

# BIBLIOGRAPHY: HOMOSEXUALITY AND CHRISTIANITY

*Compiled by  
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*The following titles, representing recent scholarship as well as more popular writing, examine the issues from a variety of perspectives. Videos and websites are also included.*

## 1. Overall, Reader-Accessible Treatments

- Buck, Erwin. *Studies on Homosexuality and the Church*. [Winnipeg:] Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, 2001. A book(let) by a retired New Testament professor (Lutheran Seminary, Saskatoon); commissioned by the ELCIC's National Convention (1999).
- Chilstrom, Herbert W., and Lowell O. Erdahl. *Sexual Fulfillment for Single and Married, Straight and Gay, Young and Old*. Minneapolis: Augsburg, 2001. Straight, often traditional, sometimes not traditional talk, by two straights, the former Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (Chilstrom) and the former bishop of the ELCA's St. Paul Area Synod, on sexuality and sex, specifically in marriage, when single, while living together, in elder years, and in same-sex relationships (the authors tell how personal encounters changed their minds about gays/lesbians).
- May, Melanie A. "Homosexuality." In Erwin Faulbach et al., eds., *The Encyclopedia of Christianity*. Vol. 2: 587-89. Translator and English-language editor, Geoffrey W. Bromiley. Grand Rapids et al.: Eerdmans and Leiden et al.: Brill. Outline of history, definitions, debates, and current discussions within various church bodies by the Dean of Colgate Rochester Divinity School.
- Wink, Walter, ed. *Homosexuality and Christian Faith: Questions of Conscience for the Churches*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1999. Chapters on personal encounters, the Bible, Christian tradition, homosexualities, the morality of homosexuality, and other issues.

## 2. Personal Stories (books, articles, videos)

- Alexander, Marilyn Bennett, and James Preston. *We Were Baptized Too: Claiming God's Grace for Lesbians and Gays*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1996. An insightful portrayal of the on-going effect of baptismal grace in the lives of gay and lesbian Christians. Discusses baptism as entrance into the family of God in Christ which is not dependent upon sexual orientation.

- Bawer, Bruce. *A Place at the Table: The Gay Individual in American Society*. New York: Poseidon Press, 1993. A leading cultural critic, described as a conservative Christian (Episcopalian/Anglican) homosexual, Bawer discusses gay lifestyle in America: the radical gay subculture, stereotypes, and homosexual unions.
- Duberman, Martin. *Cures: A Gay Man's Odyssey*. New York: Dutton, 1991. A noted American historian recounts in detail his efforts to be "cured" of his attraction to other males, and especially the agonies his psychiatrist put him through and that he put himself through in the process.
- Egertson, Paul. "One Family's Story." In Walter Wink, ed., *Homosexuality and Christian Faith*, 23-30. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1999. A former bishop in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America tells how he and his family responded when their oldest son "came out" to them.
- White, Mel. *A Stranger At The Gate: To Be Gay and Christian in America*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1994. Once the ghostwriter for such leaders of the religious right as Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson, White reveals the spiritual struggles, the terrible pains, and the legitimate hopes of the Christian homosexual person.
- Yancey, Philip. *What's So Amazing About Grace?* Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1997. Former editor-at-large for *Christianity Today* magazine, Yancey takes a probing and impassioned look at grace. He offers compelling stories of grace's life-changing power and asks the question: "How can Christians contend graciously with moral issues that threaten all they hold dear?"
- *This Is My Story*. Lutherans Concerned/North America, no date. VHS video tape. This 22-minute video features personal stories of gay and lesbian Christians--their inner struggles and journeys of reconciliation. (Contact: [InfoX@LCNA.org](mailto:InfoX@LCNA.org))

### 3. Personal Stories: Straight Spouses, Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Partners (books, websites)

