



2025 FALL CONFERENCE



SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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**BIBLICAL SEXUALITY
IN TODAY'S CULTURE**

A Selected Bibliography

By Dr. Kevin Bauder

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A word of caution is necessary.

All the following authors discuss adult topics in adult ways. Some of them hold perspectives that are far from Christian, and their writing reflects their point of view.

Some of these works contain rather graphic descriptions, and some of them employ coarse language.

BACKGROUND BOOKS

Doyle, Andrew. *The New Puritans: How the Religion of Social Justice Captured the Western World.* London: Constable, 2022. 384pp.

This is a completely secular book. The very first sentence contains an obscenity. The author is a liberal who nevertheless objects to identity politics and social justice ideology. His thesis is that the current fervor in favor of social justice reflects a religious commitment to its ideals. While not a specialist, the author has clearly done the background reading to speak intelligently to the issues. Beware of raw language and graphic descriptions.

Murray, Douglas. *The Madness of Crowds: Gender, Race, and Identity.* New York: Bloomsbury, 2019. 289pp.

Douglas Murray is a secular homosexual who sees a danger in identity politics. He particularly takes issue with using categories such as gender and race to establish victim classes that are entitled to special concessions. He points out the intrinsic tensions between various elements of the LGBTQIA+ stack—tensions that have subsequently become increasingly evident. Beware of raw language and graphic discussions.

Trueman, Carl. *The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self: Cultural Amnesia, Expressive Individualism, and the Road to Sexual Revolution.* Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2020. 489pp.

_____. *Strange New World: How Thinkers and Activists Redefined Identity and Sparked the Sexual Revolution.* Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2022. 208pp.

These two volumes cover much of the same material. The earlier volume is larger and more technical; the later volume covers the same approximate territory in less space and with less specificity. Together they represent Carl Trueman's reading of Western culture as it has resulted in today's identity politics, with particular focus on sexual identity. Trueman is one of the most important conservative and Christian thinkers of the present day. Every pastor should read at least the shorter book.

HERMENEUTICS

Reaoch, Benjamin. *Women, Slaves, and the Gender Debate: A Complementarian Response to the Redemptive-Movement Hermeneutic.* Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2012. 224pp.

Reaoch is responding directly to William Webb's Redemptive Movement Hermeneutic. He notes the tensions within Webb's discussion, particularly Webb's willingness to appeal to the creation order for an ethic of homosexuality but his unwillingness to appeal to that order for an ethic of gender roles. Reaoch argues that Webb's approach can be co-opted for use by homosexual revisionists.

Webb, William J. *Slaves, Women, and Homosexuals: Exploring the Hermeneutics of Cultural Analysis.* Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2001. 301pp.

In this book, William Webb develops the "Redemptive Movement Hermeneutic." His task is to distinguish the timeless ethic of Scripture from its merely cultural applications. In the process he articulates a method that can be used to relativize nearly any aspect of biblical morality. One takes an ethical starting point in ancient culture, and then one observes how scripture modifies the cultural ethic. These two points (cultural and scriptural) set a trajectory that can be drawn beyond explicit biblical revelation. While Webb insists that the RDH cannot be used to justify homosexual conduct, his arguments are being used in exactly that way.

SAME SEX ADVOCACY AND REVISIONISM

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. 442pp.

_____. *Same-Sex Unions in Premodern Europe.* New York: Vintage Books, 1995. 464pp.

Boswell was a nominally evangelical scholar who formulated the first persuasive case that Christianity was not intrinsically anti-homosexual. He died of complications from AIDS in 1994. At the time, his work was not widely accepted by historians, but it has become the basis for the contemporary evangelical gay agenda.

Brownson, James V. *Bible, Gender, Sexuality: Reframing the Church's Debate on Same-Sex Relationships.* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2013. 313pp.

Originally a traditionalist, Brownson rethought his views on homosexuality after his son came out as gay. In this book he tries to build a biblical case for tolerating and even celebrating homosexuality. He repeats and simplifies some of the arguments employed by Boswell. Brownson is a professor at Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan.

Dwyer, John F. *Those 7 References: A Study of 7 References to Homosexuality in the Bible.* Scotts Valley, CA: BookSurge Publishing, 2007. 116pp.

