

Light & Life Conference, Rochester, NY – October 17, 2015

Workshop #1 – Handling contemporary topics – Sexuality, Prolife, and Political Correctness

Notes by Dr. Norman Wetterau

Using the best approach and best words when addressing certain issues

- Move the argument to one you can effectively communicate.
- Do not always use a frontal attack.
- Choose your words carefully.
- Rather than attack, think of educating by moving the issue to what might appear to be off center, but in reality might be right in the center.

In dealing with patients **ask questions rather than lecturing**. You may not change their mind, but your questions might help them consider other viewpoints, including the Christian one.

MSSNY: medical marijuana: How could one vote to let people suffer? I introduced a resolution that favored medical marijuana as long as it was approved by the FDA and not smoked. It won.

Which sounds better?

Prostitution: It is a sin; it is criminal; we oppose legalized prostitution because it is sinful.

or

Human Trafficking: Most prostitutes are not voluntary, they are hurt; many have been abducted, held against their will and not paid. Even legal prostitutes in places like the Netherlands are held in slavery, either due to threats or by being addicted to drugs. The Netherlands is not enlightened, but cruel and barbaric. As Christians we oppose slavery, kidnapping, and human trafficking in all its forms.

Now Christians are at the cutting edge of change and most people agree with us.

Campus sexual activity: Our opposition to drinking and sex out of wedlock did not have much influence. The idea of affirmative sexual consent and the idea that one cannot give affirmative consent if intoxicated may not be the full Christian position, but it is a lot closer to ours. We should celebrate what is happening. Why is it that when the governor had a long list of organizations supporting his new college policy, no religious groups were on his list?

Same Sex Relationships

What is the best approach to this? Is gay marriage the worst thing? Is that the main thing we oppose? In a culture that celebrates multiple sexual partners and, at times, violent sexual relationships, is having one partner and being married such an evil thing?

MSSNY report Youth at Risk. This raises a real concern. We care about gay and lesbians. So much of their sex, when it involves teens, is violent and forced. Is this really love, or something else? Almost everyone would agree that this is wrong, so we need to make sure people understand that this is close to the norm. To find a PDF of this report online, do a Google search for “MSSNY Youth at Risk”.

On Page 4 you will see a table comparing the behavior of heterosexual vs. same sex teens. The same sex teens had three times the rate of forced sex and violent sex. This is not presented as a way to insult same sex teens but to show a real concern. They also use many more illegal drugs, especially cocaine. We need to talk about this because we care for them. Forced sex is not a choice.

Problems with the GLB movement

1. **Multiple sexual partners**, but the movement is concerned about that. This is one thing that has led to same sex marriage. The AAPF endorsed same sex marriage for health reasons. It will be important to track fidelity and longevity of same sex versus opposite sex marriages. I hope they are the same but am not so sure they will be.
2. **Choice**: initially the movement said these individuals had no choice. It is illegal in some states to provide therapy to change one's sexual identity, but by including bisexual into their movement they have undermined the idea of no choice.

I would like to see Christian organizations support real research in this area.

How do we talk with patients?

A teen comes in and wants birth control. What are some things you might ask?

Patients are free to make their own decisions concerning sexual activity but as in many activities, we can raise questions and make sure that what they are doing is what they really want to do.

Is this something you are choosing to do? Are you completely comfortable with the relationship? For years I have asked teens who are sexually active if they enjoy this and if it is their choice. I also like to ask girls if the guy is controlling or in any way forcing himself on them.

What do you want to get out of a relationship? What do you believe about marriage? Very few young people in my practice are married. There are many reasons, including economic reasons. I believe that there are so many problems with marriage (not getting married or bad marriages) that the church should spend more time focusing on that than on the subject of same sex marriage.

Fornication: let's see if the sex is really wanted. What type of relationship does a person really want? We as Christians are opposed to people controlling other people or taking advantage of other people. We are also concerned about economic systems that make it difficult for people who want to get married to get married. We feel that our society is more oriented to money than people. Jesus always put people above money.

How will people react to the church: one that mainly condemns people who have sex out of wedlock or a church that is trying to address some of the issues that prevent marriage?