

2011–present

Christian Traditions

General Survey of Christian Experiences

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Annotated by Carlos R. Fernandez, annotations adopted from Amazon.com

Aelred, Peter. *To Melt a Golden Calf: An Evangelical Christian Case for Same-Sex Relationships*. CreateSpace, 2013.

For decades now, outspoken evangelical Christians have been at the forefront of resisting the cultural shift towards accepting same-sex relationships. From the church pulpit to the political podium, condemnation of homosexuality has come to define the identity of evangelicalism. What if it did not have to be this way? What if same-sex relationships could be affirmed through an authoritative, infallible reading of the Bible? From an evangelical missionary who once fought in the culture wars against gay rights only to undergo a reluctant reversal, *To Melt a Golden Calf* stands out as a concise, biblical, and balanced defense of same-sex relationships. Drawing from bedrock Christian beliefs, Peter Aelred seeks to untangle the complicated questions around homosexuality, not for reasons of cultural accommodation, but for the sake of the Gospel itself.

Alonso, Margarita. *Best Inclusion Practices: LGBT Diversity*. Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan, 2013.

This compilation of experience and sound knowledge seeks to increase awareness about the specific circumstances of LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender) diversity. Based on a wide range of literature, it provides a global vision of this reality, explaining the evolution of homosexuality during history and reasons why it has been considered a sin, an illness, and a crime. Due to its global scope, this volume presents reflections and solutions relevant to any type of international organization that aims to add LGBT inclusion practices to its agenda.

Bailey, Ludger H. *Between a Man and a Woman? Why Conservatives Oppose Same-sex Marriage*. New York: Columbia UP, 2010.

Through a probing investigation of conservative Christianity and its response to an issue that, according to the statistics of conservative Christian groups, affects only a small number of Americans, Ludger Viehues-Bailey alights on a profound theological conundrum. In today's conservative Christian movement, both sexes are called upon to be at once assertive and submissive, masculine and feminine, not only within the home but also within the church, society, and the state. Therefore, the arguments of conservative Christians against same-sex marriage involve more than literal readings of the Bible or nostalgia for simple gender roles. Focusing primarily on texts produced by Focus on the

Family, a leading media and ministry organization informing conservative Christian culture, Viefhues-Bailey identifies two distinct ideas of male homosexuality: gender-disturbed and passive; and oversexed, strongly masculine, and aggressive. These homosexualities enable a complex ideal of Christian masculinity in which men are encouraged to be assertive toward the world while also being submissive toward God and family. This web of sexual contradiction influences the flow of power between the sexes and within the state. It joins notions of sexual equality to claims of "natural" difference, establishing a fraught basis for respectable romantic marriage. Heterosexual union is then treated as emblematic of, if not essential to, the success of American political life—yet far from creating gender stability, these tensions produce an endless striving for balance. Viefhues-Bailey's final, brilliant move is to connect the desire for stability to the conservative Christian movement's strategies of political power.

Barham, F. Lee. *The Religious Right Is Wrong: The Ethics of Religion and the Gay Community*. CreateSpace, 2013.

This book provides insight into the religious right's misapplication of misunderstood biblical passages that harm liberal and moderate Christians. American Christian fundamentalists love the stilted English prose of the King James' Version of the Bible, but few know of competing translations, early para-Christian theologies, political forces behind the Bible's authorship, the biases of scholarly interpreters of scripture, or the harms inflicted on the gay community by selective usage of misunderstood biblical admonitions. Many of these harms are born of ignorance, religious addiction, self-loathing, greed, desire for political power, and feelings of superiority toward those harmed. The author examines misunderstood biblical history, pagan religions, and early Christian movements wherein Christ overturned societal, cultural, and religious norms. The author reveals Jesus' positive disposition toward non-heterosexuals. With this knowledge, many can feel good again about being Christian.

Boisvert, Donald L. *Queer Religion*. Santa Barbara, Calif.: Praeger, 2012.

Queer Religion provides a systematic and detailed overview of the challenges and issues that the intersections of religion, same-sex desire, and gender variance have generated, both now and in the past. It focuses upon the development of these areas of overlap through three distinct historical periods: modern religious history, LGBT liberation movements, and the emergence of queer theory and analysis. This two-volume collection of eclectic essays investigates the experiences of queer people and religion, providing a broad, unique, and invaluable analysis of this important cultural and theological encounter. As a group, the contributors offer brave insights and diverse perspectives on a variety of topics dealing with religion, same-sex desire, and gender expression. Some of these essays are explicitly historical in focus or scholarly articles, while others provide autobiographical viewpoints and personal reminiscences. This book provides a comprehensive look at the queer dimensions of religious practice and belief—essential reading for religious scholars; those within the LGBT community; and anyone interested in human spirituality and sexuality.

Bowden, Jim. *Validating Committed Partnerships: A Still More Excellent Way*. Trafford, 2012.

"Although written from a biblical/Christian perspective this book's theme has practical value for everyone. It presents a new relational paradigm supported by love, justice, mutuality, and other spiritual qualities. The author believes scripture teaches that all human beings are created to live in fulfilling relationships even those who are homosexual. People of faith, family, & community are urged to support same gender couples by validating their committed partnership; however, nearly 50% of American citizens and church members do not support legalizing same gender marriage. This historical perspective on marriage reveals marriage has experienced considerable positive change and practice during the past 75 years and needs to be redefined. Until the 20th century procreation (be fruitful and multiply) was marriage's major purpose. While procreation remains important, mutuality has become the major emphasis. As written in Genesis 2:18 (NRSV), God sought a partner for the man. In many marriages, partnership has replaced patriarchy, providing an enriching relational experience in family life.

Bowens, Marilyn. *Ready to Answer: Why "Homophobic Church" Is an Oxymoron*. AuthorHouse, 2011.

It's an abomination "They want to 'pick and choose' what parts of the Bible to obey" "God created Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve" Most same-gender-loving Christians from fundamentalist backgrounds have heard these phrases, over and over again, from their "Accusers" - homophobic Christians who refuse to acknowledge LGBT Christians as part of the Body of Christ. In *Ready to Answer*, Rev. Marilyn Bowens responds to their favorite slogans; and shares additional insights from her journey from fundamentalism to peaceful, authentic, and intimate relationship with God. *Ready to Answer* is food for the souls of LGBT Christians who are struggling to heal from the abusive theology, policies, and practices of Accuser churches.

Boyd, Stacy C. *Black Men Worshipping: Intersecting Anxieties of Race, Gender, and Christian Embodiment*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011.