Writing from an Episcopalian viewpoint, John Dwyer examines the main biblical passages that are supposed to teach against same sex conduct. His conclusion is that none of these passages is about sex *per se*. They are all about the "violent and wrongful taking, and use of, another individual." In other words, the Bible does not teach that homosexuality is wrong. The argument is similar to Brownson's, only much briefer.

Elledge, Jim. *An Angel In Sodom: Henry Gerber and the Birth of the Gay Rights Movement*. Chicago: Chicago Review Press, 2023. 304pp.

Henry Gerber emigrated from Germany to the United States before the First World War. He became one of the very early activists to organize in favor of homosexual rights. Elledge has written his biography. The work gives a sense of what it was like to pursue others of the same sex during the McCarthy era. It also provides an overview of the early organization of the gay rights movement.

Greyland, Moira. *The Last Closet: The Dark Side of Avalon*. Kouvola, Finland: Castalia House, 2017. 550pp.

First, Greyland is critical of the LGBTQIA movement. Nevertheless, her upbringing positioned her squarely within that movement. She is the daughter of Marion Zimmer Bradley and Walter Breen. Both parents were famous people, and both were in the middle of the homosexual movement of the 1960s. Greyland writes this memoir to argue that the link between homosexuality and predation is far stronger than is usually recognized. The whole book is hard to read, and some parts, while truthful, are both graphic and ugly.

Gushee, David P. *Changing Our Mind: Definitive 3rd Edition of the Landmark Call for Inclusion of LGBTQ Christians with Response to Critics*. 3rd ed. Canton, MI: ReadTheSpirit Books, 2017. 188pp.

At one time Gushee billed himself as the most important evangelical ethicist. This book represents his transition from traditionalist views to open and accepting views on homosexuality and transgenderism. Gushee argues that sexual relations between people of the same sex are permissible but should be restricted to covenantal relationships.

Hay, Harry. *Radically Gay: Gay Liberation in the Words of Its Founder*. Ed. by Will Roscoe. Boston: Beacon Press, 1996. 364pp.

Hay, a pioneer of the homosexual rights movement, was the key founder of the Mattachine Society and, later, the Radical Faeries. These were early organizations that both promoted same sex activity and worked toward its eventual legalization. This volume contains Hay's reminiscences of the origins and growth of the Gay Rights Movement.

Keen, Karen R. *Scripture, Ethics, and the Possibility of Same Sex Relationships*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2018. 183pp.

For Keen, biblical commands and prohibitions—even if grounded in nature—must be understood against the backdrop of human need. Applying this rubric to homosexuality, Keen insists that the infeasibility of celibacy places an untenable burden upon same sex attracted people. She considers same sex attraction to be a natural variation within the human race, not a product of the Fall.

Shaw, Julia. *Bi: The Hidden Culture, History, and Science of Bisexuality*. New York: Harry N. Abrams, 2023. 240pp.

Arguing that B is the neglected letter in the LGBTQIA+ stack, Shaw attempts to make the case for bisexuality as a distinct category. Much of her argument focuses on discrimination against B people by the L and G people. While it is not the conclusion Shaw intended to communicate, her work makes it clear that there are indeed cracks in the coalition.

Vines, Matthew. *God and the Gay Christian: The Biblical Case in Support of Same-Sex Relationships*. New York: Convergent Books, 2014. 224 pp.

When he wrote this book, Matthew Vines was young, personable, and identified as gay. It is a short book that contributes little that is new. It is mainly a rehash of Boswell's and Brownson's arguments, combined with the narrative of Vines's own experience. The presentation is winsome, and the book has become disproportionately influential.

BIBLICAL AND TRADITIONALIST

Allberry, Sam. *Is God Anti-Gay? And Other Questions About Homosexuality, the Bible, and Same Sex Attraction.* Epsom, UK: Good Book Company, 2013. 172pp.

_____. *Why Does God Care Who I Sleep With?* Epsom, UK: Good Book Company, 2020. 147pp.

Allberry admits to being a same sex attracted man who is also strongly evangelical. *Is God Anti-Gay?* is a defense of traditional sexual ethics and traditional marriage. It is also an assertion of God's love toward homosexuals. *Why Does God Care Who I Sleep With?* is a short theology of sexuality. Both volumes are brief and easy to read but quite instructive.

Burk, Denny and Heath Lambert. *Transforming Homosexuality: What the Bible Says about Sexual Orientation and Change.* Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2015. 136 pp.

