

## GAP 12: SEXUALITY AND GENDER

### Driving Question for Collaborative Design

How might Christians in the church, parachurch, and workplace collaborate to reach and disciple others to follow Christ with our whole being, including our bodies, gender identity and sexuality?

### Description

Debates about sexuality and gender are reshaping the public understanding of what it means to be human. These debates are fracturing the global church, causing many to leave the Christian faith, and also putting Christians with traditional beliefs under pressure in schools, universities, and workplaces. At the same time, the LGBTQ+ movement is unearthing unhelpful stereotypes and calling Christians to bear witness to Christ with grace and truth. Developments in sexuality and gender make for both challenges and opportunities in witness and how we follow and align our whole lives to Christ, including our bodies and relationships.

Acknowledging this cultural change and challenging debate, this conversation prayerfully explores:

### Collaboration Questions

- What insights from scholarship (both biblical and secular, in the sciences and humanities) help us make sense of this significant cultural shift in how we understand and practise sexuality and gender?
- How does the contemporary conversation about sexuality and gender shape the plausibility of the gospel?
- How can mission/church organizations/workers attend to this debate as it relates to discipling Christians and witnessing to the world?
- What are wise practices for navigating these issues at the personal and cultural/institutional levels?

### Sub-Topics

- Wise practices for engaging sexuality and gender debates
- Wise practices for evangelism in light of sexuality and gender debates
- Organizational collaboration and unity efforts

### Preparation before Seoul 2024

Please read these sections of the State of the Great Commission Report:

- Introduction from the Theology Working Group
- Part I, on the State of the Great Commission globally, captured by text and graphics
- Part II, with the article on 'Sexuality and Gender'
- Part III for your particular region in which you primarily work or serve in church or parachurch