Black Men Worshipping analyzes the discursive spaces where black Christian masculinity is constructed, performed, and contested in American religion and culture. It judiciously considers the anxiety that emerges from black male negotiations with constructions of blackness, maleness, and Christian embodiment. *Black Men Worshipping* places fictive literary narratives in dialogue with the non-fictive narratives in an effort to provide a snapshot of the complex constellation of issues involved in black male Christian embodiment.

Brintnall, Kent L. *Ecce Homo the Male-body-in-pain as Redemptive Figure*. Chicago, IL: U of Chicago, 2011.

Images of suffering male bodies permeate Western culture, from Francis Bacon's paintings and Robert Mapplethorpe's photographs to the battered heroes of action movies. Drawing on perspectives from a range of disciplines—including religious

studies, gender and queer studies, psychoanalysis, art history, and film theory—*Ecce Homo* explores the complex, ambiguous meanings of the enduring figure of the male-body-in-pain. Acknowledging that representations of men confronting violence and pain can reinforce ideas of manly tenacity, Kent L. Brintnall also argues that they reveal the vulnerability of men's bodies and open them up to eroticization. Locating the roots of our cultural fascination with male pain in the crucifixion, he analyzes the way narratives of Christ's death and resurrection both support and subvert cultural fantasies of masculine power and privilege. Through stimulating readings of works by Georges Bataille, Kaja Silverman, and more, Brintnall delineates the redemptive power of representations of male suffering and violence.

Brinton, Henry G. *The Welcoming Congregation: Roots and Fruits of Christian Hospitality*. Louisville, Ky.: Westminster John Knox, 2012.

"Every time people sit down to eat and drink together, there is the possibility that community will grow and people will be reconciled to one another. This is good news for a fractured and polarized world, and a strong sign of the importance of being a welcoming congregation that embraces all people with God's love and grace." from the introduction. This practical book by Pastor Henry G. Brinton studies the biblical basis for Christian hospitality and how it is practiced today. While recognizing the challenges for embracing all people in the life of the church, Brinton offers a helpful guide for creating a hospitable congregation and welcoming others through spiritual formation, reconciliation, and outreach. He includes discussion questions and an action plan in each chapter.

Browne, Kath, and Sally Munt. *Queer Spiritual Spaces Sexuality and Sacred Places*. Farnham: Ashgate, 2010.

Drawn from extensive, new and rich empirical research across the UK, Canada and USA, "Queer Spiritual Spaces" investigates the contemporary socio-cultural practices of belief, by those who have historically been, and continue to be, excluded or derided by mainstream religions and alternative spiritualities. As the first monograph to be directly informed by 'queer' subjectivities whilst dealing with divergent spiritualities on an international scale, this book explores the recently emerging innovative spaces and integrative practices of queer spiritualities. Its breadth of coverage and keen critical engagement mean it will serve as a theoretically fertile, comprehensive entry point for any scholar wishing to explore the queer spiritual spaces of the twenty-first century.

Brownson, James V. *Bible, Gender, Sexuality: Reframing the Church's Debate on Same-sex Relationships*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: W.B. Eerdmans Pub., 2013.

In Bible, Gender, Sexuality James Brownson argues that Christians should reconsider whether or not the biblical strictures against same-sex relations as defined in the ancient world should apply to contemporary, committed same-sex relationships. Presenting two sides in the debate -- "traditionalist" and "revisionist" -- Brownson carefully analyzes each of the seven main texts that appear to address intimate same-sex relations. In the process, he explores key concepts that inform our understanding of the biblical texts,

including patriarchy, complementarity, purity and impurity, honor and shame. Central to his argument is the need to uncover the moral logic behind the biblical text. Written in order to serve and inform the ongoing debate in many denominations over the questions of homosexuality, Brownson's in-depth study will prove a useful resource for Christians who want to form a considered opinion on this important issue.

Cheng, Patrick S. *From Sin to Amazing Grace: Discovering the Queer Christ*. New York: Seabury, 2012. Print.

From *Sin to Amazing Grace: Discovering the Queer Christ* explores the theological concept of sin, which has a history of being used as a weapon against LGBT people by the religious right. Too many people within the LGBT community have been wounded by traditional conceptualizations of sin, and therefore LGBT theologies tend to focus more on God's unconditional grace than the harsher concept of sin. However, as Cheng develops in his latest book, sin is not a concept that should be thrown out but instead embraced by LGBT people of faith. Cheng re-conceptualizes sin and grace, shifting from a crime-based model of sin to a Christ-centered model. Sin is re-imagined as exploitation, apathy, shame, and isolation, while grace is portrayed as mutuality, activism, pride, and interdependence. Cheng notes, "How can we adequately describe and critique this world of ours that is filled with violence, terrorism, economic inequity, and sexual exploitation without sin-talk?" Cheng's take on the doctrine of sin challenges LGBT people to challenge oppressive structures and inequality. He reminds us that sin is central to queer theology because it describes those instances in which we fail to fight oppression and wrongdoing in the world around us. It is a model of sin that proclaims LGBT activism & advocacy as a manifestation of God's grace.

Cheng, Patrick S. *Radical Love: An Introduction to Queer Theology*. Church, 2011.

Queer theology is more than LGBT people talking about God, according to Cheng, professor at Episcopal Divinity School and ordained minister in the Metropolitan Community Church. The real enterprise for queer theology is challenging binary distinctions and erasing boundaries. This erasure is made possible (indeed demanded) by the radical love espoused by Christianity. Through this love, all boundaries (gay/straight, male/female, life/death, divine/human) are dissolved. The first third of the book gallops through the history and method of queer theology. The barrage of snippets from theologians feels somewhat disjointed and overwhelming, but does provide a taste of the breadth of queer theology. Cheng then uses the framework of the Nicene and Apostles' Creeds to show how radical love can dissolve distinctions. Even liberal Christians might be alarmed at some of the explicit images Cheng connects with God and spiritual matters. Such shocks, however, play into the argument that queer theology should trouble assumptions. Cheng's work provides an accessible if somewhat rushed glimpse into how queer theology works; its main benefit is the extensive bibliography for those wanting more.

Cheng, Patrick S. *Rainbow Theology: Bridging Race, Sexuality, and Spirit*. Seabury, 2013.

In *Rainbow Theology*, Patrick S. Cheng does what no one else has done to date: he systematically examines the theological writings of LGBTIQ people of color in order to reflect upon the theological significance of the intersections of race and queer sexuality across multiple ethnic and cultural groups. Cheng's pioneering work is particularly important in light of the current polarizing debates over issues of race, sexuality, and religion within churches and communities of faith around the world. *Rainbow Theology* is not simply descriptive, however; it is a trenchant work of constructive theology that delineates the themes of multiplicity, middle spaces, and mediation as a way to open theological discourse for a broad readership of academics, clergy, and laity interested in this critical theological topic.