These two authors tackle the subject of homosexuality from the perspective of the biblical counseling movement. Their critique of Reparative Therapy is spot on. Their treatment of SSA and of temptation in general is less persuasive.

Butterfield, Rosaria. *Openness Unhindered: Further Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert on Sexual Identity and Union with Christ.* Pittsburgh: Crown & Covenant Publications, 2015. 206pp.

_____. *Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert: Expanded Edition.* 2nd ed. Pittsburgh: Crown & Covenant Publications, 2014. 208pp.

A former lesbian professor in a top-ranked university, Butterfield was reached for Christ and is now a pastor's wife. *Secret Thoughts* is her testimony. She repeats parts of this testimony in *Openness Unhindered*, but she also responds more directly to pro-homosexual rhetoric. Her writing is charitable, gentle, and lucid.

Cook, Becket. *A Change of Affection: A Gay Man's Incredible Story of Redemption.* Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2019. 224pp.

The author was deeply involved in homosexual relationships when he was surprised by the gospel. This book is his story of conversion. As he tells his story, he also offers counsel about presenting truth to people within the homosexual movement.

De Young, James B. *Homosexuality: Contemporary Claims Examined in Light of the Bible and Other Ancient Literature and Law.* (Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2000). 384pp.

This work was written relatively early in the debate over homosexuality. James De Young expounds the biblical texts that forbid homosexuality. He also responds to objections that were being raised at the time. In the process he deals with difficult questions such as the meaning of the Hebrew *to'eba* (abomination) and the significance of “against nature” in Romans 1. While not as complete as Robert Gagnon’s work, this is a very valuable source.

DeYoung, Kevin. *What Does the Bible Really Teach about Homosexuality?* Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2015. 162pp.

A far shorter and more popular work than Robert Gagnon’s, in this book Kevin DeYoung offers an abbreviated and simplified synopsis of the arguments in favor of a biblical understanding of homosexuality. If you are going to read just one book in response to the normalization of homosexuality, this book should be it.

Gagnon, Robert. *The Bible and Homosexual Practice: Texts and Hermeneutics.* Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2002. 522 pp.

Robert Gagnon has devoted far more words to defending a biblical understanding of homosexuality than any other writer. His treatment is scholarly and thorough. He has written virtually an encyclopedia on this topic. This is not a book that will be read by many ordinary church members, but it belongs on every pastor’s shelf. Gagnon has subsequently assumed the role of an activist opposing SSA and Trans activism. You can find him posting multiple times daily on Facebook.

Hill, Wesley. *Washed and Waiting: Reflections on Christian Faithfulness and Homosexuality*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2016. 224pp.

The author is a defender of the category of "Gay Christian." He is same sex attracted. He argues that homosexual practice is wrong, but he still thinks that SSA may be a God-given way of bringing strengths that an individual might not otherwise enjoy. He calls upon Gay Christians to remain celibate while also remaining gay. I found it to be a whiny little book.

Lambert, Heath. "Oil and Water: The Impossible Relationship Between Evangelicalism and Reparative Therapy." *ACBC Essays 1* (2017): 5-15.

A useful critique of reparative therapy, which is a therapeutic theory and technique for treating homosexuality. This theory has been increasingly attacked and even outlawed. Lambert makes the case that it is not compatible with a biblical understanding of human nature.

McDowell, Sean and John Stonestreet. *Same Sex Marriage: A Thoughtful Approach to God's Design for Marriage*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2014. 177pp.

The authors first outline a biblical vision of marriage. They trace how social changes have affected this vision. Then they offer a program for defending traditional marriage. The book was written before *Obergefell*, and it was too little and too late. Nevertheless, the argument has a value.

Mohler, R. Albert (ed.). *God and the Gay Christian? A Response to Matthew Vines*. Louisville, KY: SBTS Press, 2014. 62pp.

A compilation by Mohler of essays from the faculty at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, this book responds directly to Matthew Vines's popular arguments favoring openness toward and acceptance of homosexuality. It is a very short work, but it addresses the issues that Vines has raised.

Peacock, Gavin and Owen Strachan. *What Does the Bible Teach about Homosexuality? A Short Book on Biblical Sexuality.* Fearn, UK: Christian Focus, 2020. 114pp.

