



## **The Silence is Deafening: Understanding and Welcoming Those with Same-Sex Attraction**

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Planned outcome: Participants will better understand the experience of living with same-sex attraction (SSA), and will be motivated and equipped to minister more compassionately, biblically, and effectively to those in their congregations who are struggling in this particular way.

- Introduction
  - “He Who Must Not Be Named”
  
  - My primary audience: professing believers struggling with SSA who want to live faithfully before God, and those in ministry leadership who want to be further equipped to help in that struggle.
  
  - What I’m not going to talk about
    - The biblical basis for maintaining that homosexual behavior is prohibited by God. I’m assuming this from the start.
  
    - Politics and larger cultural issues
  
    - Various theories regarding the cause(s) of SSA



- Five Key Priorities for Faithful Ministry and Discipleship
  - Overcome a “don’t ask, don’t tell” mindset
  
  - Emphasize identity in Christ over sexual identity
  
  - Don’t confuse temptation with sin
  
  - Have biblically realistic expectations for change
  
  - Create a context for *both* singles and married couples to thrive in your church
  
- Conclusion