

Resources on Faith and Sexuality

adapted from Preston Sprinkle, "Pastor/Leader's Guide," The Center for Faith, Sexuality & Gender

Historic Christian Sexual Ethic

- Preston Sprinkle, *People to Be Loved*. In between scholarly and practical, this book thoroughly examines what the Bible says about same-sex relations while helping straight people think more compassionately about LGBTQ+ people.
- Robert Gagnon, *The Bible and Homosexual Practice*. A robust scholarly work that's heavy on exegesis and lacks in graciousness. Gagnon's book is a must read for anyone who desires to dig deep in the scholarly issues. Model the exegesis, but not the tone.
- Sam Allberry, *Why Does God Care Who I Sleep With?* A short yet clear and thoughtful book on Jesus' teaching regarding sex, and how this will lead us closer to fulfilling our deepest longings than we might realize.
- Sam Allberry, *Is God 'Anti-Gay?'* A very short yet clear and thoughtful book on what the Bible says about same-sex relations. SO GOOD!!!
- Mark Yarhouse, *How Should We Think about Homosexuality*.

Memoir (holding the historic Christian sexual ethic)

- Wesley Hill, *Washed and Waiting*. A short, engaging, ground-breaking book. Easy to read and hard to put down. Wes Hill authentically describes what it's like living as a celibate gay Christian. A must read for any straight Christian.
- Gregory Coles, *Single, Gay, Christian*. A beautifully written memoir with a healthy dose of intelligent reflections on life, God, sex, the Bible, and sexuality. Another must read for any straight Christian.
- Ed Shaw, *Same-Sex Attraction and the Church*. An excellent book written by a pastor who experiences same-sex attraction. A good blend of relational, theological and ministry-related advice.
- Eve Tushnet, *Gay and Catholic*. And her follow up book, *Tenderness*.
- Rachel Gilson, *Born Again This Way*.
- Jackie Hill-Perry, *Gay Girl, Good God*.

Youth / Youth Leaders

- Preston Sprinkle, *Living in a Gray World*. A down-to-earth look at what the Bible says about marriage and same-sex relationships and how Christian teens can navigate living in a sexually confusing world.
- Mark Yarhouse, *Understanding Sexual Identity*. Written directly to youth leaders, this book contains a good blend of theological, pastoral, relational, and ministry-related advice.

Revisionist Christian Sexual Ethic (The “Gay Affirming” Position)

- James Brownson, *Bible, Gender, Sexuality*. Hands down, *the* most compelling academic book that argues for God's blessing on same-sex marriage in the church. Readable, but still quite scholarly.
- Matthew Vines, *God and the Gay Christian*. An easy to read, yet well researched book that argues for God's blessing on same-sex unions in the church.
- Colby Martin, *Unclobber*. An affirming pastor argues that the so-called prohibition passages have been misunderstood and don't apply to modern-day same-sex marriage.

Psychology / Counseling

- Mark Yarhouse, *Homosexuality and the Christian*. A great one-stop shop to get a solid overview of same-sex sexuality from the perspective of a leading Christian psychologist.
- Lisa Diamond, *Sexual Fluidity in Women*. A leading psychologist shows that women experience more sexual fluidity (i.e., changes in sexual and romantic desire) than men. Though not a Christian book, this book is helpful for understanding the unique sexuality of women.

Guidance for Families and Friends of LGBTQ+ Loved Ones

- Bill Henson, *Guiding Families of LGBTQ+ Loved Ones*. (Both the “Expanded Edition” and/or “The Essentials Edition.”) Hands down *the* best resource for helping families, friends, and church leaders navigate their relationships with LGBTQ+ loved ones.
- Brad Harper and Drew Harper, *Space at the Table*. A book written jointly by a Christian father (Brad) and his gay son (Drew). A truly beautiful and eye-opening book that's incredibly helpful for parents with LGBTQ+ kids.
- Caleb Kaltenbach, *Messy Grace*. A book written by a straight pastor who was raised by gay parents. This is a remarkably example of holding the historic Christian sexual ethic with deep and tender and effective love. This book shows the messiness of accepting without approving, love and grace, compassion and conviction.

Church and Relationships

- Greg Johnson, *Still Time to Care: What We Can Learn from the Church's Failed Attempt to Cure Homosexuality*.
- Caleb Kaltenbach, *Messy Grace*. A very practical book on how to love LGBTQ+ people, written by a pastor who was raised by a lesbian mother and gay father.
- Caleb Kaltenbach, *Messy Truth*. A follow up from the previous book in which the author focuses on ways churches can cultivate compassion without sacrificing conviction.
- Andrew Marin, *Us Versus Us*. Excellent insights into the religious background of LGBTQ+ people and why so many have left the church.
- Bridget Eileen Rivera, *Heavy Burdens*. This book shows us how Christians have wounded many of the LGBTQ+ children of the church. Not everyone will agree with every argument in the book (I don't), but an honest account of the real harm the church has inflicted is essential to bind up some of the wounds.