



## In HIS Image:

### Navigating Christian Sexuality in a Post-Christian Culture

With the legal redefinition of marriage, the confusion regarding gender, and rapidly changing sexual mores in society, biblical educators, pastors, singles, couples, and parents are looking for guidance in articulating and promoting a positive view of the Christian vision for marriage and sexuality. *Our goal is to equip people with tools to speak constructively and to live confidently amid the current confusion.*

DOXOLOGY has received a grant from the Office of National Mission of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to provide **In HIS Image** free of charge when at least 50 participants are registered to attend.

There are several topics available that work well for a general audience, for pastors, or for educators.

## Topics

### **A Clear Look at the Landscape of Sexuality**

For each individual with same sex attraction who cohabits, or comes out, a parent, sibling, spouse, or child must respond to new realities. Parents who learn about transgender contagion in their children's school will reel in disbelief, family relationships are often tested mightily, and family members endeavor to respond wisely to the person they love. This presentation will help us understand how we as a culture got to this difficult place – and will outline what each of us can DO to respond in healthy and God-pleasing ways. Recommended for public or pastor presentations. (Yahnke)

### **Caring for the Child who Identifies as Transgender: Understanding the Big Picture**

Let's break all the rules, shall we? Let's talk about politics, religion and sex. We'll review competing perspectives, recommendations and action plans regarding how to care for transgender children. Session offers a candid view of biology, gender dysphoria, myths/realities and examines what care/despair looks like for child, parent school and church. Recommended for pastors, teachers, school boards, and anyone who loves children. (Yahnke)

### **Christian Counsel for Families of Individuals with Same Sex Attraction**

For each individual with same sex attraction who comes out, a parent, sibling, spouse or child must respond to new realities. Relationships are often tested mightily as family members endeavor to respond compassionately and wisely to the person they love. This presentation will be helpful in supporting parents in providing a Christian response to LGB children and teens. (Yahnke)

### **Classroom Strategies and Necessities: Tactical and Practical**

What shall we do and what shall we say? Talking with students about matters of sexuality and responding to classroom guidelines is one of the Christian teacher's great opportunities and significant challenges. This presentation will explore helpful necessities for the teacher working with the entire class, as well as for the teacher working with the transgender student. Hands on conversations with case studies provided. (Yahnke)

### **GPS Essentials for Travel Through Demanding Conversations**

Maintaining relationships throughout a conversational minefield is one of the things that most of us must confront whether we are pastors, principals or teachers. We've all responded to angry or challenging parents, students, or colleagues. Unfortunately, we don't always navigate with the confidence and tools that could be most helpful. This presentation will take a careful look at the anatomy of difficult conversations, outlining personal strategies for maintaining control, respect and reducing our own anxieties- while working towards the best possible outcomes for the student, parent, parishioner or colleague. (Yahnke)

### **Making Referrals with Confidence**

This session will focus primarily upon providing useful tools to help pastors and teachers identify the circumstances that merit referral. Sometimes it is difficult to know if referral is appropriate. Then one always has the worry regarding how a referral may be received. Referrals can emerge from the classroom, conversation with a colleague, crisis pastoral counseling or from routine spiritual care conversations. Not all crisis counseling results in referral and not all spiritual care conversation results in referral. Useful strategies will be provided. Consideration of referrals for gender dysphoria and transgenderism is included. (Yahnke)

### **Mental Health and the Church**

Sometimes it's very useful to set the scene for a broader conversation about specific mental health issues, with an engaging PowerPoint opening. You've heard the observations, "He's stopped coming to church. She's so nervous around others. He's "depressed-out-of-his-mind." Their daughter is "borderline". How can the church and school respond to help - one person and one church at a time? Clinical and spiritually informed action plans to take home and implement with confidence. (Yahnke)

### **The Christian Worldview and Sexuality**

Christians benefit enormously when they can talk confidently about the topic of human sexuality from the perspective of a Christian world view as opposed to the culture's toxic representation of sex. The presentation explores biblical teachings on sexuality, including God's design for sex within the context of marriage, the importance of chastity and the importance of treating one's body with respect, honoring the sanctity of sex in marriage. The role of forgiveness, grace and healthy boundaries is also discussed. Recommended for laity and teachers. (Fleming)

### **Light in the Darkness: Christian Responses to Conflict in a Sexually Toxic Culture**

The culture is much at work to promote and perpetuate unhealthy sexual behaviors, causing polarization, enmity and conflict. It's essential to learn how to manage conflict, to lead with wisdom and to be confident and long-suffering instead of quick-tempered. But we need to look beneath the surface to realize that spiritual warfare is involved in this battle. Ultimately Christians are to ground their joy, confidence and conscience in the judgment of Christ. Recommended for laity, teachers, and pastors. (Fleming)