Chu, Jeff. *Does Jesus Really Love Me?: A Gay Christian's Pilgrimage in Search of God in America*. New York: Harper, 2013.

When Jeff Chu came out to his parents as a gay man, his devout Christian mother cried. As a journalist and a believer, Chu knew that he had to get to the heart of a question that had been haunting him for years: Does Jesus really love me. The quest to find an answer propels Chu on a remarkable cross-country journey to discover the God “forbidden to him” because of his sexuality. Surveying the breadth of the political and theological spectrum, from the most conservative viewpoints to the most liberal, he tries to distill what the diverse followers of Christ believe about homosexuality and to understand how the people who purportedly follow the same God and the same Scriptures have come to hold such a wide range of opinions. Both funny and heartbreaking, perplexing and wise, *Does Jesus Really Love Me?* is an intellectual, emotional, and spiritual pilgrimage that reveals a portrait of a faith and a nation at odds.

Corvino, John. *What's Wrong with Homosexuality?* New York, NY: Oxford UP, 2013.

Is homosexuality unnatural? Does the Bible condemn it? Are people born gay (and should it matter either way)? Corvino approaches such questions with precision, sensitivity, and good humor. In the process, he makes a fresh case for moral engagement, forcefully rejecting the idea that morality is a "private matter". This book appears at a time when same-sex marriage is being hotly debated across the U.S. Many people object to such marriage on the grounds that same-sex relationships are immoral, or at least, that they do not deserve the same social recognition as heterosexual relationships. Unfortunately, the traditional rhetoric of gay-rights advocates--which emphasizes privacy and tolerance--fails to meet this objection. Legally speaking, when it comes to marriage, "tolerance" might be enough, Corvino concedes, but socially speaking, marriage requires more. Marriage is more than just a relationship between two individuals, recognized by the state. It is also a relationship between those individuals and a larger community. The fight for same-sex marriage, ultimately, is a fight for full inclusion in the moral fabric. What is needed is a positive case for moral approval--which is what Corvino unabashedly offers here.

Corey, Joy E. *Divine Eros: A Timeless Perspective on Homosexuality*. Lulu, 2014.

Divine Eros draws on the latest scientific evidence, including genetics, endocrinology, and psychology, to debunk many key myths about homosexuality and offer alternatives for healing. Following the loss of a friend who was compelled to take his life because of his father's hatred of homosexuals, author Joy E. Corey's pain inspired her to explore the topic. Combining pastoral sensitivity with academic precision, she explores alternatives to simplistic solutions that often characterize discussions of this controversial and provocative topic. Written for those struggling with their own sexuality and their family members, it offers true stories of struggle and victory, pain and healing. "What is fresh about this perspective is its fidelity to the unchanging wisdom of the Church in a time of radical cultural and religious iconoclasm. As such this text has the potential to change thinking and inspire hope." Archbishop Josiah Trenham, Ph.D.,

Cornwall, Susannah. *Controversies in Queer Theology*. London: SCM, 2011.

Queer theology is a significant new development and central to much current teaching and thinking about gender, sexuality and the body. *Controversies in Queer Theology* provides an overview of the main areas of difference and debate in queer theologies, engaging with and critiquing all the major writers working in this area. *Controversies in Queer Theology* aims to contextualize the emergence of varying strands of queer theology over the last two decades, and to show how these link with the broader imperatives arising in queer theory. It focuses on areas of difference and dissent among queer theologians. The author asks questions such as 'Is Queer Theology Synonymous with Gay Theology?'; 'Is Queer Theology Inherently White or Western?'; 'Is the Christian Theological Tradition Queer or Anti-Queer?' and 'Should Queer People Remain in the Christian Tradition?'

Cox, Susan. *At the Table: Words of Faith, Affirmation and Inspiration for Lgbt Believers of Color*. S.I.: Glover Lane, 2013.

This collection of work speaks to the place that many LGBT believers have struggled through or are still struggling. In a world that condemns every existence of us, this is a welcomed, necessary, and timely blessing. -- Minister L. Renair Amin Covington-Author

Crail, Donn Arlyn. *Abominable Grace (Volume 1)*. CreateSpace Independent Platform, 2012.

This book is about those GLBT persons who know, or may come to know, this grace. It is written for them, about them and largely by them because it contains much of their voice, their story, and their experience. *Abominable Grace* is written for those who love gay and lesbian persons; parents, siblings, grandparents, and friends; and it is written for those who want to love them but are unable to accept what they do not understand and cannot accept. In a society that is changing, and many may feel is changing rapidly - though the change has in fact been long in coming - there is reason to receive it with joy rather than reluctance or regret. The author's hope here is that this book may help some in knowing that joy.

Douglas, Kelly Brown. *Black Bodies and the Black Church: A Blues Slant*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012.

There is a problem in the black church. It is a problem with black bodies and a blues problem. This book addresses these problems head-on. It proclaims that as long as the black church cannot be a home for certain bodies, such as LGBT bodies, and then it has forsaken its very black faith identity. The black church must find a way back to itself. Kelly Brown Douglas argues that the way back is through the blues.

Edser, Stuart. *Being Gay, Being Christian You Can Be Both*. Wollombi: Exisle Pub., 2012.

Is it possible to be both gay and Christian? This book explains, calmly and logically, that the two are not mutually exclusive. With the support of some of the finest scientific and theological minds, Dr. Stuart Edser presents a compelling case for tolerance and acceptance, rejecting the traditional Christian view that gay people are either sick or sinful because of their sexual orientation. He argues passionately for church people everywhere to open their minds and show a willingness to discard older ways of thinking where modern explanations reveal the truth more accurately. Moreover, he encourages gay Christians to integrate their sexuality and their faith so that both are valued equally.

Ellis, C. Arthur, Jr.. *Bible Bullies: How Fundamentalists Got the Good Book So Wrong*. Gadfly, 2013.

Bible Bullies is a controversial new book that explores the nature of a special kind of bully: the kind who use the Bible to force or coerce others into conforming to their beliefs. The book identifies fourteen personality traits of these bullies, their tactics, and how they misuse the Bible to abuse children and attack identified “out-groups,” including women, the LGBT community, and social programs for the disadvantaged. Chapters discuss misogyny, sexual diversity, child abuse, intelligent design, social programs, and family planning, in the process revealing specific targets of Bible bullies and their misguided use of Scripture in their assault on their victims. The final chapters reveal the crucial rift in the New Testament that laid the groundwork for those seeking to distort the message of peace and love brought by Jesus.

Estwick, Daphne G. *Arms Out, Palms Open: Conflict, Reconciliation, and Gay Inclusion*. Harrisburg, PA: Morehouse Pub., 2012.