Here is a short work that provides an abbreviated theology of sexuality and a conservative critique of same sex sexual desire and activity. While this is a fine book, it contains little that cannot be found elsewhere. The authors adopt a charitable tone, and the work provides a useful introduction to the topic for someone who is beginning to study it.

Shaw, Ed. *Same Sex Attraction and the Church: The Surprising Plausibility of the Celibate Life.* Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2015. 172pp.

This volume is more pastoral than polemical. Shaw wants to convince same sex attracted Christians (he is one) that celibacy is both workable and desirable. He attempts to refocus the problem away from self while recognizing that American Christianity has catered to self for a very long time. He asks for an understanding of personhood grounded in God's vision for humans.

Yarhouse, Mark A. *Homosexuality and the Christian: A Guide for Parents, Pastors, and Friends.* Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2010. 240pp.

The author writes from the perspective of clinical psychology. Some have accused him of conceding too much to homosexual advocates, but he does draw some distinctions that are very useful in the discussion of homosexuality. One valuable feature is that he contrasts the secular "script" for SSA individuals with a more biblical script.

Yuan, Christopher. *Holy Sexuality and the Gospel: Sex, Desire, and Relationships Shaped by God's Grand Story.* New York: Multnomah, 2018.

Part of this work is autobiographical. It tells the story of Yuan's own conversion from active homosexuality to Christianity. Another part of the work is theoretical and theological, arguing for a traditionalist understanding of sex and gender. Yuan is now a professor at Moody Bible Institute.

TRANSGENDERISM AND GENDER

Anderson, Ryan T. *When Harry Became Sally: Responding to the Transgender Movement.* New York: Encounter, 2018, 2019.

This book bears the distinction of having been banned by Amazon, which lets you know how effective it is. Anderson takes the hardheaded view that sex is unchangeable and gender is tied to sex. While Anderson is a Catholic, this is not a specifically Christian book. The author's concern is not to develop a biblical case, but to point out the inner contradictions and devastating consequences of the transgender ideology. Every pastor should read this book.

Favale, Abigail. *The Genesis of Gender: A Christian Theory.* San Francisco: Ignatius, 2022.

Writing from a Catholic perspective, Favale argues that the modern notion of gender was developed by feminists. She is in a position to make this argument, having been schooled in and having advocated those very feminist perspectives. She forces her readers to consider whether they have already conceded too many important categories to the LGBTQIA+ advocates.

Grossman, Miriam. *Lost in Trans Nation: A Child Psychiatrists Guide Out of the Madness.* Brattleboro, VT: Skyhorse, 2023. 362pp.

As a child psychiatrist, Grossman is not particularly concerned with transgenderism in general. Her specific concern is prompted by the sudden spike in Rapid Onset Gender Dysphoria among juveniles, which she believes to be largely the result of social contagion and maladjustment. Her concern is amplified by the degree to which health care has been taken over by activists who lack data to support their agenda.

Kailey, Matt. *My Child Is Transgender: 10 Tips for Parents of Adult Trans Children.* NP: Tranifesto Publishing, 2012. 28pp.

A very short manual that instructs parents in how to be open and affirming toward children who come out as Trans. If you are a Christian, you will be astonished at what Kailey advocates. But people are following these instructions.

Kent, Susan Kingsley. *Gender: A World History.* New Oxford World History. New York: Oxford, 2021. 181pp.

Here is an extended argument that gender is not natural but made up, and that it is not neutral but embedded in various power relationships. Kent traces various ways in which gender has been understood historically. She concludes with a discussion of gender politics during the Twentieth Century. An epilogue deals with contemporary challenges to gender identities. This book is a classic example of Critical Theory being applied to gender issues.

Peacock, Gavin, and Owen Strachan. *What Does the Bible Teach about Transgenderism? A Short Book about Personal Identity.* Fearn, UK: Christian Focus, 2020. 122pp.

This brief discussion begins with an exploration of biblical teachings that affect transgenderism. It goes on to offer practical counsel in dealing with problems that the transgender issue raises. It also includes a good discussion of gender roles. Taken on balance, this may be the best short work on the topic from a Christian perspective.

Raines, Jamie. *The T in LGBT+: Everything You Need to Know.* Naperville, IL: Sourcebooks, 2024. 258pp.

The author is a woman who wants people to treat her as a man. The book is a how-to manual for people who imagine themselves to be the opposite gender and who wish to be treated that way. Raines is an activist for whose great opponent is transphobia. The tone is chipper and chatty. This book will give you a glimpse into the workings of at least one version of trans-activism.