### **Pastoral Care for Those Who Cohabit**

Every pastor is challenged by couples who cohabit. The nature of this public sin afflicts the consciences of those engaging in this outward act of inward sin, as well as the consciences of parents, grandparents church members, congregational leaders and the pastor, as well. Consciences are burdened and there is need to confront worldly wisdom with confident Christian invitation to a "more excellent way". Recommended for pastors. (Fleming)

### **Spiritual Care for LGBT Souls**

Pastors will explore the foundations of spiritual assessment and diagnosis to providing care for the soul. When LGBT individuals seek spiritual care, pastors will have increased confidence as they invite individuals into what can be a challenging spiritual care conversation. It is incumbent upon pastors to find a way to profitably have a conversation with those not like us that helps them to see Jesus. This presentation will provide insights into the way St. Paul spoke profitably to a culture like ours, that pointed them to Jesus' more excellent way. Recommended for pastors. (Wurm or Fleming)

### **Pastoral Support for Families of LGBT Children**

The need to support families of LGBTQ+ children has become increasingly clear to pastors. This presentation explores how it is that pastors and parishes may be able to become places of refuge and support for family members. This presentation will include resources that have been used effectively to create Christian support groups for family members. Recommended for pastors. (Wurm or Fleming)

## Sample Schedules

There are variety of ways In HIS Image conferences may be structured. Two of the most popular options are a one-day conference for all to attend, or a two-day event with separate conferences for teachers, for pastors, and for the public.

### One-Day Conference

*Typically for a congregation or school to host for a public audience.*

- 8:30 Registration
- 9:00 Prayer Office
- 9:45 Christian Worldview and Sexuality
- 10:45 Break
- 11:00 Caring for the Child who Identifies as Transgender
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 Light in the Darkness: Christian Responses to Conflict in a Sexually Toxic Culture
- 2:00 Break
- 2:30 GPS Essentials for Traveling through Difficult Conversations
- 3:30 Q&A
- 3:45 Closing Prayer Office
- 4:15 Departure

### Two-Day Conference

*Typically for a school or congregation to host for three separate audiences (Pastor, Public, Educators).*

#### Day One (Pastors)

- 1:00 Prayer Office
- 1:30 Pastoral Care for Those Who Cohabit
- 2:30 Break
- 2:45 GPS Essentials for Traveling through Difficult Conversations
- 3:45 Break
- 4:00 Pastoral Support for Families of LGBT Children
- 5:00 Closing Prayer Office

#### Evening of Day One (Public)

- 6:30 Opening Prayer
- 6:35 The Christian Worldview and Sexuality
- 7:30 Caring for the Child who Identifies as Transgender
- 8:45 Closing Prayer Office

#### Day Two (Educators)

- 8:30 Registration
- 9:00 Prayer Office
- 9:30 The Christian Worldview and Sexuality
- 10:30 Break
- 10:45 Caring for the Child who Identifies as Transgender
- 11:45 Lunch
- 12:45 Classroom Strategies and Necessities: Tactical and Practical
- 1:45 Break
- 2:00 Light in the Darkness: Christian Responses to Conflict in a Sexually Toxic Culture
- 3:00 Q&A
- 3:30 Closing Prayer

## Presenters



**Rev. David Fleming** is DOXOLOGY's Executive Director for Spiritual Care. He also remains part-time as Associate Pastor at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids, MI, where he has served as Senior Pastor from 1993-2019. He is a 1986 graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN. He serves on the Concordia University Wisconsin Board of Regents. Pastor Fleming is an often-requested presenter for district and regional conferences, Lutheran Worship conferences and has served missionaries and pastors throughout the US and the world. He has authored a variety of articles and the Concordia Publishing House Advent resource, "God Loves me Dearly." Fleming and his wife, Jo Marie, nee Wunderlich, have three children and several grandchildren.

**Dr. Beverly K. Yahnke** is a clinical psychologist serving as the Executive Director of Christian Counsel for DOXOLOGY. During her 25 years in private clinical practice, she provided care for church workers and their families. She has also served as Department Chair and Professor of Psychology at Concordia University Wisconsin where she was named "Faculty Laureate". Most recently, her work with DOXOLOGY has focused on providing pastors, teachers, and church workers with opportunities for renewal and advanced training. Dr. Yahnke has written numerous articles about psychology, education, and faith, and is a frequently invited speaker for clergy and educator conferences. She also serves on the Board of Regents of Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

## Contact

For more information or to schedule an **In HIS Image** conference please contact:

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