



LIVING IN LOVE & FAITH

A selection of resources
from the LLF Online Library

Table of Contents

Reading the Bible	3
Dialogues about the Bible in relation to sexuality.....	3
The Bible and “traditional” perspectives on sexuality	4
The Bible and “revised” perspectives on sexuality.....	5
Unity and difference in the Bible.....	5
‘Reading’ the biological sciences	6
Social and cultural studies	6
Theological and ethical discussions of sexuality.....	7
Autobiography and testimonial	8
History of sexuality and marriage.....	8

The items listed here have been selected from the LLF online library.

Inclusion does not imply that these publications reflect the views of either the editors of the LLF online library, or of LLF more widely, and every effort has been made to include publications from diverse viewpoints.

The emphasis is on biblical studies, but some resources from the biological and social sciences as well as history, theology and ethics have also been included.

Each section is ordered alphabetically by author.

*Titles in **bold and coloured text** are essays written by members of the LLF groups for LLF and can be downloaded from the LLF Learning Hub.*

Reading the Bible

Mike Higton, [Disagreement about the Bible](#), (LLF Paper, 2020)

This essay represents the personal views of the author who was a member of the Theology Working Group of the LLF.

This paper explores the way in which our disagreements about the Bible don't simply involve dispute about particular passages, or about what is implied by lots of passages taken together. They involve different ways of imagining, experiencing, and relating to the Bible as a whole.

Mike Higton, [Anglican Statements about the Bible](#), (LLF Paper, 2020)

This essay represents the personal views of the author who was a member of the Theology Working Group of the LLF.

This paper gathers together some of what has been said about the Bible in Church of England, and the wider Anglican Communion, in historic formularies, in canon law, in conference resolutions, and in a variety of formal reports and statements.

Walter Moberly, [Divisive Issues in Biblical Interpretation](#) (LLF Paper, 2020)

This essay represents the personal views of the author but was written for the Biblical Studies Working Group of the LLF.

In order to get perspective on, and fresh resources for, good Christian handling of divisive issues today, I look at what we can learn from Scripture. Among other things, I look at how issues that were divisive in their time, but about which people are not bothered today, are handled within Scripture. Can we reframe our own passions and priorities accordingly?

Chris Wright, [How does God communicate through the canon of Scripture?](#) (LLF Paper, 2020)

This essay represents the personal views of the author but was written for, and discussed within, the Biblical Studies working group of LLF.

Taking the Bible seriously as Word of God through the words of human beings, this paper outlines some core aspects of the doctrine of the inspiration and authority of Scripture and its implications for exegesis and interpretation.

Dialogues about the Bible in relation to sexuality

Wesley Hill and Justin Lee (Biola University), *How Do We Love? A Thoughtful Dialogue on Sexual Differences*,

This two-hour video has an introduction setting out work from Biola University explaining what they see as the biblical perspective on same-sex relationships (this can be read [here](#)). It is then followed by presentations from, and discussion between, two gay Christians – Wesley Hill and Justin Lee - who have written from different perspectives on the subject.

[Moberly - Wright Conversation](#), (LLF Paper, 2020)

This paper reflects the views of the authors and the conversations about these matters that took place within the Biblical Studies working group of LLF.

This series of papers is an extensive and detailed conversation about Scripture and same sex relationships between Walter Moberly and Chris Wright.

Preston Sprinkle (ed.), *Two Views on Homosexuality, the Bible, and the Church* (Zondervan, 2016).

Exemplary discussions, learned and gracious, that discuss Scripture and tradition. Possibly the best place for anyone to start further reading.

Dan O. Via and Robert A.J. Gagnon, *Homosexuality and the Bible: Two Views* (Augsburg Fortress, 2003).

A relatively short and concise, but helpfully detailed outline by two biblical scholars of their differing handling of the major biblical texts in the debate, the differing significance they give to cultural factors in the biblical and contemporary world, and the reasons for their concluding stance on different sides of the argument as to whether homosexual practice per se should be considered sinful.

