

Editorial
“HE HAS MADE US AND WE ARE HIS”
Dr. Greg E. Gifford¹

Welcome to the Spring 2023 volume of *The Journal for Biblical Soul Care* (JBSC). The following articles are a product of the ACBC Colloquium that was held in the summer of 2022. The colloquium was an invitation-only event where experts were invited to present on the topic of human sexuality and the varying facets that are connected to human sexuality—legal, worldview, medical, ethical, and, of course, biblical. Leading authors, researchers, medical doctors, and ethicists attended this colloquium at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary to read their paper and field questions and feedback about their paper. It was a personal honor to be present for the colloquium.

This JBSC is a compilation of the papers presented at the ACBC Colloquium in 2022. Dale Johnson has written on the degradation of society to not only desire tolerance with transgenderism but to attack the church for acceptance of transgenderism. This trend rapidly is affecting just about all of society, but counseling is in the crosshairs of cultural sexual activists. Dr. Johnson is forecasting and predicting. Is it possible that “attack” is the best term to use? This article will answer that.

Although not present, Heath Lambert submitted a paper regarding “Biblical Counseling and Heterosexuality” in which he argues that general heterosexuality is not the goal of the Bible in sanctification, or biblical counseling for that matter. Dr. Lambert’s statements are somewhat controversial, as he acknowledges, because

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he is arguing that all sexual desire is to be reserved for one's spouse. This provides a new and unique perspective to the goal of biblical counseling, rendering it palpably different from reparative therapy.

A newer voice to ACBC, Evan Lenow presented on "Biblical Sexuality and Transgender Sin." Evan argues that transgenderism is sinful, but sinful specifically because it is disordering God's good design in the human anatomy. Dr. Lenow walks us through God's plans as demonstrated in created order and then the way our theological and philosophical commitments should honor our physiological commitments. Moreover, physiological conversations about transgenderism are good and honoring to the Lord.

Daniel Dionne's article provides a medical doctor's perspective of transgenderism surgeries in "A Biblical Approach to the Transgender Movement: First, Do No Harm." He highlights the dangers and the irreparable effects of transitioning on a person's body. "It's not transitioning, but transformation that a person needs," Dr. Dionne claims. It is a much-needed call to understand the vastly dangerous impacts to a person's health that the transgender movement proposes.

Lastly, Todd Sorrell has presented some of the legal implications of the transgender movement. Todd highlights legislative attacked spear-headed by transgenderism and forecasts the potential risks of biblical counseling in such an environment. Todd is an attorney and biblical counselor and professor—a rare triad of skills. His arguments are striking and should prompt both discussion and strong consideration of the potential ramifications of corrupt legislation.

I commend these articles to you in two ways: first, I want you to chew on the thesis and content of each article. Discern, read, analyze, fact check each of these articles. There were private discussions at the colloquium of the strengths and weaknesses of the articles and I hope you would read with the same eye. Lastly, I commend these to you and invite a response. We openly invite responses to a published article. Let your question—or objection—prompt you to write a thoughtful and biblical response to these articles or the ideas presented in any of them. We, as the JBSC editorial staff, welcome your feedback for the sake of growing in excellence.

You can anticipate our next publication in the Fall of this year. Through ACBC's investment, the JBSC has now found a platform, editorial staff, and a greater audience. I look forward to offering more articles then.