- Buxton, Amity Pierce. *The Other Side of the Closet: The Coming-Out Crisis for Straight Spouses and Families*. Revised, expanded ed. New York: John Wiley, 1994. Based on Buxton's eight years of research including interviews with 1,000 straight spouses and their children, her own personal experience, and her counselling work with spouses of gay, lesbian, and bisexual partners.
- Gochros, J., ed. *When Husbands Come Out of the Closet*. Binghamton, NY: Haworth Press, 1989.
- Grever, Carol. *My Husband Is Gay: A Woman's Survival Guide*. Freedom, CA: Crossing Press, 2001. A personal account and guide by a woman whose marriage ended after 30 years when her husband "came out."
- Kaye, Bonnie. *Is He Straight? A Checklist for Women Who Wonder*. iUniverse.com, 2000. Intended to help straight women and gay men come to better understanding of their relationship.
- Website: <http://www.ssnetwk.org> . Straight Spouse Network (SSN). An international support network of heterosexual spouses and partners, current or former, of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender mates. Links to other online resources.

#### 4. Biblical

- Balch, David L., ed. *Homosexuality, Science, and the 'Plain Sense' of Scripture*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000. Noted biblical scholars, ethicists, and historians of varied denominational backgrounds and differing viewpoints provide thoroughgoing discussions of the following: debates within denominations, including same-sex blessings (Mark Toulouse); the same-sex passages in the Hebrew Bible (Phyllis Bird, with a valuable appendix on "Sacred Prostitution") and the New Testament (William Schoedel, David Frederickson, Robert Jewett); the Bible and science (Stanton Jones and Mark Yarhouse; Christine Gudorf); the Bible, ethics, and theology (Katherine Greene-McCreight; Nancy Duff); and hermeneutical approaches to scripture (Christopher Seitz, David Balch).
- Brawley, Robert L., ed. *Biblical Ethics and Homosexuality: Listening to Scripture*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1996. Noted biblical scholars offer diverse interpretations of biblical passages pertaining to homosexuality in relation to the present. **Sample chapters:** Martin, Dale B. "Arsenokoitês and Malakos: Meanings and Consequences." Pp. 117-36. (On the basis of ancient usage, Martin questions the translation of two terms in 1 Cor. 6.9 commonly translated to refer to same-sex relations.) Mauser, Ulrich W. "Creation and Human Sexuality in the New Testament." Pp. 3-15. ("homosexual practice cannot honor the creation of human life in the essential differentiation of male and female.") Seow, Choon-Leong. "Textual Orientation." Pp. 17-34. (Treats the passages dealing explicitly with same-sex relations and others that show how biblical characters including Jesus re-interpreted biblical traditions for new situations.) Siker, Jeffrey S. "New Testament Directions for the Heterosexual Church." Pp. 137-51. (The presence of Gentiles in early Christian churches forced Christian Jews to re-think their attitude to Gentiles even as the presence of gays/lesbians in churches today invites Christians to do re-think their attitudes to gays/lesbians.)
- Gagnon, Robert A. J. *The Bible and Homosexual Practice: Texts and Hermeneutics*. Nashville: Abingdon Press. Exhaustive examination of all the Bible passages and related ancient literature bearing on same-sex intercourse in relation to present knowledge about homosexuality, by an American scholar opposed to such behaviour but accepting of homosexuals who remain celibate. Extensive list of books and articles, pro and con, on the subject on p. 38, note 5.
- Gibson, Paul. *Discerning the Word: The Bible and Homosexuality in Anglican Debate*. Toronto: Anglican Book Centre, 2000. Easy-to-read, brief (95 pp.) examination of the issues (How to Read the Bible, Finding the Word in the Words, etc.) with application beyond Anglicanism.
- Nissinen, Martti. *Homoeroticism in the Biblical World: A Historical Perspective*. Trans. by K. Stjerna. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1998. Comprehensive survey of attitudes in the biblical world. That ancients thought of gender identity (societal "roles, practices and self-presentations") rather than "sexuality" ("a biological and psychological phenomenon") and "homosexuality" (a "sexual preference") means there is no simple translation from "then" to "now"—as is the case also with other biblical texts and

concepts.

