

Resources on “Homosexuality” - Some selected resources organized by the Wesleyan Quadrilateral

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There are thousands of books, websites, and stories on the issues of human sexuality. The Wesleyan Quadrilateral is a method for theological reflection and discernment on issues important to faith. These are only a few possible resources organized into the four sources for this reflection towards an inclusive and affirming stance towards LGBTQIA individuals.

Scripture

Key concept: The word “homosexual” was invented in 1868; the Bible assumes behavior, not orientation. The cultural setting was very different centuries and millenia ago. Historical-critical study of scripture is necessary.

What the Bible Really Says about Homosexuality; Millennium Edition, Updated and Expanded - by Daniel Helmeniak
<http://www.matthewvines.com/transcript/> Matthew Vines examines the Biblical passages regarding homosexuality.

The Bible and Homosexuality - by Walter Wink, 1999

Reading the Bible Again For the First Time; Taking the Bible Seriously But Not Literally – by Marcus Borg, 2001

Tradition

Key concept: Christian tradition is overwhelmingly negative to homosexual practice, often based on misreading Biblical texts and settings, and blind to the integration of sexuality and human identity.

Christianity, Social Tolerance, and Homosexuality: Gay People in Western Europe from the Beginning of the Christian Era to the Fourteenth Century, by John Boswell, 1980

Same-Sex Unions in Premodern Europe, by John Boswell, 1994

Homosexuality and the Western Christian Tradition, by Derrick Sherwin Bailey, 1955

The Church and the Homosexual: Fourth Edition – by John J. McNeill, 1993

Reason (Science and Theology)

Key concepts: Scientific study and discoveries about sexuality are important: the earth is not flat, and sex is not binary. Disciplined and rational reflection on theology and ethics enriches and strengthens faith.

Body, Sex, and Pleasure: Reconstructing Christian Sexual Ethics, by Christine Gudorf, 1990

Embodiment: An Approach to Sexuality and Christian Theology – by James B. Nelson, 1979

<https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/sa-visual/visualizing-sex-as-a-spectrum/> Sex, gender, and sexuality are all distinct from one another, and each exists on its own spectrum.

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/1466344> Inherited categories of dimorphic sexuality not only are challenged but become less and less intelligible.

<https://australiascience.tv/science-of-sexuality/> The spectrum of human sexual experience is vast, and its incredible diversity is not always acknowledged.

<https://www.healthline.com/health/transgender/nonbinary> The idea that there’s male and female isn’t false — it’s just incomplete.

Christian Experience

Key concept: Much writing and discussion has been *about* LGBTQI people, not *with* them. So what is the experience of LGBTQI Christians, of allies? What have they discovered about faith and God?

Our Strangely Warmed Hearts (2018) by Bishop Karen P. Oliveto

Incompatible With Christian Teaching - DVD documentary film

See Matthew Vines' Lecture cited above.

Stranger at the Gate: To Be Gay and Christian in America – by Mel White

Coming Out as Sacrament – by Chris Glaser

Reflection of an ally, Jim Palmquist, treasurer of Affirmation: <http://www.umaffirm.org/docs/JimPalmquist-HumanSexualityForumStatement.pdf>

A collection of stories from 6 continents: <https://www.stonewall.org.uk/sites/default/files/christian-role-models.pdf>

Another collection, of Catholic LGBTQ Christians: <https://www.newwaysministry.org/2018/07/22/catholic-and-lgbt-stories-of-faith-family-and-love/>

Reconciling Ministries Stories: <https://rmnetwork.org/thisismystory/>

United Methodist Queer Clergy Caucus members

On the web with clickable links: <http://jbenjaminroe.com/jbr/writings/33-a-wesleyan-quadrilateral-bibliography>