

Ministering to Everyone

Inclusivity of Different Lifestyles

CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM

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Definitions

THE ACRONYM LGBTIQA STANDS FOR:

- **L** – lesbians *female sexual or romantic attraction to another female*
- **G** – gays *male sexual or romantic attraction to another male*
- **B** – bisexuals *sexual or romantic attraction to both genders*
- **T** – transgender people *a biological male or female who feels they are born in the wrong body*
- **I** – intersex people *a person who was born with tissues of both genitals*
- **Q** – queer and questioning people *Not sure*
- **A** – asexual people and allies *No sexual attraction to anyone*
- **H** – heterosexuals *Attraction to someone of the opposite sex*



SEXUAL ORIENTATION

It is romantic and sexual attraction to people of the opposite sex, of the same sex, or to both. It is commonly accepted that people may have one of the three sexual orientations . . .




SEXUAL ORIENTATION


1. Heterosexual orientation (straight people) - attraction to the opposite sex
2. Homosexual orientation (gays and lesbians) - attraction to the same sex
3. Bisexual orientation - attraction to both sexes

SEXUAL ORIENTATION MORE

1. Asexual orientation - attraction to neither sex;
2. Pansexual orientation - attraction to all the sexes (including attraction to transgender and intersex people);
3. Polysexual orientation - attraction to many sexes, but not to all.



“People whose sexual orientation does not perfectly fit into straight, gay/lesbian, or bi sometimes consider themselves *queer*.”



“Many asexual people consider asexuality as the fourth sexual orientation - attraction to neither sex. However, asexual people are not a homogeneous group and there are many diversity among asexual people themselves. Some asexual people do not have any romantic and sexual attraction at all while some of them have only romantic relationships without sex.”



ROMANTIC ORIENTATIONS:

- *Aromantic*: lack of romantic attraction towards anyone
- *Biromantic*: romantic attraction towards males and females
- *Heteroromantic*: romantic attraction towards person(s) of a different gender



ROMANTIC ORIENTATIONS:

- *Homoromantic*: romantic attraction towards person(s) of the same gender
- *Panromantic*: romantic attraction towards person(s) of every gender
- *Polyromantic*: romantic attraction towards multiple, but not all, genders



GENDER

“The state of being male or female (typically used with reference to social and cultural differences rather than biological ones)”



GENDER IDENTITY

It is how a person feels of themselves: whether he or she is a man, a woman, both, or neither. Here, there is a difference between sex and gender. Sex is biological, gender is psychological.



GENDER IDENTITY

Person's gender and gender identity are related. Gender identity may or may not match a person's biological sex.



TRANSGENDER

“For transgender people, the sex they were assigned at birth and their own internal gender identity do not match.”



Dr. Edrica Richardson

“Transgenders are not homosexuals by definition. Transgender persons feel they are psychologically born in the wrong body. Yet they are fully biologically male or female.”

QUEER / QUESTIONING

“The “Q” can stand for **Questioning** and/or **Queer**. Questioning refers to individuals who are unsure of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity. Queer is an umbrella term encompassing a variety of sexual orientations and gender identities excluding heterosexuality.”



TRANSVESTITE

The Wikipedia Online Dictionary states that a transvestite is a “person who sometimes wears clothes traditionally worn by and associated with the opposite sex; typically a male who cross-dresses occasionally by habit or compulsion.”



INTERSEX

“Intersex” is a general term used for a variety of conditions in which a person is born with a reproductive or sexual anatomy that doesn't seem to fit the typical definitions of female or male.



