

Where Are We?

▲ We have researched and identified material previously published by each of the SBC departments.

▲ We are putting together a comprehensive list of resources, organizations and seminars to assist local churches and individuals.

▲ A web page has been established on the Lifeway site (The Way Out). The web page has links to the report made at the 2003 Convention. It also has links to other resources.

▲ We are seeking ways to help churches minister to parents, friends and family members who have a loved one involved in homosexuality.

▲ The Task Force is working on resources to equip our young people to face this enormous challenge.

▲ Strategies are being considered to assist seminaries, associations, churches and pastors in preparing to deal with this issue from both a ministry perspective as well as the public relations standpoint.

What Can Our Church Do?

▲ **Develop a “safe” atmosphere.**

Do an unbiased evaluation of your church. Does it provide a “safe” environment for someone who struggles with same sex attractions? Do parents and friends of strugglers feel safe to share their concerns? Seek an atmosphere in which both strugglers and their family members will feel free to reach out for help without fear of rejection or ridicule.



▲ **Find a solid Exodus Member Ministry in your area and develop a relationship.** Invite them to share their stories in a service. If there are no existing resources for same sex strugglers, begin to educate yourself and your church to provide something. A directory of Exodus Member Ministries is available at www.exodus.to/ministry.shtml.

▲ **Be a friend.** At the 2003 Annual Exodus Freedom Conference, Dr. Neil Whitehead discussed the question “What is the most helpful thing in decreasing same sex attraction?” Two different surveys came up with the same answer - mentoring. This is basic Christian discipleship.

▲ **Learn to identify.** Be honest about struggles you’ve had with strongholds in your life or in your marriage. The fruit of our sins may be different but the roots are the same.

▲ **Be informed and educated.** Get all the facts. Be prepared to wisely and compassionately speak the truth.

▲ **Encourage your church and local association to familiarize themselves with the report of the Task Force on Ministry to Homosexuals** which was presented to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Phoenix in 2003. The report can be accessed online: www.lifeway.com/thewayout

Resources recommended by the Southern Baptist Convention

THE WAY OUT site

located on Lifeway’s site has an excellent listing of materials and ministries. They host a booth at each Convention and have information available online at www.lifeway.com/thewayout.



The **SBC’s** North American Missions Board (NAMB), LifeWay and The Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) have excellent resources.



EXODUS is the largest Christian referral network and information ministry dealing with homosexual issues in our world today. Exodus is an organization called to encourage, strengthen, unify and equip Christians to minister to those affected by homosexuality. They host an Annual Freedom Conference each year (exodusfreedom.org). Please visit www.exodus.to and www.exodusyouth.net, or call the Exodus International office at (888)264-0877.



The **LOVE WON OUT** conference brings a life-changing message of hope. Experts share how to minister to a loved one who’s dealing with homosexuality, respond to misinformation in our culture, defend biblical beliefs and prevent children from embracing this destructive way of life. Visit www.lovewonout.com or call **1-800-A-FAMILY** for more information.



MORE THAN WORDS, a 1-day conference geared to help you better understand homosexuality so you can minister to a friend or family member. You will learn how to respond to “gay theology,” what the research really shows, and what your church can do. Visit: www.crossministry.org/mtw.htm





The Task Force on Ministry to Homosexuals

At the Phoenix convention in 2003, the Task Force on Ministry to Homosexuals made a preliminary report. The Task Force was formed in response to a motion made at the 2001 convention. Subsequent meetings have focused on developing a long-range comprehensive strategy.

Since the 2003 Convention, our world has been overwhelmed with demands from homosexual activists.

It is difficult to avoid responding by “jumping on our horses and riding off in all directions.” We must not allow what others do to determine our actions. We must be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.

The hour is late indeed but we must be focused and redemptive in our response. Southern Baptists must recognize the importance of addressing this issue in a proactive and redemptive way.

We have a small window of opportunity today to present a legitimate biblical alternative. Many in our culture have been confused by what is reported in the main stream media. Some are not sure what the truth is regarding homosexuality. Misinformation has kept many in bondage.

The SBC Task Force, chaired by Dr. Jimmy Draper, is encouraging every Southern Baptist, every SBC entity, association and convention to join us in this endeavor.

Dr. Draper, along with Dr. Richard Land and Dr. Barrett Duke of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission have provided excellent leadership and insight as the Task Force has explored how we can best educate and enlist Southern Baptists.

The stakes are high. The authority of scripture as well as the foundations of the family are being eroded. We must respond intelligently, biblically and compassionately.

We encourage you to visit the task force booth “The Way Out” in the exhibit hall to learn more. Get involved.



Report from the Southern Baptist Convention

“We want to encourage you to consider how God can work through you and your church to reach men and women who struggle with homosexuality.”

Dr. Richard Land,
President, Ethics and Religious
Liberty Commission.

“Thousands of people long to be free from the struggle with homosexuality. God is looking for people who will reach out with His saving, healing love through Jesus Christ. We pray you will make yourself available.”

Dr. Jimmy Draper,
Task Force Chairman, President and CEO,
Lifeway Christian Resources

Task Force Members

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The Task Force on Ministry to Homosexuals

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HOMOSEXUALITY?



Solid Biblical Answers...
Solid Biblical Solutions...
Southern Baptists CARE!

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