In this adaptation of her dissertation, Estwick focuses generally on aspects of contemporary American religion and more particularly on the resolution of conflicts surrounding gay inclusion. Discussions of clerical experiences reconciling social conflicts with personal faith serve to guide individuals struggling with issues that can be painful and contentious, but which can lead ultimately to healing and spiritual growth.

Evangelical Fellowship of Irish Clergy (EFIC) Press. *Faith and Sexuality in the Church of Ireland by Evangelical Fellowship of Irish Clergy*. Lulu, 2012.

This book seeks to contribute to the debate on human sexuality within the Church of Ireland. It deals with the Biblical material, missional responsibility, pastoral implications and theological thought surrounding sexuality, especially homosexuality. Fourteen different authors, most of whom has extensive pastoral experience in the Church of Ireland, write short essays that are non-technical and accessible written especially with the ordinary church-going and concerned person in mind.

Fowler, Bradley. *A Compelling Legal Defense Why Same-Sex Love Should Be Respected In A Religious And Homophobic World*. Lulu.com, 2011.

Today the issue of same-sex love remains controversial within many religious sects. Contrary to this, the United States Supreme Court remains firm on its decision to recognize same-sex marriage. Due to this revolutionary concept of thinking, many religious followers argue that allowing same-sex marriage defies the Word of God, but the Bill of Rights First Amendment stresses that Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of any religion. As a result, certified paralegal Bradley Fowler conveys a riveting yet compelling literary look into both the United States Supreme Court and the Holy Bible, and introduces some gripping evidence that questions why same-sex love should not be respected in a religious and homophobic world.

Gahan, Luke Benjamin, and Tiffany Jones, eds. *Heaven Bent Australian Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Experiences of Faith, Religion and Spirituality*. Port Campbell, 2013.

Heaven Bent brings together academics, religious leaders, activists, politicians, theologians and everyday people. Exploring a diverse range of spiritual expressions, from Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant Christian journeys, to Islamic, Jewish, Buddhist, Pagan and Atheist, this book examines the past, present and future of faith, religion and spirituality and LGBTI people.

Harline, Craig. *Conversions: Two Family Stories from the Reformation and Modern America*. New Haven: Yale UP, 2011.

This powerful and innovative work by a gifted cultural historian explores the effects of religious conversion on family relationships, showing how the challenges of the Reformation can offer insight to families facing similarly divisive situations today. Craig Harline begins with the story of young Jacob Rolandus, the son of a Dutch Reformed preacher, who converted to Catholicism in 1654 and ran away from home, causing his family to disown him. In the companion story, Michael Sunbloom, a young American, leaves his family's religion in 1973 to convert to Mormonism, similarly upsetting his distraught parents. The modern twist to Michael's story is his realization that he is gay, causing him to leave his new church, and upsetting his parents again—but this time the family reconciles. Recounting these stories in short, alternating chapters, Harline underscores the parallel aspects of the two far-flung families. Despite different outcomes and forms, their situations involve nearly identical dynamics and heart-wrenching choices. Through the author's deeply informed imagination, the experiences of a

seventeenth-century European family are transformed into immediately recognizable terms.

Harris, William Conley. *Slouching towards Gaytheism Christianity and Queer Survival in America*. Albany, New York: SUNY, 2014. Print.

Slouching towards Gaytheism brings together two intellectual traditions—the New Atheism and queer theory—and moves beyond them to offer a new voice for gay Americans and atheists alike. Examining the continued vehemence of homophobia in cultural and political debate regarding queer equality, this unabashed polemic insists that the needs met by religion might be met—more safely and less toxically—by forms of community that do not harass and malign gay and lesbian Americans or impede collective social progress. W. C. Harris argues that compromises with traditional religion, no matter how enlightened or well intentioned, will ultimately leave heteronormativity alive and well. He explores a range of recent movements, such as Dan Savage’s “It Gets Better” project, reparative “ex-gay” therapy, Christian purity culture, and attempts by liberal Christians to reconcile religion with homosexuality, and shows how these proposed solutions are either inadequate or positively dangerous. According to the author, the time has come for “gaytheism”: leaving religion behind in order to preserve queer dignity, rights, and lives.

Heyward, Carter. *Keep Your Courage: A Radical Christian Feminist Speaks*. New York: Seabury, 2011.

Carter Heyward is one of the most influential and controversial theologians of our time. Under headings “Speaking Truth to Power,” “Remembering Who We Are,” and “Celebrating Our Friends,” she reflects on how movements for gender and sexual justice reverberate globally. In this volume of occasional pieces, the lesbian feminist theologian bears witness to the sacred struggles to topple oppressive power. These pieces illustrate feminist theology’s bold and transformative engagement of its cultural, political, social, and theological contexts.

Higgs, Thomas Kevin. *Hospitality to Strangers: Theology and Homosexuality*. CreateSpace, 2011.

Exploring the reality of homosexual people through the lens of each of these authorities: Scripture, Tradition, Reason, and Experience. This book is a defense of the full inclusion of homosexual people at every level of the church. Here are the stories of gay and lesbian people and their struggle in and outside of the church brought into focus through a theology of radical hospitality and prophetic nonviolence in the context of the ministry of an urban congregation.

Hodge, Juliet Jacky. *Is Being Gay a Sin?: Homosexuality, God, Religion, and Love*. S.I.: Lulu Services, 2013.

If you learned one of your friends were gay, or you had to decide whether to let a gay person participate in your church, would you stop to ask yourself, "What would Jesus do?" Juliet Jacky Hodge was forced to ask herself that question when she discovered she belonged to a Bible study group made up of homosexuals. Shocked and conflicted, Juliet went on a soul-searching journey to explore an issue that has torn apart families and divided religious communities. After balancing arguments about homosexuality, praying for insight, and remembering that only God can judge, Juliet came to several surprising conclusions. *Is Being Gay a Sin?* provides readers with much spiritual food for thought. Juliet reveals what God's Word says about homosexuality, and she analyzes issues of gay people being active in the church, gay marriage, and the belief that heterosexuality is somehow "better" than homosexuality. Her answers will surprise and enlighten.

Holland, Joshua. *Damned Fools: A Revolutionary Revelation*. Walking Thru Ministries, 2014.

Damned Fools injects social justice and multicultural perspectives into the fabric of Christian culture by looking deeper into, and questioning, the origins of the worldviews many Christians adamantly revere and defend. Joshua Holland boldly challenges common justifications, scriptural interpretations, and other attitudes, which seemingly defy the teachings of Jesus Christ. Among the topics discussed are marriage equality, sexual orientation, abortion, capitalism, creationism, and numerous other controversial issues plaguing churches throughout the world today. This thought provoking literary contribution is a rare contrast to traditionally conservative religious views and simply seeks an honest assessment of Christianity in modernity. This existential selection is not just a Christian book, but reaches deeper into the depths of life, love, and faith – awakening the soul and bringing revelations.