INTERSEX

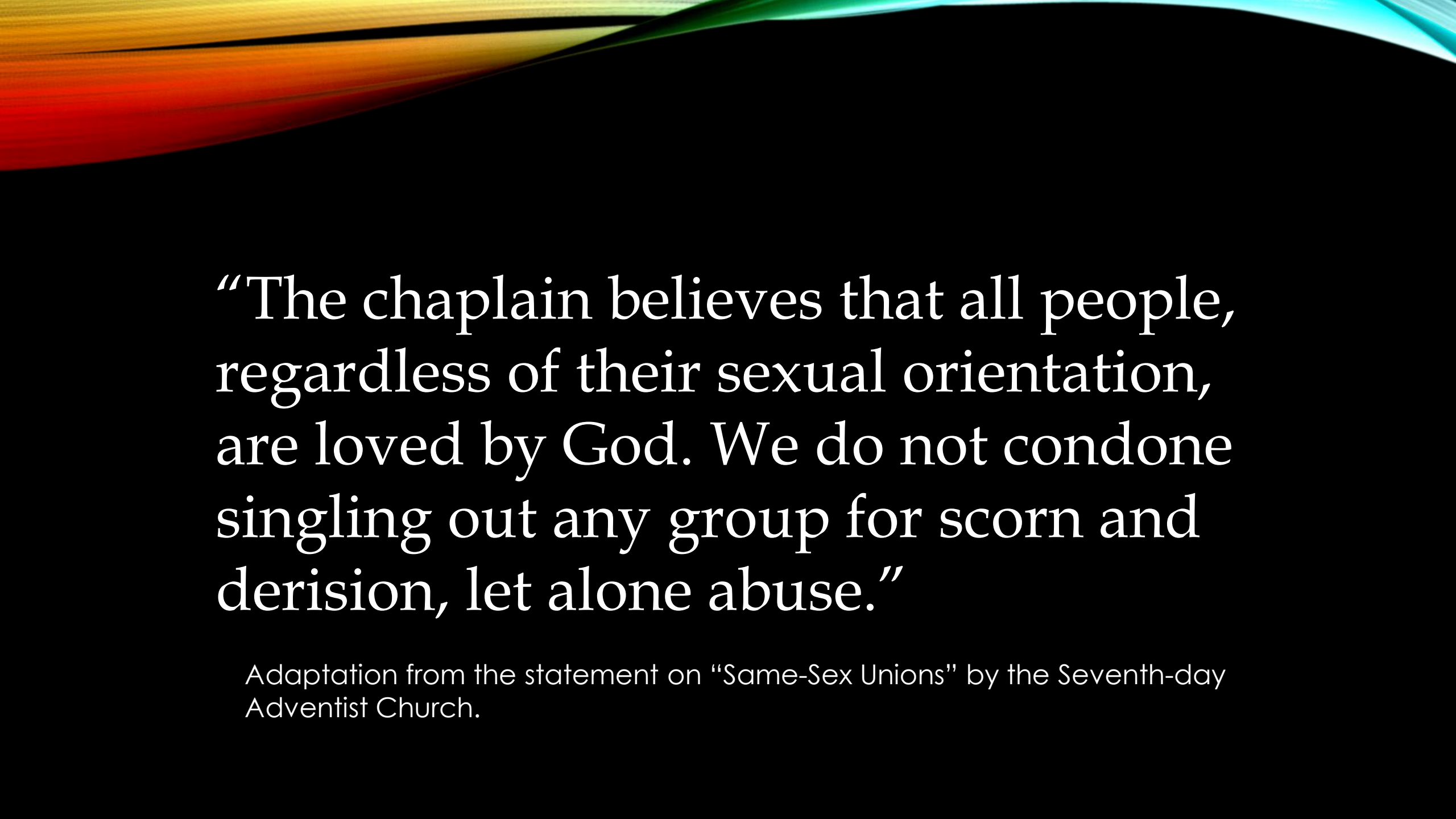
“Some people have physical characteristics (primarily and/or secondary) of both sexes. These conditions may include: chromosome disorders, atypical genitalia or reproductive organs, overproduction or underproduction of sex-related hormones. There are around 100 different intersex conditions.”

INTERSEX CAN BE DIVIDED INTO 4 CATEGORIES:

1. 46, XX intersex
2. 46, XY intersex
3. True gonadal intersex
4. Complex or undetermined intersex



Ministering to Everyone



“The chaplain believes that all people, regardless of their sexual orientation, are loved by God. We do not condone singling out any group for scorn and derision, let alone abuse.”

Adaptation from the statement on “Same-Sex Unions” by the Seventh-day Adventist Church.



IMPORTANT THEOLOGICAL POINT

Having homosexual tendencies,
orientation, or same sex attraction
dose not in itself make one a sinner.



HOW CAN WE DO THIS?

How can you minister effectively
to someone different than you are
if you feel you are better, more
superior, or privileged?



HOW CAN WE DO THIS?

You would need to move the
scales of superiority from
your heart and put on
humility.



