

Foreword

To Two Papers on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Issues

In the average church, regardless of denomination, there tends to be a 'holy quietness' about things sexual. As one blunt preacher said, "this is behaving as if we are holier than the God who created our capacity for sexual intimacy".

Trends within and without the church have forced us to be more deliberate in providing guidance on things sexual. Among these are the almost frequent sexual sins/crimes of church folk including leaders, and the advocacy of persons who don't agree with the church's beliefs on things sexual. Specifically, in the modern world no responsible church can be silent on the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) revolution.

As Baptists, we would like to see ourselves as responsible and so, in the two papers which follow we consider LGBT Issues from (a) Clinical and Biblical Perspectives and (b) Pastoral Perspectives. In so doing we attempt to provide valuable information for your reflection individually and your corporate or small group discussions. Our overall aim is to prompt maturity in ideas and encourage sensitive and Christian responses in ministering to persons of the LGBT orientation.