Hurteau, Pierre. *Male Homosexualities and World Religions*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2013.

During the last 25 years, homosexuality has played an important role in public debates in Western societies. With globalization, the civil protection of gay rights is spreading rapidly outside the Northern hemisphere and many non-Christian religious traditions are taking public positions on the issues. Favoring a dialogue among various religious systems and an in-depth review of their positions, Pierre Hurteau offers readers new insights into how each of the traditions studied – Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam and Afro-American religions - articulates its own regulatory mechanisms of male sexuality in general, and homosexuality. Moving away from a Eurocentric view, this book reminds readers that sites of non-heterosexual identity are multiple.

Hutchins, Loraine. *Sexuality, Religion, and the Sacred: Bisexual, Pansexual, and Polysexual Perspectives*. London: Routledge, 2012.

Sexuality, Religion and the Sacred is a thoughtful collection of bisexual, polysexual, and pansexual scholarship on religion and spirituality. It examines how religious and spiritual traditions address sexuality, whilst also exploring the ways in which bisexually-, polysexually-, and pansexually-active people embrace religious and spiritual practice.

The volume offers a comprehensive analysis of these prevalent themes by focusing on five main areas of discussion: Christian and Unitarian Discourses; Indigenous and Decolonizing Spiritual Discourses; Feminist Spiritual Discourses; Buddhist Discourses; and Neo/Pagan Discourses. *Sexuality, Religion and the Sacred* offers an accessible yet scholarly treatment of these topics through a collection of critical essays by academics of theology, humanities, cultural studies and social sciences, as well as sexology professionals and clergy from various faith and spiritual traditions. It gives readers an insight into the intersection of sexualities and spiritualities, and attempts to disrupt this very dichotomy through its careful consideration of a wide variety of discourses.

Itkin, Michael, Mark A. Sullivan, Ian Young, Rosamonde Miller, Michael E. Bacon, and John P. Plummer. *Radical Bishop & Gay Consciousness: The Passion of Mikhail Itkin*. Brooklyn, NY: Autonomedia, 2014.

Bishop Mikhail Francis Itkin was known in the gay radical world as a non-violent anarchist and activist as well as an independent openly-gay bishop. He was a stumbling block to radicals and a scandal to Christians. He was born into a Jewish family and fated or chosen by the Spirit to be a stirrer-up of discontent, a ring-leader of anarchists, and, indeed, a great reconciler of the contending forces within society and, indeed, within his own soul. This festschrift offers five appraisals of his life, and reprints excerpts from his *The Radical Jesus* and *The Gay Anarchist*.

Jennings, Theodore W. *An Ethic of Queer Sex: Principles and Improvisations*. Chicago: Exploration, 2013.

An Ethic of Queer Sex is intended to create a more inclusive appreciation of marginalized sexual practices. By pursuing these issues, the author hopes to contribute to a more just and holistic sexual ethic that overcomes the erotophobia at the base of the homophobia that often governs discussions of sexuality in religion and politics.

Johnson, Jay Emerson. *Peculiar Faith: Queer Theology for Christian Witness*. Seabury, 2014.

Residing at the intersection of constructive theology and critical social theory, this book provides a resource for both students and clergy to reinterpret Christian theology and re-imagine Christian faith in the twenty-first century. The author seeks “to encourage and equip Christian faith communities to move beyond the decades-long stalemate over human sexuality and gender identity” because “Queer gifts emerge in Christian communities when lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people no longer feel compelled to justify their presence in those communities”. Useful in both seminary classrooms and in congregational settings, the book is a contribution to the still-emerging field of queer theology, translating the rigors of scholarly research into transforming proposals for faith communities.

Johnson, Paul, and Robert Vanderbeck. *Law, Religion and Homosexuality*. Hoboken: Taylor and Francis, 2014.

Law, Religion and Homosexuality is the first book-length study of how religion has shaped, and continues to shape, legislation that regulates the lives of gay men and lesbians. Through a systematic examination of how religious discourse influences the making of law – in the form of official interventions made by faith communities and organizations, as well as by expressions of faith by individual legislators – the authors argue that religion continues to be central to both enabling and restricting the development of sexual orientation equality. While some claim that faith has been marginalized in the legislative processes of contemporary western societies, the authors show the significant impact of religion in a number of substantive legal areas relating to sexual orientation. *Law, Religion and Homosexuality*, demonstrates the dynamic interplay between law and religion in respect of homosexuality and will be of considerable interest to a wide audience of academics, policy makers and stakeholders.

Johnson, William Stacy. *A Time to Embrace Same-sex Relationships in Religion, Law, and Politics*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Wm. B. Eerdmans Pub., 2012.

As rhetoric continues to heat up on both sides of the debate over same-gender unions, clearly reasoned statements are in short supply. Watching this debate unfold, William Stacy Johnson found that he could be silent no longer. The result is this finely honed book. In *A Time to Embrace* Johnson presents a brilliant analysis of the religious, legal, and political stakes in the debates over gay marriage, civil unions, and the place of committed gay couples in a democratic society. Carefully weighing the pros and cons from across the moral and religious spectrum, Johnson here offers a fresh, thought-provoking examination of one of the most controversial issues in the West today.

Jordan, Mark D. *Recruiting Young Love: How Christians Talk about Homosexuality*. Chicago: U of Chicago, 2011.

In *Recruiting Young Love*, Mark D. Jordan explores more than a half century of American church debate about homosexuality to show that even as the main lesson—homosexuality is bad, teens are vulnerable—has remained constant, the arguments and assumptions have changed remarkably. At the time of the first Kinsey Report, in 1948, homosexuality was simultaneously condemned and little discussed—a teen struggling with same-sex desire would have found little specific guidance. Sixty years later, church rhetoric has undergone a radical shift, as silence has given way to frequent, public, detailed discussion of homosexuality and its perceived dangers. Along the way, churches have quietly adopted much of the language and ideas of modern sexology, psychiatry, and social reformers—deploying it, for example, to buttress the credentials of anti-gay “deprogramming” centers and traditional gender roles.

Koch, Timothy R. *Through Eros to Agape: The Radical Embodiment of Faith*. Equinox, 2011.

This work posits personal erotic knowing as the necessary and essential basis for any truly loving activity in the world, including Agape/compassion. The approach in this book is to bring erotic knowing into dialogue with Christian deposits of faith (scripture, hymns, sacraments, doctrines, politics) for the purpose of constructing meaning and

evoking critical, imaginative participation in the Loving Community, with this approach being modeled by the author: a contemporary gay American pastor/academic living with AIDS. This work makes erotic knowing a constitutive and embraced element in the construction of (divine) meaning, and in the application of this meaning in daily life. What is more, the failure to name and embrace the erotic is put forward as a major cause both of the perversion of religious "love" and of the thwarting of insight, creativity, and community. This book argues that Agape-mediated by flesh-and-blood human beings-is not sustainable without being rooted in and guided by personal erotic knowing.