“Technology and free speech are opening the floodgates of information. This is good. More people are feeling free to express themselves or their views openly. We must learn to live harmoniously with all of these individuals and views. This is a part of a pluralistic, free, democratic society.”



“The healing of our society is not by the removal of these individuals but instead embracing the difference among us. We do not have to “accept” or “agree” with the behaviors, but we can be civil and respect the rights of individuals. . .



... All human beings in The Bahamas have the right to be treated with respect, fairly, access to services, protection, free from harm and harassment.”



“Christians have a mandate to **love unconditionally**.
If there is anybody who should show unconditional
acceptance and unconditional love, it should be the
Christian.”



“The chaplain has a responsibility to minister with his or her eyes closed, seeing only with the heart and touching with no gloves on the hands.”



WHEN SOMEONE IS SICK OR IN PAIN:

You need to have a . . .

- Humble heart
- Listening ear
- Compassionate spirit
- Empathizing attitude
- Unconditional loving
- Unconditional acceptance



“The role of the chaplain is not to change the heart or life of the hurting one but to **comfort** him or her who is in emotional or physical pain.”




“The role of the chaplain is not to change the heart or life of the hurting one but to **listen to** his or her emotional or physical pain.”




“If your goal is to keep the person out of hell fire you will lose the opportunity to truly care for the persons.”

“I don’t need a sermon now. I need your touch. I need your unconditional love and acceptance. I need your compassion.”





Unfortunately, the way in which many spiritual leaders teach Biblical theology and the Gospel results in many people becoming critical and judgmental of others instead of caring, loving, and accepting.



Avoid proselyting

The goal is **not** to “win” a convert to your own religious beliefs but to comfort, be an avenue for healing, and instill hope. When ministering to a homosexual, all biases, prejudices, assumptions and presuppositions must be cast out the window.



TECHNIQUES

Never use the word “sissy”
when referring to, or talking
about homosexuals.



TECHNIQUES

A chaplain loses his or her professional integrity when the word “sissy” is used.



MYTHS

SOME MYTHS

MYTH 1: All homosexuals are by default promiscuous. Note that heterosexuals and homosexuals are equally promiscuous.

MYTH 2: All homosexuals engage in multi-partner frivolity. Note that there are many homosexuals who are faithful to one partner—monogamous—life-long relationships.

MYTH 3: All homosexuals engage in anal sex. Research indicates that many homosexual detest the idea of anal sex.

MYTH 4: All homosexuals are drooling at every person of the same gender like dogs on heat; hence, never be alone in their presence. There are many homosexuals who, like heterosexuals to are descent, respectable people with great moral standing and restraint. They consider such behavior inappropriate.

SOME MYTHS

MYTH 5: Every homosexual have engaged in some kind of sexual escapade. It is important to know that there are some homosexual, like heterosexuals who are virgins and choose to remain that way.

MYTH 6: “Homosexuals have been accused of being unfit parents, more likely to be pedophiles, unable to sustain lasting relationships, and worse. But research shows these and other myths just aren't based in fact.” *LifeScience*

MYTH 6: Homosexual are pedophiles. “An especially pernicious myth is that most adults who sexually abuse children are gay. A number of researchers have looked at this question to determine if homosexuals are more likely to be pedophiles than heterosexuals, and the data indicate that's not the case.”
LifeScience

IMPORTANT

Do not let the debate of whether or not homosexuality is a choice prevent you, as a chaplain, to effectively minister to a loving child of God (homosexual and heterosexuals).

Note that research indicates that some homosexuals find it very, very, difficult to change. This is even after years of counseling, reparative therapy, or fasting and prayer.



IMPORTANT

Many choose to remain celibate and a virgin their entire life. Or may engage in a life-long monogamous relationship.



