orientation, but rather, it has chosen them.
3. It is against God’s design to enter into sexual relationships with your same gender, or actively live out a different gender identity than the one you were born with.
4. This is because God is good and does not want you to be robbed by exchanging reality for illusion, or the truth for a lie. It may temporarily satisfy, but like anything that is counterfeit, you will ultimately lose and be disappointed.
5. God can use both your desire and your struggle for his glory and your benefit if you submit to him and follow his Word.
6. This may or may not mean your desires change, but you will find that “every disability conceals a vocation, if only you can find it...” The one who loses his life for Christ’s sake is the one who will truly find life.

## Seven ways to deliver God’s “good news”

1. **Lead with love – I John 3:11-24**
2. **Be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry – James 1:19**
3. **Believe that God’s way is the best, even if it sometimes doesn’t look or feel that way.**

*Proverbs 14:12*

*Matt 16:24-26*

*Matthew 13:44-46*

4. **Elevate the path of celibacy and the calling that can be found in what appears to be disability.**

*Matt 19:12*

*I Cor 7:32-25*

“I take it for certain that the *physical* satisfaction of homosexual desires is sin. This leaves the homosexual no worse off than any normal person who is, for whatever reason, prevented from marrying ... our speculations on the cause of the abnormality are not what matters and we must be content with ignorance. The disciples were not told *why* (in terms of efficient cause) the man was born blind (John 9:1-3): only the final cause, that the works of God should be made manifest in him. This suggests that in homosexuality, as in every other tribulation, those works can be made manifest: i.e. that every disability conceals a vocation, if only we can find it...”<sup>vi</sup> C.S. Lewis

**5. Help believers find their deepest identity in Christ and understand the distinction between desires, actions, and identity.**

**a. Same-sex attraction**

Three tiers:

1. Same-sex attraction
2. Homosexual orientation
3. Gay identity

James 1:14-15 – desire in and of itself is not sin.

In the 70s, the average age of labeling oneself as gay was 20 years old. Today the average is about 15.

**b. Gender dysphoria**

Most children who meet criteria for Gender Dysphoria do not continue to meet criteria as they grow up and enter adolescence. According to the DSM-5, in most cases Gender Dysphoria desists over time as children enter into adolescence.

**6. Actively cultivate authentic Christian community**

In the LGBT community there are 11% more former Christians than in general society

When they asked him “Would you want to go back to the Church if it were possible?” More than 50% said yes.

Do you want the church you go back to be liberal? 90% said we don’t expect that. We just want them to be loving.

**7. Understand your vulnerabilities and “make no provision for the flesh.” This includes proper boundaries, disciplined thought life, and not engaging in visual lust through pictures or pornography.**

Romans 13:14  
2 Tim 2:22  
Matt 5:28  
Job 31:1

“You must fight through and not believe the lies, then do the more work of believing the truth – that his love alone is enough. For today, seeking his presence helps me feel the love and joy my soul has always hungered for. No gay or straight relationship has ever brought anything close to that.”<sup>vii</sup> Melissa Fisher

“We declare something is more valuable than the kind of romantic love and sex we naturally long for. We show that he who is willing to lose his life for Jesus will truly find it, while the one who desperately clings to his life as he understands and values it will lose it. We declare that Jesus Christ is absolutely and sublimely worthy and worth it. Our lives are beautiful illustrations of what it is like to faithfully follow Jesus. Believing that he is good and we will not regret obeying him.” Johanna Finegan<sup>viii</sup>

“A theological fact that we are broken on various levels and that does not preclude us from following Christ. Where does this handicap point me towards? Every handicap hides its specific calling. I can try to change, or can focus on what I can do thanks to the situation God placed me in. For me, God has opened the way to deep relationships that are satisfying and time and energy to focus on things I couldn’t. It was not always true, but today I am thankful that he made me this way.” Petr

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<sup>i</sup> Eric James Borges, “It Gets Better,” YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INWhEIaCFkg>

<sup>ii</sup> God and the Gay Christian, Matthew Vines, Convergent books

<sup>iii</sup> The Way of Hope, A Fresh Perspective on Sexual Identity, Same-Sex Marriage, and the Church, Melissa Fisher

<sup>iv</sup> Posture Shift, A missional Model for LGBT+ Inclusion and Care, Bill Henson

<sup>v</sup> <https://medicine.yale.edu/ycci/news/article.aspx?id=13321>

<sup>vi</sup> A Severe Mercy, CS Lewis, Harper and Row

<sup>vii</sup> The Way of Hope: A Fresh Perspective on Sexual Identity, Same-Sex Marriage, and the Church, Melissa Fisher, Baker books, 2017

<sup>viii</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FG0fev-WtQE>