

PBBA Equip Ministry | The <45 Project

Toolbox 2 – Ministering in a Sexually Confused Culture

Project Summary | A group of PBBA pastors, age 45 and under, gathered in the Spring of 2022 to identify challenges and trends they see facing the church and to then discuss how best to implement a response that can shape the next 25 years. To develop a response, their minds were set to biblical faithfulness, their heart to Kingdom collaboration. After identifying these challenges, seven in all, this series of ministry tools emerged to aid pastors and churches.

Introduction of Topic | Cracks in the foundation of American civilization appear to be increasing. One may look no further than the confusion on gender and sexuality for evidence to this claim. The emergence of a distinction between gender and sexuality is an example. The nature of humanity (e.g., what is a man and woman) has been a commonly understood throughout all recorded history, across every society and culture. While disagreements have existed as to how men and women function in society (e.g., basic goodness or evil, their role and value), a shared understanding of gender and sex has existed. However, the last 50 years of American society has seen the role of sexuality become the primary shaper of culture, affecting every segment of society, from clothing to marketing for food. An increased sexualized culture then gave way to a highly homosexualized culture, setting the stage for a culture that embraces the broke thinking of transgender ideology (e.g., normalizing a dysphoria). The discussion, and its related confusion, has followed the “given over to” path outlined out in the first chapter of Romans. After much discussion, the <45 Cohort seeks to serve pastors and churches with the guidance below for ministering within such a sexually confused culture.

Tools |

Embracing the sufficiency of Scripture: As the culture is rapidly changing, including the moral landscape, a tendency can emerge to give inordinate amount of time looking for new tools to deal with emerging problems. The pervasiveness of these cultural changes can foster urgency within the minister, perhaps even anxiety. But it should not.

The Bible is the timeless word of God and is sufficient to address items that, though they appear to us as new, have in fact long existed (e.g., “there is nothing new under the sun.” Ecclesiastes 1:9). As God is *above* time (transcendent), His Word is sufficient to address all matters that occur *within* time (immanent), including matters that arise within a sexually confused culture. Thus, solely embracing new missiological tools, while setting aside the timeless, inspired, and sufficient scriptures, will only address surface-level confusion within the culture while ignoring foundational causes. It is incumbent upon the minister to recommit himself to “contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints” (Jude 1:3), resting upon the word of God as sufficient. Trusting in the sufficiency of scripture when addressing a sexually confused culture will provide the foundational resource and guidance needed for the minister, in both substance, tone, emotion, and extending both to evangelism and discipleship.

Recommended Resources:

- [The Sufficiency of Scripture – An Essay by Matthew Barrett](#)
- [What is the Sufficiency of Scripture – An article by Don Stewart](#)

Referencing supplemental resources: Numerous Christian thinkers and theologians, those who “know the times” (1 Chronicles 12:32), have taken prayerful care to listen to the present cultural conversation, albeit often confusing, and then to put forth a biblical hermeneutic as a service to the minister, the Christ follower, and even the confused inquirer. It is recommended that the minister, in addition to His rightly handling the word of the sufficient word of God, leverage such resources to shape the overall ministry of the church (e.g., statements of faith) as well as to guide strategic ministry and evangelism efforts.

- [God and the Transgender Debate](#) (A book by Andrew Walker)
- [The New Reformation Catechism on Human Sexuality](#) (A booklet by Christopher J. Gordon)
- [The Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood](#)
 - [The Nashville Statement](#) (A supplemental statement of faith)
 - [The Danvers Statement](#) (A supplemental statement of faith)
- [How to talk to your kids about Pride Month and sexuality](#) (An article by Krissie Inserra)
- [Sexuality, Religious Liberty, and Cultural Engagement](#) (An ERLC podcast by Andrew Walker)
- [Suggestions for addressing LGBTQ issues in your youth ministry](#) (An article by Mike McGarry)
- [What God Has to Say About Our Bodies](#) (A book by Sam Allbery)
- [Gender: A Conversation Guide for Parents and Pastors](#) (A book by Seagrave and Leavine)
- [Transgender: Talking Points](#) (A book by Vaughn Roberts)
- [The Genesis of Gender: A Christian Theory](#) (A book by Abigail Favale)