Kraus, C. Norman, and Mary H. Schertz. *On Being Human: Sexual Orientation and the Image of God*. Eugene, Or.: Cascade, 2011

This little book aims to provide a theologically informed, biblical approach to help Christians find a new way forward in their dialogue over questions surrounding homosexuality. It deconstructs the Augustinian theological tradition that has defined, evaluated, and regulated sexual behavior in the western Christian traditions. Kraus maintains that the doctrine of the creation (rather than the doctrine of sin) must be the framework for understanding sexuality and sexual desire. He argues that the basic justification for erotic physical intimacy is the fulfillment of God's original intention for human community (shalom). Beginning with the definition of "the image of God" as a social symbol that mirrors the Trinity, Kraus calls the church to reflect that Trinitarian image as it is seen in Christ. He argues that this stance at the very least calls the church to empathetic inclusion of the GLBTQ community in its ongoing discernment conversation, which, of course, means full participation in its life.

Langteaux, James Alexander. *Gay Conversations with God: Straight Talk on Fanatics, Fags and the God Who Loves Us All*. Forres, Scotland: Findhorn, 2012. Print.

Representing a first in gay and Christian publishing, this provocative book presents a complete reversal of thought and action, contending that God loves homosexuals without attempting to refute scripture references. The study confronts its subject with a quirky sense of humor in the spirit of the "bedtime story," providing a rare, evangelical Christian volume addressed directly to the gay community. Unorthodox in its presentation, this guide speaks the language of those who may feel abandoned, condemned, and damned while avoiding reinterpretations of scriptural passages, making the gospel accessible to a younger, free-spirited generation. Spearheading a volatile topic with candor and grace, it reframes the never-ending question, "is homosexuality a sin?" and instead asks the gay community for a cease-fire—to forgive, love, and help put a stop to a cultural war being waged in the world.

McManus, Alan. *Only Say the Word Affirming Gay and Lesbian Love*. Lanham: John Hunt, 2013.

Many good people, in good faith, while sympathizing with the ethical and ecclesiastical situation of lesbian and gay Christians, still regard homosexuality as unnatural. Other good people, in just as good faith, defend homosexuality on grounds of personal plight

and involuntary sexual orientation – with private misgivings that this defense may also be applied to pedophilia. This little book provides not only a useful argument for a more merciful reading of Scripture than that usually employed to condemn same-sex relationships, but also a philosophical analysis of the nature of ‘nature’. Finding that all, and only, those relationships, which are harmonious, can be considered natural, the author invites us to only say the Word, that we may all be healed.

Main, Darren, and Marc H. Andrus. *Hearts & Minds: Talking to Christians about Homosexuality*: 2nd Edition. Cork: ReadHowYouWant, 2012.

This book is filled with humor and inspirational essays, and it strikes at the heart of intolerance. Only through meaningful and heartfelt discussions with conservative Christians can hearts and minds change and this book by Darren Main will help you start the conversation. It is an indispensable tool for supporters of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community as well as Christians striving to be more compassionate and understanding. By confronting one of this generation’s most volatile social issues with civility and respect, *Hearts & Minds: Talking to Christians about Homosexuality* shifts the emphasis away from political arguments and toward changing religious attitudes—creating space for profound healing and reconciliation between two communities who often find themselves at odds.

Michaelson, Jay. *God vs. Gay?: The Religious Case for Equality*. Boston: Beacon, 2011.

Does the Bible prohibit homosexuality? No, says Bible scholar and activist Jay Michaelson. However, not only that: Michaelson also shows that the vast majority of our shared religious traditions support the full equality and dignity of LGBT people. In this accessible, passionate, and provocative book, Michaelson argues for equality, not despite religion but because of it.

Mounsey, Chris. *Being the Body of Christ: Towards a Twentieth-century Homosexual Theology for the Anglican Church*. London: Equinox, 2011.

The book explores the preoccupation of key twentieth-century English writers with theology and sexuality and how the Anglican Church has responded and continues to respond to the issue of homosexuality. Analyzing the work of Oscar Wilde, E. F. Benson, Edward Carpenter, Jeanette Winterson, and Alan Hollingshurst, the book explores the literary tradition of exasperation at the church's obduracy against homosexuality.

Ogden, Steven G. *Love Upside Down: Life, Love and the Subversive Jesus*. Winchester, England: O, 2011.

This book is for twenty first century thinkers and lovers, from searching Christians to open minded agnostics and willing atheists who want a genuine account of love that respects human experience and mines the depths of a greater wisdom. Steven Ogden taps

into Christianity, but there is no old man in the sky pulling the strings and no bible bashing or hocus-pocus. Instead of Jesus meek and mild, he recommends the subversive Jesus: this Jesus provoked outrage and censure, all in the name of love, because people were more important to him than religious dogma, principles, and institutions. This is love upside down. This means we can look at the big issues of our day with new eyes. *Love Upside Down* looks at contemporary attitudes regarding women, the environment, and homosexuality to see if love can make a difference.

Paris, Jenell Williams. *The End of Sexual Identity: Why Sex Is Too Important to Define Who We Are*. Downers Grove, Ill.: IVP, 2011.

Sexual identity has become an idol in both the culture at large and in the Christian subculture. Yet concepts like "gay" or "straight" are relatively recent developments in human history. We let ourselves be defined by socially constructed notions of sexual identity and sexual orientation--even though these may not be the only or best ways to think about sexuality. Anthropologist Jenell Williams Paris offers a Christian framework for sexual holiness that accounts for complex postmodern realities. She assesses problems with popular cultural and Christian understandings of heterosexuality and homosexuality alike. *The End of Sexual Identity* moves beyond culture-war impasses to open up new space for conversations in diverse communities both inside and outside the church.

Pearce, C.S. *This We Believe: The Christian Case for Gay Civil Rights*. Claremont, CA: Pomona, 2012.

This We Believe: The Christian Case for Gay Civil Rights demonstrates how traditional Christian beliefs about homosexuality are hurting all of the church, especially its most vulnerable members: young gay people who are convinced that their very essence is sinful. It summarizes the latest scientific research, current Biblical scholarship, and the teachings of Jesus to show Christian leaders and laypeople now support marriage equality and other civil rights for gay, lesbian, and transgender people. "This book is a veritable 'CliffsNotes' on what we now know about homosexuality and its relationship to Christian faith. In a few short pages, C.S. Pearce debunks long-held myths, clarifies Scripture and argues for a much needed rethinking of the Church's traditional stand. Just reading these words will reassure young gay and lesbian people that God loves them just as they are, while challenging those who are not so sure that perhaps they have put God's love in too small a box." -The Rt. Rev. V. Gene Robinson, Bishop of New Hampshire.

