Pastoral Training Guide

Summary of Content (234 words)

Understanding Gender Identity Confusion and Transsexualism is a tool that equips pastors and other church staff to address these issues in their congregations and to minister more effectively to those who struggle with these issues.

The 37-slide PowerPoint presentation covers a variety of topics, including these:

* Definitions of terms such as gender identity and transsexualism. Clear distinctions are drawn between transsexualism and other sexual behaviors such as transvestism, fetishism, and intersexuality.
* Insight on society’s role in influencing how people view and express gender roles. Several real-life examples explore what is happening in schools, universities, and government agencies.
* The dangers and ineffectiveness of Sex Reassignment Surgery, which may lead to suicidal thoughts or actions
* A biblical perspective on the source of gender identity confusion and other sexual issues
* Common factors that promote transgender feelings and desires in both females desiring to be male (f to m) and males desiring to be female (m to f)
* Patterns of behavior and cycles of addictive behavior in transsexuals
* Biblical guidelines on how to avoid these destructive behaviors and how to move toward healing

The presentation ends with a call to commitment and an affirmation of hope. Everyone—those struggling with these issues and anyone who desires to part of the solution—needs to understand the long-term commitment this kind of healing requires. And everyone involved also needs to grab hold of the hope that God is the healer of all wounds.