- Scroggs, Robin. *The New Testament and Homosexuality: Contextual Background for Contemporary Debate*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1983. Surveys attitudes to homosexuality in the ancient Greek, Roman, Jewish, and Christian worlds in comparison and contrast with today; proceeds from the Gospel understood as the “center” of scripture. A foundational work basic to much subsequent study.
- Smith, Mark D. “Ancient Bisexuality and the Interpretation of Romans 1:26-27.” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 64 (1996):223-56. Admires but also corrects Scroggs (not all same-sex relations were between unequal partners; also, some were between women) and goes beyond him: ancient views of sexuality, ranging from homo- to heterosexual, parallel modern studies (Kinsey); Paul’s condemnation of homosexuality was only one of many condemnations of cultural practices; “Paul never faced . . . people who claimed to be committed, self-affirming homosexuals and also committed Christians.”
- Wink, Walter. “Homosexuality and the Bible.” In Wink, ed., *Homosexuality and Christian Faith: Questions of Conscience for the Churches* (1999), 33-49. Minneapolis: Fortress Press. Convenient overview of the passages commonly cited in connection with homosexuality.
- Wink, Water. *Homosexuality and the Bible*. Rev. edition, 1996. Order from Fellowship Bookstore, Box 271, Nyack, NY 10960. A 16-page, easy to read booklet.

## 5. Historical

- Boswell, John. *Christianity, Social Tolerance, and Homosexuality: Gay People in Western Europe from the Beginning of the Christian Era to the Fourteenth Century*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1980. Influential study of the history of attitudes toward homosexuality in the Christian West. Critique by Richard B. Hays, “Relations Natural and Unnatural: A Response to John Boswell’s Exegesis of Romans 1,” *Journal of Religious Ethics* 14 (1986): 184-215.
- Boswell, John. *Same-Sex Unions in Premodern Europe*. New York: Vintage Books, 1995. Offers extensive evidence that at one time the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches not only sanctioned unions between partners of the same sex but did so in ceremonies that bear striking resemblance to heterosexual marriage rites.
- Faderman, Lillian. *Surpassing the Love of Men: Romantic Friendship and Love Between Women from the Renaissance to the Present*. New York: Quill/William Morrow, 1981. Faderman, professor of English at California State University, chronicles the changing status of romantic friendship between women, the elusive link between female same-sex love and shifting theories of female sexuality, and how feminist values have always played a role in women's passions for one another and in men's reactions to them.
- Wright, David F. “Homosexuality.” In Everett Ferguson et al., eds., *Encyclopedia of Early Christianity*. Vol. 1:542-43. New York and London: Garland Publishing, 1997. Patristic (early Christian) writers condemned homosexual activity. Wright does not mention that many of the same writers saw procreation as the purpose of marriage with

sexual satisfaction frowned upon, or celibacy preferred to marriage.

## 6. BioMedical

- Geis, Sally B., and Donald E. Messer, eds. *Caught In The Crossfire: Helping Christians Debate Homosexuality*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1994. Writers with divergent points of view deal with questions regarding homosexuality. Topics include the Bible, science, ordination, same-sex unions. Each chapter concludes with questions to stimulate individual thought and group discussion.
- Rosario, Vernon A., ed. *Science and Homosexualities*. New York and London: Routledge, 1997. Up-to-date, hardheaded look at scientific study, past and present, including possible genetic causes of sexual orientation, psychiatric viewpoints, and the social construction of scientific views.

