

## **DRAFT PENDING REVIEW BOARD APPROVAL**

### **TITLE OF STUDY**

Religiously Conservative Christian Men Coping with Hypoactive Sexual Desire

### **PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR**

Gary D. Yeats

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### **PURPOSE OF STUDY**

You are being asked to take part in a research study. Before you decide to participate in this study, it is important that you understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please read the following information carefully. Please contact the researcher at the email address above if there is anything that is not clear or if you need more information.

The purpose of this study is to learn how men from the Church of Christ use religious coping and psychosexual coping to resolve (or try to resolve) their troubling emotions connected with having minimal to no sexual activity with their wives for a period of six months or longer.

### **STUDY PROCEDURES**

If you agree to participate, you will participate in a confidential online interview inquiring into the period of time when you had minimal to no sexual activity with your wife. The interviewer will ask you to confirm the researcher's written synthesis of key facts from your study questionnaire and ask you follow-up questions drawn from your responses to the study questionnaire. These questions may address how you believe your sexual difficulties started, how your religious beliefs affected your interpretation of the experience and your religious coping methods, how psychosexual coping (including conversations with your wife, sexual experimentation with your wife, pornography, sexual fantasy, and masturbation) affected your experience, and what your relationship outcome was as a result of this difficult sexual relationship with your wife. The interview will take approximately 45 minutes to one hour to complete, but you should allot ninety minutes in case you have questions for the researcher before or after the interview.

In order to schedule your interview, the researcher will transmit a participant code to you via encrypted email along with a link to the online scheduler that is part of the study website. You will use the online scheduler to select an interview time convenient for you and book your appointment under your participant code, not your name. You may also email the researcher to request an alternative time if none of the suggested options meet your requirements. At least 48 hours prior to your interview appointment, the researcher will transmit a link and password to the Zoom meeting, the researcher's written synthesis of your questionnaire responses, and this informed consent document. Although your camera will be automatically turned off for the duration of the interview so the researcher cannot see you, participating in this interview will

partially compromise your anonymity. The interview will be recorded to generate a written transcript. At the beginning of the recording, you will be required to verbally consent to participate in the interview and to the recording of the interview. The recording will be deleted immediately after the researcher confirms the accuracy of the transcript.

Your interview responses will supplement responses from other men to serve as data the researcher will use to examine the experience of hypoactive sexual desire and the coping mechanisms used by this set of men to resolve or attempt to resolve the spiritual and emotional distress connected with this experience. This study is structured as a multiple case study research project, and the analysis of findings in the final report will reflect the researcher's interpretation of several case participants' perspectives, not just your perspective. Portions of your description of your experience may be incorporated into the researcher's cross-case analysis along with data provided by other study participants. Certain facts or feelings you describe or statements you make in your responses may be incorporated into the researcher's final report. The final report is largely a synthesis of different men's experiences and does not focus on you. The data collected through this study as well as the final report will be owned by the researcher.

## **RISKS**

There are no known risks if you decide to participate in this research study. You may decline to answer any or all questions, and you may terminate the interview at any time if you choose.

## **BENEFITS**

The information you provide will help the investigator understand how conservatively religious Christian men cope with the lived experience of having minimal to no sexual activity with their wives for a period of six months or longer. This insight will assist pastoral counselors and mental health counselors identify which religious and psychosexual coping activities are beneficial to achieving a man's desired relationship outcome and which coping activities are detrimental to achieving a man's desired relationship outcome. The information collected in this study will likely not benefit you directly, but what is learned from this study will better inform the interventions available to pastoral counselors and mental health counselors who are trying to help conservative Christian men resolve the distress they feel connected with this difficult sexual experience.

## **CONFIDENTIALITY**

All data collected in this study will remain anonymous. No one will be able to identify participants, and no one will be able to determine information about an individual participant. Every effort will be made by the researcher to preserve your confidentiality including the following:

- Your visual image in the Zoom teleconferencing platform will be automatically turned off before you enter the meeting and for the duration of the interview. Further, the interviewer will not ask you to turn on your camera at any point during the interview.

## Men's Study Interview Informed Consent (Draft Pending Approval)

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- You will receive an encrypted email with the password required to enter the Zoom meeting, and only you and the researcher will have the password. The password is intended to prevent unauthorized individuals from entering the meeting or observing the interview.
- Your interview and the resulting written transcript will be associated with a pseudo-name (such as *Adam07*).
- Any potentially identifying information you inadvertently include in a response (such as a person's name, an organization's name, or a location name) will be de-identified in the interview transcript with a masking redaction (such as *my wife, my church, or my town*).
- If the final report contains one or more quotations from your interview, your quoted data will not be associated with the region of the country where you currently live or your current age range.
- The researcher will only contact you via encrypted email. Your email address will only be visible to the researcher and will be purged from all records at the conclusion of the study.
- All collected data will be stored on a password-protected and encrypted external hard drive that will be located in the researcher's office and will not be connected to the internet. Data will be stored for at least three years. The storage period may be extended if additional research/scientific purposes warrant extension. At the end of the storage period, all data will be destroyed.
- Anonymized data collected as part of this study may appear in one or more academic publications or presentations and may be shared with other researchers for academic and scientific purposes, provided those individuals agree to secure the data as described herein.

Participant data will be kept confidential except in cases where the researcher is legally obligated to report specific incidents. These incidents include, but may not be limited to, incidents of abuse and suicide risk.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have questions at any time about this study, or you experience adverse effects as the result of participating in this study, you may contact the researcher whose contact information is provided on the first page. If you have questions regarding your rights as a research participant, or if problems arise which you do not feel you can discuss with the Primary Investigator, please contact the Institutional Review Board at \_\_\_.

Finally, if you would like to learn about the results of this study, you may request a summary of results from the investigator at [gary@cofcmen.com](mailto:gary@cofcmen.com).

## VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION

Your participation in this study is voluntary. It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part in this study. If you decide to take part in this study, you will be asked to sign a consent form. After you sign the consent form, you are still free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason. Withdrawing from this study will not affect the relationship you have, if any, with the researcher. If you withdraw from the study before data collection is completed, your data will be destroyed.

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## CONSENT

I have read and I understand the provided information and have had the opportunity to ask questions. I understand my participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw at any time, without giving a reason and without cost. By verbally agreeing to participate in this interview as part of the recording of the interview, I am voluntarily agreeing to take part in this study and to the use of my feedback and data as described above. Further, I agree to print a copy of the consent form emailed to me, for my records, as I deem appropriate. By expressing my verbal agreement, I am acknowledging that I am consenting to participate in this study without revealing my name or providing a written signature, and I am acknowledging an understanding of the nature and purpose of this study.

Verbally agreed

Verbally did not agree to participate

Acknowledged in writing by Gary D. Yeats for:

Participant 124