Ray, Darrel. *Sex & God: How Religion Distorts Sexuality*. IPC, 2012.

Why are all the major religions consumed with sex? What makes sex so important, whether Buddhism or Islam, Christianity or Mormonism? What is the impact of religion on human sexuality? This book explores this and more. It ventures into territory that has never been examined. You will be surprised at how much religion has influenced your

sexuality, who you marry, the pleasure you get or do not get from sex, and what you can do about it.

Rayside, David M. *Faith, Politics, and Sexual Diversity in Canada and the United States*. Vancouver B.C.: UBC, 2011.

For decades, agitation by lesbians, gays, and other sexual minorities for political recognition has provoked a heated response among religious activists in both Canada and the United States. In this remarkable comparative study, expert authors explore the tenacity of anti-gay sentiment, as well as the dramatic shifts in public attitudes towards queer groups across all faith communities in both the United States and Canada. They conclude that, despite the ongoing conflict, religious adherence does not invariably entail opposition to the political acknowledgment of queer rights.

Roston, Antoine. *Kingdom Eunuch: A Dialogue about Sexuality and the Kingdom of God*. CreateSpace, 2011.

The church has had a hard time communicating anything balanced in the way of sexuality, specifically about homosexuality. In a day where sexuality is expressed so freely and openly, whatever preference, it is a need for us to take a balanced educated look into sexuality from a scientific perspective and from the God of creation perspective. This book is an in-depth dialogue about the different arguments and questions about sexuality.

Sanders, Cody J. *Queer Lessons for Churches on the Straight & Narrow: What All Christians Can Learn from LGBTQ Lives*. Faithlab, 2013.

Winner of the National Bronze Medal for Gay/Lesbian/Bi/Trans Non-Fiction in the 2014 Independent Publisher Book Awards, *Queer Lessons for Churches on the Straight and Narrow* is about changing the questions we ask about sexuality, gender identity, and faith. Sanders helps us imagine new pathways into old conversations by shifting our attitude from one of suspicious scrutiny toward LGBTQ people to one of compassionate curiosity. Less concerned with answering questions, it aims to cultivate our imagination for asking new questions. Sanders asks, "What can all Christians learn from LGBTQ people that will enhance our lives and strengthen our communities of faith?" Lessons are offered on the themes of relationship, community, faithfulness, love, violence, and forgiveness.

Savage, Dan. *American Savage: Insights, and Flights of Faith, Sex, Love, and Politics*. New York: Dutton, 2013.

"America's most popular sex columnist" has been giving frank advice to gay and straight adults via his popular syndicated column "Savage Love" for more than two decades, but his public profile was elevated significantly after cofounding the It Gets Better Project in 2010. Aimed at LGBT youth struggling with bullying and suicide, the award-winning YouTube campaign sparked the world's attention when everyone from Ellen DeGeneres

to President Obama recorded video messages of support, turning the spotlight on an important problem. With his latest collection of essays on “faith, sex, love, and politics”, he takes on gun control, Obamacare, sex education in public schools, and gay marriage, among other hot-button topics. His provocative points are sharply made but repetitively rephrased. Fans of Savage’s in-your-face rhetoric are sure to rally around his liberal pulpit, but new converts may be harder to come by. --Chris Keech

Scholz, Susanne, ed. *God Loves Diversity and Justice: Progressive Scholars Speak about Faith, Politics, and the World*. Lexington, 2013.

Both personal and scholarly in tone, this book encourages readers to think theologically, ethically, and politically about the statement that declares: “God loves diversity and justice.” The multi-religious, multi-ethnic, multi-disciplinary, and multi-gendered identities of the eleven contributors and two respondents deepen the conversation. It considers the questions: Do we affirm or challenge this theological statement? Do we focus on God or do we focus on what diversity and justice mean? Alternatively, do we prefer to ponder the verb, to love, and consider what it might mean for society if people really believed in a divinity loving diversity and justice? Of course, there are no easy and simple answers whether we consult the Sikh scriptures, the Bible, the Qur’an, the movies, the Declaration of Human Rights, or the transgender movement, but the effort is worthwhile. The result is a serious historical, literary, cultural, and religious discourse that fends against intellectually rigid thought and simplistic belief systems across the religious spectrum. In our world in which so much military unrest and violence, economic inequities, and religious strife prevail, such a conversation nurtures theological, ethical, and political possibilities of inclusion and justice.

Sekou, Osagyefo Uhuru. *Gods, Gays, & Guns: Essays on Religion and the Future of Democracy*. Cambridge, MA: Campbell & Cannon, 2011.

“Democracy and god have failed”— captures the spirit of this provocative collection of essays. Arguing that the religion must be used for the expansion of democracy, "Gods, Gays, and Guns" takes up the topics of gay marriage, economic justice, and social movements. Written in the Parisian cafes, London’s ghetto, and the aftermath of Haiti’s earthquake and post-Katrina New Orleans, "Gods, Gays, and Guns" is a spiritual tour-de-force— revealing a crisis of faith in religion and democracy. With an unflinching pen, Rev. Sekou challenges the reader to rethink the meaning of the role of religion in our global democracy.

Shelton, David W. *The Rainbow Kingdom: Christianity & the Homosexual Reconciled*. Lulu.com, 2011.

Can a person be gay and a Christian? People have asked this question. Whether they are struggling with this issue themselves or if they know loved ones who are wrestling with their sexual orientation, there's now hope! *The Rainbow Kingdom: Christianity & the Homosexual Reconciled*, a new book by David W. Shelton, answers that question and many others that we deal with as GLBT and GLBT-affirming Christians. In the first half,

The Rainbow Kingdom addresses the "clobber" verses that are used to condemn gay and lesbian people throughout the world. Then, the message shifts from instruction to ministry, meeting many of today's issues head-on.

Shore, John Ernest. *Unfair: Christians and the LGBT Question*. Lexington, KY: CreateSpace, 2013.

Shore is one of America's leading Christian writers on the subject of gay people and Christianity. His essays are widely credited with being central to the sea change in Christian thinking that has occurred on this issue in recent years. UNFAIR offers the best of Shore's writings on homosexuality and Christians/Christianity, along with heart-wrenching but ultimately inspiring letters from gay people telling what it's like to grow up, and live today, both gay and Christian. The book's opening essay, "Taking God at His Word: The Bible and Homosexuality," is a must-read for anyone seeking clarity on the relationship between the Bible, Christianity, and LGBT people. If you read only one book on this subject, make it this one.

