

**AFAM Navigators Conference 2022**  
**March 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**From the Walking Wounded to Wounded Healers**  
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**The Walking Wounded**

1. Sexual brokenness is any expression of sexuality that is not a part of God's design for humanity.
2. Ideas about sex and sexuality in the African American community were shaped by slavery.
  - a. God's design for sex and sexuality was withheld from the enslaved
  - b. Our bodies were not seen as sacred
  - c. There was shame and secrecy around enslaved children who were the offspring of their enslavers
3. There are some factors that contribute to the LGBTQ issues in the African American community.
  - a. Sexual abuse of the enslaved
  - b. Distorted view of manhood and womanhood
4. *While it is known that many enslaved women were sexually abused, it is important to highlight that male slaves were also sexually abused by slaveholders.*  
(<https://historyengine.richmond.edu/episodes/view/6841>)
5. Our bodies are good and reflect the glory of God and are not shameful. We cover our bodies not because they are shameful but because they are sacred.
6. Sexual abuse trains the body to respond to certain kinds of stimuli. Many victims of sexual abuse experience shame because they were sexually aroused during their abuse.
7. Children are the biggest recorders of information but the poorest interpreters.
8. The legitimate need to connect with those of the same sex can get distorted and eroticized.

## **Wounded Healers**

1. A wounded healer is someone who has wounds but has sufficient healing to walk with others. A wounded healer is not afraid of exposing their wounds to others.
2. Examine your heart to look at what your views are about those who struggle with LGBTQ issues.
3. The current narrative about sexual brokenness in the African American community will change when we can “do life” with those who are struggling.
4. God created sex as something beautiful and holy. Sex should always glorify God.
5. Identify resources to help those who are struggling with LGBTQ issues.
6. The Church needs to be a safe place for those working through same-sex attraction or gender dysphoria.