## 7. Sexuality/Homosexuality and Congregations/Christians

- Cantlon, Christopher L. and Pauline A. Thompson, eds. *An Honourable Estate: Marriage, Same-Sex Unions, and the Church. A Study Guide*. Toronto: The Anglican Book Centre, 1998. This guide will be of interest to Christians who are concerned about non-traditional relationships and homosexuality and the church's response. Intended primarily for group discussion, this guide is issue oriented, attempting to grapple with the intellectual, theological, historical and practical aspects of sexuality and relationship.
- Gaede, Beth Ann, ed. *Congregations Talking About Homosexuality: Dialogue on a Difficult Issue*. New York: The Alban Institute, 1998. A practical handbook intended to help congregations work their way through the process of discussing homosexuality. The contributors blend useful guidelines with actual case studies to provide on-the-ground advice and wisdom aimed at helping pastors and lay leaders as they approach the subject of sexuality and ministry.
- Geis, Sally B., and Donald E. Messer, eds. *Caught In The Crossfire: Helping Christians Debate Homosexuality*. Nashville: Abingdon Press. 1994. Writers with divergent points of view deal with questions regarding homosexuality. Topics include the Bible, science, ordination, same-sex unions. Each chapter concludes with questions to stimulate individual thought and group discussion.
- Gibson, Paul. *Discerning The Word. The Bible and Homosexuality in Anglican Debate*. Toronto: The Anglican Book Centre, 2000. Gibson focuses on the 1998 Lambeth Conference resolutions on Scripture and sexuality and examines the way cultural norms influence our understanding of biblical authority. He issues a challenge to the church and proposes a way forward that honours scripture, tradition, and our evolving culture.
- Hefling, Charles, ed. *Our Selves, Our Souls & Bodies: Sexuality and the Household of God*. Cambridge: Cowley Publications, 1996. Distinguished religious thinkers discuss various aspects of homosexuality and Christianity with seriousness and integrity.
- Jersild, Paul. *Spirit Ethics: Scripture and the Moral Life*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press,

2000. Chapter 7 of this book by a retired professor at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary (ELCA) places the issue of homosexuality in the larger context of Christian ethical decision-making as taking place within Spirit- and gospel-formed Christian community in relation to Scripture and tradition and to scientific research on sexuality. Many useful bibliographical references.
- Paulsell, William, editor. *Listening to the Spirit: A Handbook for Discernment*. "What is the Gospel Message to Our Church as We Relate to Gay and Lesbian Christians?" Office of the General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 2001. Offers an alternative process to the usual debate followed by a vote. Order online from: [www.chalicepress.com](http://www.chalicepress.com)
  - Riordon, Michael. *The First Stone: Homosexuality and the United Church*. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1990. Stories by United Church members recounting what happened in their congregations following the Church's decision in 1988 to permit ordination of gay and lesbian members.
  - Siker, Jeffrey R., ed. *Homosexuality in the Church: Both Sides of the Debate*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1994. The subtitle says it all.
  - Simons, John, ed. *The Challenge of Tradition. Discerning the Future of Anglicanism*. Toronto: The Anglican Book Centre, 1997. Though the essays in this book are written in particular for Anglicans in Canada, the essays will have relevance for Christians of other denominations. The book offers new perspectives on questions widely and hotly debated including homosexuality.
  - Switzer, David K. *Pastoral Care of Gays, Lesbians and their Families*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1999. A pastoral theologian with many years of experience in counselling gay and lesbian individuals and their families offers guidance to pastoral caregivers and congregations seeking to examine and enhance pastoral care of homosexuals and their families. Also provides factual information, theological and biblical insights, and practical counselling skills to help congregations become caring communities for gays and lesbians.

## 8. Interpretive Stances/Studies

*While not dealing specifically with homosexuality, the following books provide basic principles of interpretation (hermeneutics) for reading and studying the Bible:*

- Brauch, Manfred T. *Hard Sayings of Paul*. Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1989.
- Powles, Cyril H. *Interpreting the Present Time. History, the Bible, and the Church's Mission Today*. Toronto: Anglican Book Centre, 1994.
- Swartley, Willard M. *Slavery Sabbath War and Women: Case Issues in Biblical Interpretation*. Scottdale, PA: Herald Press. 1983.