Short-Goss, Robert Everett, Thomas Bohache, Patrick S. Cheng, and Ramona Faye West. *Queering Christianity: Finding a Place at the Table for LGBTQI Christians*. Santa Barbara, California: Praeger, 2013.

Through essays by noted lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, and intersex (LGBTQI) religion scholars, this important compilation summarizes the history and status of LGBTQI theology by exploring its relationship to the policies, practices, and theology of traditional Christianity. Contributors contrast the "radically inclusive" thinking of LGBTQI theology with the "exclusivity" practiced by many Christian churches, explaining the reasoning of each and clarifying contentious issues. At the same time, the book highlights ways in which "queer" theology and practice benefit Christian congregations. Writing from the perspective of grassroots Christian LGBTQI movements, many of the contributors draw upon their own experiences. They provide graphic examples of the effects exclusion has on individuals, congregations, and denominations and share examples of inclusion and its effects. Equally important, the work creates the basis for dialogue between traditional churches and followers of LGBTQI theology, offering practical suggestions for Christian congregations that wish to put aside exclusionary policies and practices.

Stanford, Anthony. *Homophobia in the Black Church: How Faith, Politics, and Fear Divide the Black Community*. Santa Barbara, California: Praeger, 2013.

Homophobia in the Black Church: How Faith, Politics, and Fear Divide the Black Community explores the various reasons for the Black Church's aversion—and the general black cultural inflexibility—toward homosexuality, same-sex marriage, and acceptance of the LGBT community. It connects black cultural resistance toward homosexuality to politics, faith, and fear; follows the trail of faith-based funding to the

pulpit of black mega-churches; and spotlights how members of the black clergy have sacrificed black LGBTQ Christians for personal and political advancement. The author systematically builds his case, linking the reasons blacks are intolerant of deviation from acceptable sexual behavior to the 1960s struggle for racial equality, and tying longstanding black sexual mores to present day politics, social conservatism, and the lure of federal funding to black churches and religious and social organizations. He also spotlights specific homophobic black ministers and draws back the curtain on their alliance with White social conservatives and religious and political extremists to reveal an improbable but powerful union.

Swilley, Jim. *First, The Good News: The Positive Truth About God, The Gospel and What It Really Means to Be Gay*. Church in the Now, 2012.

In *First, the GOOD NEWS*, Bishop Jim Swilley fearlessly and unapologetically confronts and answers all of these questions and more for the Christian community, as well as for both the gay and straight communities. The world in general could definitely use some GOOD NEWS these days, and GOOD NEWS is what you will find on every one of these pages!

Taylor, Yvette, and Ria Snowdon. *Queering Religion, Religious Queers*. Routledge, 2014.

This collection considers how religious identity interplays with other forms and contexts of identity, specifically those related to sexual identity. Questions around ‘queer’ engagements in same-sex marriages, civil partnerships and other practices (e.g. adoption) have created a number of provoking stances and policy provisions – but what remains unanswered is how people experience and situate themselves within sometimes competing, or ‘contradictory’, moments as ‘religious queers’ who may be tasked with ‘queering religion’. Additionally, the presumed paradoxes of ‘marriage’, queer sexuality, religion, and youth combine to generate a noteworthy generational absence. This leads to questions about where ‘religious queers’ reside, resist, and relate experiences of intersecting religious and sexual lives. In looking at interconnectedness, this collection offers international contributions that bridge the ‘contradictions’ in queering religion and in making visible ‘religious queers.’ It provides insight into older and younger people’s understandings of religiosity, queer cultures, and religious groups. Queer methodologies and intersectional approaches offer a lens both theoretically and methodologically to uncover the salience of related social divisions and identities. This collection is both innovative and sensitive to ‘blended’ identities and their various enactments.

Thatcher, Adrian. *God, Sex, and Gender an Introduction*. Chichester, West Sussex: Wiley-Blackwell, 2011.

"Adrian Thatcher brings an unparalleled knowledge and understanding to the writing of this book. He knows what readers - both beginners, seasoned – want, and need in an introductory text. The author is not only sensible and comprehensive, but also critical and challenging, as well as discerning and wise, and above all accessible. His book provides a truly excellent introduction to the profound and often troubling questions raised by the

gender and intimacies of our bodies in relationship to one another and to God.” —Gerard Loughlin, Durham University

Thompson, Dave. *Over Coffee: A Conversation for Gay Partnership and Conservative Faith*. BlueHead, 2013.

Over Coffee is a narrative piece couched in the coffeehouse conversation between Dave and a small-town pastor concerning a gay church member who desires to be partnered in the church. *Over Coffee* warmly introduces the reader to a biblical, faith-based dialogue for providing room on the pew in today’s most conservative churches for gay partnered persons. In this work, Dave provides an uncommonly informative bridge for two otherwise seemingly opposing audiences. *Over Coffee* brings to the table two respective views, and dispels the polarizing stance from which they are customarily positioned. This is done so within a conservative context that embraces biblical relevance and conservative faith tenets, while presenting a case for holding gay partnership within a similar framework in which the Bible embraces any other human condition.

Timane, Rizi. *Overcoming Religion-based Abuse: A Spiritual Guide for LGBT People of Color*. Hawkfish, 2013.

Rizi Timane has a message for the world and for the LGBT community in particular: God loves you just the way you are. For centuries, misguided individuals and indeed entire societies have used misinterpreted religious texts to condemn and persecute minorities and anyone perceived as “different”. Even today, these prejudices continue to persist both in America and abroad. As a transgender minister and a person of color, Rizi has experienced such discrimination and hatred first-hand. However, by telling people the truth about God’s unconditional love for all, we can at least try to change the world, one heart at a time. It all begins with loving yourself, just as you are. That is, after all, God’s way and it can be our way as well.

White, Mel. *Holy Terror: Lies the Christian Right Tells Us to Deny Gay, Lesbian and Transgender Equality*. New York: Magnus, 2011.

In Holy Terror, the Rev. Dr. Mel White argues that the true goals of today's fundamentalists are to break down the wall that separates church and state, superimpose their "moral values" on the US Constitution, replace democracy with theocratic rule, and ultimately create a new "Christian America" in their image. They believe this is a Christian nation that must be returned forcibly to its Christian roots. Since the fall of "godless Communism", homosexuality and abortion have become the primary targets through which fundamentalists have created fear, raised money, and mobilized recruits. Originally published in hardcover as *Religion Gone Bad*, *Holy Terror* documents the thirty-year war that fundamentalist Christians have waged against gays and lesbians and offers dramatic, well-documented evidence that fundamentalist leaders are waging nothing less than a "holy war" against sexual minorities.