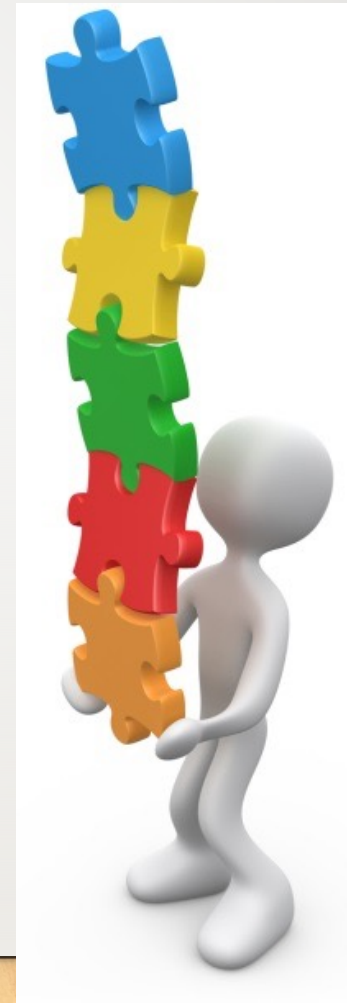


- **Biological Identity--Male & Female**
- **Gender Identity--Masculine & Feminine**
- **Attractions, Longings/Desires, Emotional Needs**
- **Sexual Expression—Behavior, Thought Life, Emotions, Relationships**
- **Faith, Values, Theology, Relationship with God/Church**
- **Other—Abuse, trauma, family, ethnicity, culture, church denomination**

---

- **=Identity**

- Conflicts--Gender or Orientation? (Ways of Resolution?)
  - Leave/Change Faith
  - Change Theology/Values
  - Align with convictions
- Choices/Decisions of above—how much weight is given=Identity
- **Gay Script/Shame Script**



**Houston,  
we have a  
problem!**



## Milestone Events for those who experience gender and sexual identity struggles

- **Awareness and Meaning**—what do I make of these feelings?
- **Confusion**—What do other people experience?
- **Disclosure**—Who can I trust with what I'm experiencing?
- **Being Gay (LGBTQ+)**—Do my attractions signal identity to me?
- **Private Identity**—How will I think of myself?
- **Sexual Behavior**—  
Should I engage in or refrain from sexual behavior?
- **First Relationship**—How will my needs for intimacy be met?
- **Public Identity**—How will I be known by others?
- **Faith**—Wrestling with God, Church and Theology? Do I stay or leave?
  
- Mark Yarhouse “Sexual Identity & Faith”

# Some growing up LGBTQ+ might experience...

- **Early Years/Adolescence/Adulthood:**

- **A growing awareness of feeling “different” as early as 5 or 6 years old**
- **Fear of rejection from family members if they knew**
- **Teased, bullied and labeled with names (daily or ongoing for years)**
- **Possible physical, verbal, emotional or sexual abuse**
- **Experiences isolation, loneliness, depression or anxiety**
- **Thoughts or attempts of suicide**
- **Possible addictions for coping with pain/sexualizing emotional needs**
- **Hypervigilance**—always anticipating “rejection” or “shame” (defensive)

- **At Church:**

- **Fears and **anticipates judgement** and rejection from Christians**
- **Feels large amounts of **shame** over same sex attractions**
- **Feels anxiety of losing God’s love or being “disowned” by God**
- **Growing **conflict and incongruence** between faith and attractions/desires**

## 4 Groups of LGBTQ+ People and Care

- Those who would identify as

**LGBTQ (QIP2SAA)**

- Those who would identify as

**Gay (LGBTQ+) Christians**

- Those who would identify as

**Same Sex Attracted/LGBTQ+**

- Those who have been wounded & left their faith

**De-churched**

Contact Info: [www.wheregraceabounds.org](http://www.wheregraceabounds.org) 303-863-7757