

## References for Sexuality Forum Homosexuality and the Church

### **Books**

**\*David L. Balch, ed., *Homosexuality, Science, and the "Plain Sense" of Scripture*, (Eerdmans, 2000).**

Contains essays from scholars on both sides of the issue. Includes an important essay by David E. Fredrickson on the passage in Romans 1. *\*This is the essay Sue mentioned in her presentation.\**

**John Boswell, *Christianity, Social Tolerance, and Homosexuality: Gay People in Western Europe from the Beginning of the Christian Era to the Fourteenth Century*. (University of Chicago Press, 2005).**

"What makes this work so exciting is not simply its content—fascinating though that is—but its revolutionary challenge to some of Western culture's most familiar moral assumptions."—Jean Strouse, *Newsweek*

**Margaret A. Farley, *Just Love: A Framework for Christian Sexual Ethics* Continuum, 2006.** This year's winner of the Grawemeyer Award!

**Robert A. J. Gagnon, *The Bible & Homosexual Practice: Texts and Hermeneutics*. (Abingdon Press, 2001).**

"This is a brilliant, original, and highly important work...indispensable even for those who disagree with the author." James Barr, Distinguished Professor of Hebrew Bible, Emeritus, Vanderbilt University (From the Back Cover)

**Charles Hefling, *Our Selves, Our Souls and Bodies: Sexuality and the Household of God*, Cowley Publications, 1996.**

**Daniel Helminiak. *What the Bible Really Says About Homosexuality*. Millennium ed. Updated and Expanded. New Mexico: Alamo Square Press, 2000.**

Helminiak, a Roman Catholic Priest, explores the biblical texts which are used to condemn, oppress and marginalize God's children who are gay and lesbian. He goes beyond the literal words of the text to enter into the spirit of the Bible, where Helminiak confronts a God who created us all in the divine image, a Christ who values each of us infinitely and a Holy Spirit who calls us into the fullness of our humanity.

**William Stacey Johnson. *A Time to Embrace: Same-Gender Relationships in Religion, Law, and Politics*. (Eerdmans, 2006).**

Johnson provides an analysis of the religious, legal, and political stakes in the debate over gay marriage, civil unions, and the place of committed gay couples in a democratic society. A member of the PCUSA's Theological Task Force on Peace, Unity, and Purity of the Church, his presentation of six theological viewpoints taken by individuals can be found here: <http://www.pres-outlook.com/HTML/taskforcesixviews080504.html>

**\*Dale B. Martin, *Sex and the Single Savior: Gender and Sexuality in Biblical Interpretation* (Westminster John Knox Press, 2006).**

A brilliant analysis of the hermeneutical issues involved in dealing with this topic. It is too difficult for most lay people, but seminary students should be able to handle it. He is an excellent, lively writer. *\*This is the other book Sue mentioned.\**

**David G. Myers and Letha Dawson Scanzoni. *What God Has Joined Together? A Christian Case for Gay Marriage*. (Harper Collins, 2005).**

References for Sexuality Forum  
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**Jack Rogers. *Jesus, the Bible, and Homosexuality: Explode the Myths, Heal the Church.* (WJK Press, 2006).**

**Letha Scanzoni & Virginia R. Mollenkott. *Is the Homosexual My Neighbor?* (Harper Collins Publishing, 1987).**

**Jeffrey Siker. *Homosexuality and the Church: Both Sides of the Debate* (WJK Press, 1994).**

**Marion L. Soards, *Scripture & Homosexuality.* (WJK Press, 1995).**

**Leanne McCall Tigert. *Coming Out While Staying In: Struggles and Celebrations of Lesbians, Gays, and Bisexuals in the Church.* (United Church Press, 1996).**

This book reflects the author's personal struggle with the church as the source of pain and alienation - as well as support and renewal. Tigert is an ordained UCC minister.

For Presbyterians, there's a little volume edited by **Ted Smith, *Sexuality, the Bible and the Church: Plain Talk about Tough issues.*** These essays are available online for free: <http://www.covenantnetwork.org/faqsbc06.htm>

If you'd like them in a booklet format, the cost is \$5 for one or \$3 for ten or more. If you're interested in ordering one, let Karin know.

**Articles:**

Myers, David F. "Accepting What Cannot Be Changed" in *Perspectives*, June/July 1999, 5-7.

Smedes, Lewis. "Like the Wideness of the Sea" in *Perspectives*, May 1999, 8-12. A video of him speaking about this is available at <http://www.soulforce.org/article/lewis-smedes-video>

Olthuis, James. "When is Sex Against Nature?" in *An Ethos of Compassion and the Integrity of Creation*, eds. Walsh, Hart, & Vandervennen, (Lanham: University Press of America, 1995).

**Websites of Interest:**

These are all Presbyterian advocacy groups that have great resources on their websites concerning history, biblical interpretations, examples of inclusive worship services, and current overtures to the General Assembly of the PC(USA). More advocacy groups can be found on the Presbyterian church's website: <http://www.pcusa.org/links/advocacy.htm>

**More Light Presbyterians** <http://www.mlp.org/>

**Covenant Network of Presbyterians** <http://www.covenantnetwork.org/home.htm>

**Presbyterians for Renewal** <http://www.pfrenew.org/index.htm>

**That All May Freely Serve** <http://www.tamfs.org/>

**Confessing Church Movement** <http://confessingchurch.homestead.com/>

[http://www.religioustolerance.org/hom\\_pru7.htm](http://www.religioustolerance.org/hom_pru7.htm) does a pretty good job of breaking down the different advocacy groups and their stances.

**Building Bridges of Understanding: Tony and Peggy Campolo on Homosexuality** On the Gay Christian Network website there is a recording of Dr Tony Campolo and his wife Peggy who hold opposing views on homosexuality and discuss their differences:

<http://gaychristian.net/campolos.php>