



Sexuality

Developing
Good Conversation
on **Difficult Questions**



RECOMMENDED
RESOURCES



Resources to help you think through issues of Christianity and Sexuality

People seem to like to write and talk about sex! So there are countless books, pamphlets, blogs, videos and websites that deal with aspects of sexuality in relation to Christianity. Some are from official church sources, and these usually try to be balanced and fair. Others represent a particular point of view. Some, it has to be said, are unhelpful and even unchristian in the way they deal with other people and other points of view. The list on this page will give you some idea of where to find resources that could help you with your own thinking and with the conversation in our church. Much of it, as you can see, is freely available on the internet. The library at Edgehill Theological College also has a good selection of material.

RESOURCES FROM WITHIN THE METHODIST CHURCH IN IRELAND

Pastoral Responses regarding those of Homosexual Orientation (adopted by the Methodist Conference of 2011)

http://www.irishmethodist.org/sites/default/files/pdf/csr/csr_council_amended_pastoral_responses_12.pdf

McCrea, F. *A critical examination of homosexuality through the lens of the "Wesleyan Quadrilateral."*

Fiona is a Methodist minister and a member of the MCI working party on Human Sexuality. This is her MDiv dissertation and it is available from:

www.irishmethodist.org/WPHS

Williamson, J. (2016). *I was a stranger and you welcomed me: a plea for inclusion and welcome in the Irish Methodist Church.* A former Old Testament tutor at Edgehill. This is available as a document from:

www.irishmethodist.org/WPHS

'Duncan, M. *'Marriage is Between One Man and One Woman'*. A recording of the Headway Spring Conference 2015. Available as an MP3 download from:

www.irishmethodist.org/WPHS

RESOURCES FROM THE CHURCH OF IRELAND

The following documents are available at this address: <https://goo.gl/HLkYlh>

- » *Human Sexuality in the Context of Christian Belief: A Guide to the Conversation*, The General Synod of the Church of Ireland, 2016.

Also available as a printed book.

This is a substantial document of just under 100 pages. It is especially concerned with the debate currently taking place within the Church of Ireland, but most of its material will be relevant to Methodists. There are sections on developments in contemporary culture as well stories from personal experience and presentation of different approaches to biblical interpretation. An executive summary of the guide can be found here:

- » *Three Study Modules on Human Sexuality in the context of Christian Belief.*

This resource contains three study sessions, designed to help groups reflect on the issues raised by *The Guide*. The sessions involve biblical passages, personal reflection and learning from others. It is attractively presented, with space for participants to write their own responses.

RESOURCES FROM THE

METHODIST CHURCH IN BRITAIN

These documents can be accessed through this address: <https://goo.gl/6y4O19>

These pages deal with issues of human sexuality on the Methodist Church in Britain website. They include:

- » Worship resources on the theme of 'Challenging Conversations' and are developed through the *Roots* worship and education service.
- » Material to support the current conversations within the Methodist Church in Britain on marriage and relationships.

RESOURCES FROM OTHER CHURCHES

Church of England

<https://goo.gl/W6Bue7>

This includes references to many other resources and also has major essays from different perspectives on same-sex relationships.

Church of Scotland

<https://goo.gl/Fz6ZVv>

A very substantial report, focussing on the issue of same-sex relationships.

ON-LINE DISCUSSIONS

AND PRESENTATIONS

www.youtube.com/watch?v=UR9IN_XZz-s
Presentation by American biblical scholar on sex and the Bible.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YpQHGPGejKs&list=PLaf36SMxuYBCbeVR46teh-gUvMF73x0s5&index=3>
Well-known Anglican bishop and New Testament scholar, N. T. Wright, talks about the need for a reasonable debate on sexuality and Christianity. He refers to his moderately conservative conclusions.

Articles from different Christian perspectives on homosexuality.

www.premierchristianity.com/Featured-Topics/Homosexuality

BOOKS ON

SEXUALITY AND CHRISTIANITY

Attwell, T., R. Alistoun and R. Scholtz, Eds. (2010). *In Search of Grace and Truth: Christian Conversations on same-sex Relationships*. Cape Town, Cingela Press.

A short book to support discussions within the Methodist Church of Southern Africa. It has chapters on the interpretation of the Bible, on the nature of love and on human rights. Discussion questions are at the end of each chapter.

Cornwall, S. (2013). *Theology and Sexuality*. London, SCM.

This is a helpful book introducing a whole range of issues relating to Christianity and sexuality.

Farley, M. A. (2006). *Just Love: A Framework for Christian Sexual Ethics*. London, Continuum.

Margaret Farley writes as a Catholic laywoman and academic. She argues for a new way of framing our Christian sexual ethics.

Gagnon, Robert A. J. (2002). *The Bible and Homosexual Practice: Texts and Hermeneutics*, Abingdon

A thorough and exhaustive study of key biblical texts by a conservative scholar.

Goeder, P (2016). *Body: biblical spirituality for the whole person*. London, SPCK.

Although this is not a book about sex, it does encourage us to look seriously at how bodies have been valued in the Bible and Christian thinking.

Grant, J. (2015). *Divine Sex: A Compelling Vision for Christian Relationships in a Hypersexualized Age*. Grand Rapids, Brazos.

An Anglican evangelical makes an argument for affirming traditional sexual ethics within the context of contemporary culture.

Hill, W. (2015). *Spiritual Friendship: Finding Love in the Church as a Celibate Gay Christian*. Grand Rapids, Baker.

A college professor and gay Christian writes about love and celibate friendship.

Marin, Andrew (2009). *Love Is an Orientation: Elevating the Conversation with the Gay Community IVP*.

An American evangelical makes a plea for dialogue.

Park, N., Ed. (2015). *Who Owns Marriage?: A Conversation About Religion, Government, Marriage and a Civil Society*. Dublin, Success Services, Ireland (Evangelical alliance, Ireland).

Published to coincide with the referendum on same-sex marriage in the ROI. Attempts a conversational style and includes contributions from the editor's LGBT activist daughter.

Vines, M. (2014). *God and the Gay Christian*. New York, Convergent.

An accessible book that makes an evangelical case for affirming same-sex relationships.

FURTHER RESOURCES

For those wishing to read further on the topic of human sexuality, please refer to the bibliographies in the reports from sister churches (included above) which contain more exhaustive lists of available resources.