Roberts, Vaughan. *Transgender: A Talking Points Book*. Epsom, UK: Good Book Company, 2016. 83pp.

At only 83 pages, Roberts's book is one of the briefest introductions to the transgender controversy. If you have never read anything on the topic, this is a good place to start. The work is generally conservative, and it takes the time to articulate brief definitions of the various terms related to the issue (and there are many terms to understand).

Sprinkle, Preston. *Embodied: Transgender Identities, the Church, and What the Bible Has To Say*. Colorado Springs: David C. Cook, 2021. 285pp.

Sprinkle wants to be both (relatively) conservative and cool. The result is a work that more or less defends a more-or-less traditional sexuality, while conceding more or less everything that can possibly be conceded to transgender ideologues. The book does have the advantage of being very readable, and it does offer some defense of a traditional understanding of gender.

Walker, Andrew T. *God and the Transgender Debate: What Does the Bible Actually Say About Gender Identity?* Epsom, UK: Good Book Company, 2022. 208pp.

One of the more conservative books on the topic, this volume takes time to study the intellectual underpinnings of the debate over gender. For the most part, the author presents a thoroughly biblical evaluation. Nevertheless, the book retains a tone of empathy that would be inappropriate if applied to other sorts of sins.

Yarhouse, Mark A. *Understanding Gender Dysphoria: Navigating Transgender Issues in a Changing Culture*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2015. 191pp.

Few books are both as relatively conservative and as thorough in their treatment of transgenderism as Yarhouse's. He provides a useful framework for conceptualizing approaches to the subject. Unfortunately, he ends up being more concessive toward some elements of transition than many conservatives will feel comfortable with. While he does deal with biblical concerns to some extent, his approach is primarily psychological and clinical.

DISORDERS OF SEXUAL DEVELOPMENT

Cox, Jennifer Anne. *Intersex in Christ: Ambiguous Biology and the Gospel.* Eugene, OR: Cascade / Wipf and Stock, 2018. 188pp.

The author teaches theology at Tabor College in Perth, Western Australia. She is accused of being a fundamentalist by advocates of the LGBTQIA+ stack, but she is not. The book is mildly useful as a survey of the problems connected with Intersex, but it does not go very deep when looking for solutions.

DeFranza, Megan K. *Sex Difference in Christian Theology: Male, Female, and Intersex in the Image of God.* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2015. 327pp.

Evangelicals have written few perspectives on what it means to be “Intersex,” the popular name for Disorders (or Differences) of Sexual Development. DeFranza writes from the Evangelical Left, seeking to stake out concessive ground toward parts of the LGBTQIA+ agenda. She attempts to use the biblical category of “eunuch” to expand the notion of Intersex to include at least some Transsexuality, going so far as to turn the gender binary into a spectrum.

Feder, Ellen K. *Making Sense of Intersex: Changing Ethical Perspectives in Biomedicine.* Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press. 240pp.

This volume is an attempt by a secular philosopher and ethicist to deal with issues related to DSDs. The upshot of the book is that the author strongly opposes performing “normalizing” surgeries, particularly on children.

Vilorea, Hilda. *Born Both: An Intersex Life*. New York: Hachette Books, 2017. 352pp.

Essentially a memoir, Vilorea tells her story from the point of view of an Intersex person. Nevertheless, she is fully biologically female, having even conceived a child. Vilorea uses her experience to question the gender binary. Her story is revealing, but parts of it are told in a way that borders on pornographic. It cannot be recommended without reservation.

GENDER ROLES

DeYoung, Kevin. *Men and Women in the Church: A Short, Biblical, Practical Introduction*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2021. 176pp.

The subtitle provides a good description of this book. It is both brief and non-technical, but it raises the most important questions about the roles of men and women in the church, the family, and beyond. The author is complementarian, but he recognizes some of the flaws within the complementarian movement. This volume is probably the best short work on this topic.

Piper, John and Wayne Grudem, eds. *Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood: A Response to Evangelical Feminism*. Revised Edition. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2021. 688pp.

This classic work against evangelical feminism contains important chapters on masculinity and femininity. Even if you disagree with some conclusions, you'll appreciate the thought and the exegetical work that has gone into the preparation. If you haven't read this book yet, why not?