

# EASTERN IOWA BIBLICAL COUNSELING COALITION

Swisher, IA

July 19, 2018

Buffalo Prairie: Mark Shefelton  
Community Bible: Darla Fader, Dennis Fulkerson  
Faith Baptist Iowa City: Sydney Millage  
Grace Community Church: Dave Kirk, Aimee Marino, Jim Sabin, Ruthann Salsbury  
Harvest: Chuck Donaldson  
Maranatha: Thad Joyce  
New City Church: Michelle Roseberry  
New Covenant: Laura Pelecheck, Mark Forstrom, Kendall Kurt, Samantha Wielage, Steve Wielage  
Parkview: Andrea Gaston  
Redeemer: Joe Brinkmann  
Veritas: Robin Werling

- I. Welcome and Prayer
- II. Introductions and Updates
  - a. Fall EIBCC Training Conference
  - b. Redeeming Trauma: Help and Hope for Those Who Suffer
    - i. Nov 2-3 2018 in North Liberty, IA
    - ii. Visit EIBCC.org to register
- III. Teaching: Mark Forstrom on helping families of those facing same-sex attraction
  - a. Handout: "FAFFSA: Friends and Families Facing Same-Sex Attraction"
  - b. Testimony from Steve and Samantha Wielage
  - c. Testimony from Kendall Kurt
  - d. Discussion:
    - i. Group to support families of those struggling with same-sex-attraction meets 2x a month, and members are screened before joining. This group started within New Covenant, but has spread to include multiple churches.
    - ii. What the church needs to understand about helping families of those with SSA:
      1. There is no hierarchy of sin: homosexuality is not "worse" than teenage rebellion or self-righteousness
      2. In counseling those with SSA, the focus must be on surrendering impulses and desires to the Word of God: this is common to all believers.
        - a. Remember that focus is not to counsel those with SSA to heterosexuality, but to holiness
      3. The impact on a family is heavy, grieving is difficult and the church can help families by rallying around them.
      4. Most gay children want either "love" (complete acceptance) or "truth" (full separation) from family and friends.
      5. The church must have a safe, comfortable place for teens (and adults) to admit real struggles.
      6. Have a clear theology on same-sex attraction within the church.
  - e. Heart conditions to work through with families of those struggling with SSA
    - i. Guilt, shame, identity, truth, etc.
- IV. Resources:
  - a. Out of a Far Country, by Christopher Yuan\*
  - b. The Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert, by Rosaria Butterfield
  - c. Messy Grace, by Caleb Katlenbach
  - d. Compassion Without Compromise, by Adam T. Barr and Ron Citlau
- V. Close in Prayer

***Next Meeting: Thursday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018***

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*Equipping churches to make disciples through biblical counsel in community*