Some

Techniques

When ministering to homosexuals



TECHNIQUES

- Talk to the perceived “unusual” person the same way you talk to everyone else you consider to be “normal.”
- Stand in the same position. Be normal.
- Smile the same way
- Touch the same way
- Do not raise the topic of sexual orientation
- Assure the person of God’s grace
- Value the gift of silence

NEVER FORGET

Important Qualities

- Understanding
- Caring
- Unconditional acceptance
- Unconditional loving
- Compassion
- Courage
- Confidentiality
- Patience
- Empathy
- Sympathy
- Flexibility/ Adaptability
- Open-Mindedness
- Sensitivity



NEVER FORGET

Important Qualities

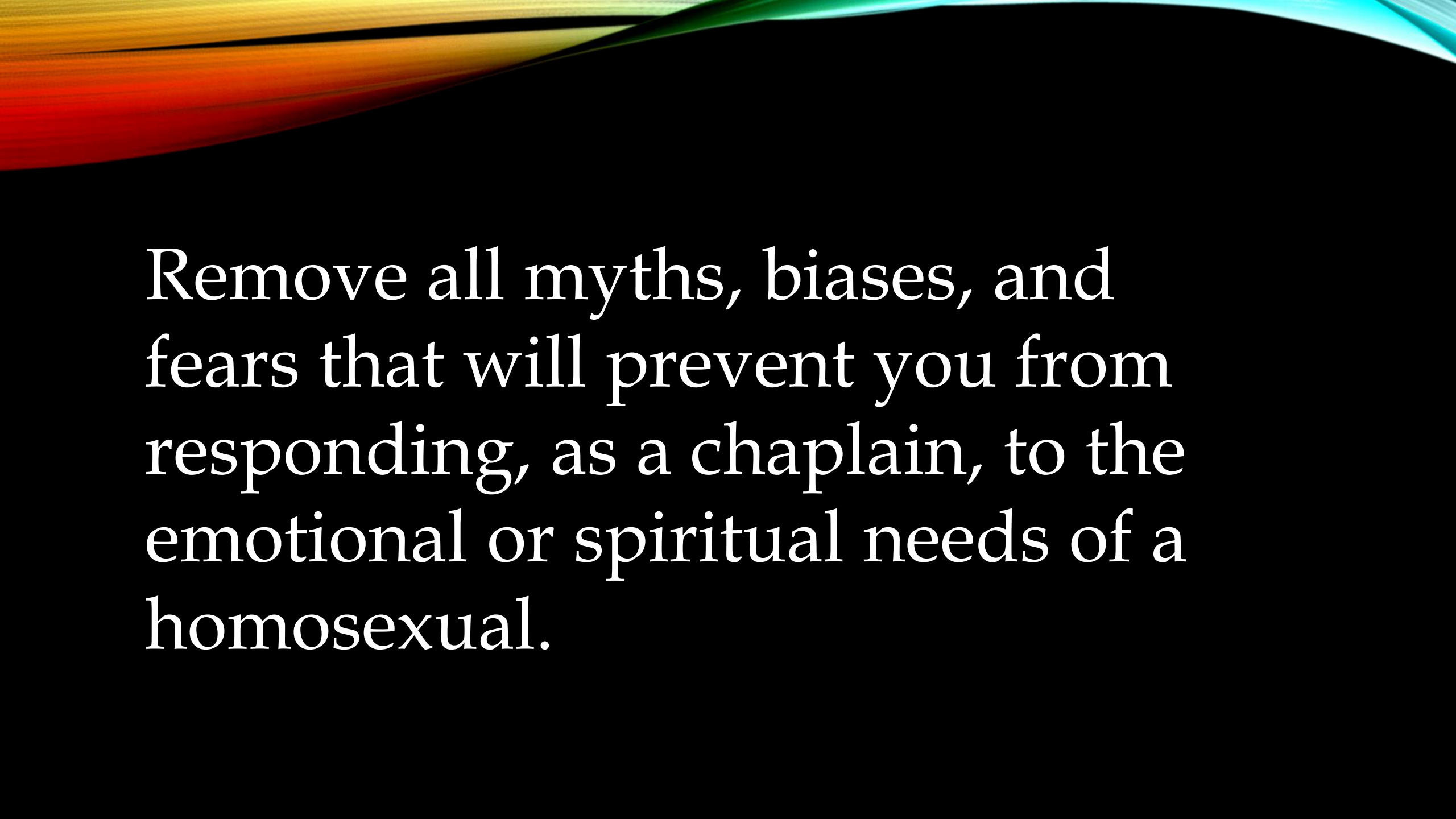
Listen to the non-verbals

See the non-visibles

Smell the non-traceables

Touch the untouchables

Taste the untasteables



Remove all myths, biases, and fears that will prevent you from responding, as a chaplain, to the emotional or spiritual needs of a homosexual.



Read the article

“Understanding the Terms”

www.soencouragement.org/understandingtheterms.htm



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