## 9. Websites (current as of September 2002)

### **9.1 Gay/Lesbian Support Groups/Organizations:**

*Affirmation* (Mormon): [www.affirmation.org](http://www.affirmation.org)

*American Baptists Concerned* (Baptist): [www.rainbowbaptist.org](http://www.rainbowbaptist.org)

*BMC* (Brethren/Mennonite): [www.webcom.com/bmc/welcome.html](http://www.webcom.com/bmc/welcome.html)

*Dignity USA* (Roman Catholic): <http://www.dignityusa.org>

*Integrity Canada* (Anglican): <http://integritycanada.org>

*Lutherans Concerned* (Lutheran): [www.lcna.org](http://www.lcna.org)

*Reconciling in Christ Program*: [www.lcna.org/ric.htm](http://www.lcna.org/ric.htm)

*Extraordinary Candidacy Project* (ELCA): [www.extraordinarycandidacyproject.org](http://www.extraordinarycandidacyproject.org)

*PFLAG* (Support Group for Parents, Family & Friends): <http://www.pflag.ca> (has links to PFLAG groups across Canada)

*More Light Presbyterians* (USA): [www.mlp.org](http://www.mlp.org)

*Reconciling in Christ Program*: [www.lcna.org/ric.html](http://www.lcna.org/ric.html)

*UFMCC* (Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches): [www.ufmcc.com](http://www.ufmcc.com)

### **9.2 The following websites offer numerous articles discussing biblical references from both "conservative" and "liberal" Christian perspectives:**

[www.religioustolerance.org](http://www.religioustolerance.org)

[www.glow.cc](http://www.glow.cc)

[www.exodusnorthamerica.org](http://www.exodusnorthamerica.org)

### **9.3 The following websites offer extensive bibliographies on the subject of homosexuality:**

[www.fordham.edu/halsall/pwh/lgbcathbib7.html](http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/pwh/lgbcathbib7.html)

[www.gaychristians.org](http://www.gaychristians.org)

[www.gaychristians.com](http://www.gaychristians.com)

### **9.4 Other websites of interest:**

*Bridges Across Communities of Faith and Homosexuality*: [www.bridges-across.org](http://www.bridges-across.org)

*GAYCANADA*: [www.gaycanada.com](http://www.gaycanada.com)

*National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality*: [www.narth.com](http://www.narth.com)

## **10. Videos**

- *Inclusive Faith*. Lutherans Concerned/North America, no date. A video about inclusiveness in Lutheran churches that discusses the benefits of welcoming gay and lesbian people into full fellowship. Available from Lutherans Concerned InfoX, 409 Roland Hills Dr. Mogadore, OH 44620. E-mail orders: [InfoX@CNA.org](mailto:InfoX@CNA.org)
- *Is Ex-Gay a False Hope?* 16 minutes. Ministries and therapies that try to change a person's sexual orientation do not work and indeed do incredible harm, says this video. Available from Lutherans Concerned InfoX, 409 Roland Hills Dr. Mogadore, OH 44620. E-mail orders: [InfoX@CNA.org](mailto:InfoX@CNA.org)

- *What Do You Say When Someone You Loves You Says, "I'm Gay"?* The Rev. Paul Egertson, former Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Southwest California Synod, tells about the journey he and his wife Shirley took to understand what it means to have gay son. Available from Lutherans Concerned InfoX, 409 Roland Hills Dr. Mogadore, OH 44620. E-mail orders: [InfoX@CNA.org](mailto:InfoX@CNA.org)

## 11. Other Publications and Journals

- *Concord*. Newsletter of Lutherans Concerned/North America. Contact: Lutherans Concerned InfoX, 409 Roland Hills Dr., Mogadore, OH 44260, or [email:InfoX@lcna.org](mailto:InfoX@lcna.org)
- *Lutherans Concerned Canada*. Contact: Lutherans Concerned Canada, Box 11095, Sta. Main, Edmonton, AB T5J 3K4, or email: [luthconc@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca](mailto:luthconc@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca)
- *Open Hands: Resources for Ministries Affirming the Diversity of Human Sexuality*. A Reconciling in Christ publication. Contact: 3801 N. Keeler Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60641, or email: [ChrsGlaser@aol.com](mailto:ChrsGlaser@aol.com) .