The Bible and “traditional” perspectives on sexuality

Barry Danylak, *Redeeming Singleness: How the Storyline of Scripture Affirms the Single Life*. Wheaton, IL, 2010.

Written from an evangelical perspective, this book seeks to draw on Scripture to correct what he perceives as an overemphasis on marriage.

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

A major scholarly treatment by a biblical scholar, from a traditional perspective, of the biblical texts within their cultural context, alongside contemporary texts from the Ancient Near East and early Judaism. Thorough analysis and exegesis of all the major texts, along with robust polemic against alternative views which are carefully documented and referenced.

Stanley Grenz, *Sexual Ethics: A Biblical Perspective* (WJK, 1990; Paternoster, 1998).

A comprehensive discussion of Christian sexual ethics, from a traditional biblical-based perspective. Explores a range of issues including: the meaning of sexual complementarity within creation theology, both pre- and post-fall; sex within marriage; divorce; birth control; abortion; fertility technology; singleness; and homosexuality.

Richard Hays, *The Moral Vision of the New Testament* (T & T Clark, 1996), esp. 379-496.

Richard Hays is one of the world’s leading New Testament scholars. In the book as a whole, he discusses how best to understand and use the New Testament for faithful living today. In the specified section he offers careful reflection that draws also on his own experiences of Christian living. This chapter is available online [here](#).

Wesley Hill, *Washed and Waiting: Reflections on Christian Faithfulness and Homosexuality* (2nd ed., Zondervan, 2017).

Wesley Hill is a notable emerging Christian scholar. In this readable and moving account he offers disciplined theological reflection in relation to the struggles that he has faced in his life of Christian discipleship. Hill is also one of the contributors to *Two Views on Homosexuality* (above).

Oliver O’Donovan, *A Conversation Waiting to Begin: the Churches and the Gay Controversy* (SCM, 2009).

Oliver O’Donovan is an internationally-acclaimed Christian ethicist. In this book he shows the unsatisfactory nature of the ways in which same-sex issues are often discussed, and suggests ways of constructively rethinking and reframing the issues. This can be read online [here](#).

The Bible and “revised” perspectives on sexuality

James Brownson, *Bible, Gender, Sexuality: Reframing the Church's Debate on Same-Sex Relationships* (Eerdmans, 2013)

Brownson, an evangelical biblical scholar, offers one of the most comprehensive frameworks for reading the biblical material in a way that supports same-sex relationships.

Marcus Green, *The Possibility of Difference: A Biblical Affirmation of Inclusivity* (Mayhew, 2018)

Marcus Green writes as an Anglican, an evangelical and as a gay person. The book considers some of the Scriptures that have been used to condemn gay people before looking beyond these texts to the bigger biblical story of radical inclusion and love.

Jeffrey John, *Permanent, Faithful, Stable: Christian Same-Sex Marriage* (2nd ed., DLT, 2012).

This work has become a classic. Written by an ordained Anglican in a civil partnership, this book led the way in making a fresh case for the validity of same-sex marriage. John offers thoughtful and moving engagement with Scripture, tradition, and the realities of Christian living today.

Karen Keen, *Scripture, Ethics & the Possibility of Same-Sex Relationships* (Eerdmans, 2018).

There are many books that arise out of Christian attempts to live faithfully while also allowing for the possibility of same-sex relationships. This is a good example of a thoughtful Christian gently pushing for a reconsideration of Scripture, theology, and life that can still be reckoned to be fully faithful.

William Loader, *Making Sense of Sex* (Eerdmans, 2013).

William Loader is a significant scholar who has written widely on sex and sexuality in the New Testament and the ancient world. He is not polemical in the way that some scholars are. This shortish book distils the essence of his many books in this area. Loader is also one of the contributors to *Two Views on Homosexuality* (above).

David Runcorn, *Love means love: same-sex relationships and the Bible*, (SPCK 2020)

Runcorn explores how someone for whom the Bible is central can hold an *including* view of same-sex relationships and marriage *on the basis* of the biblical text.

Unity and difference in the Bible

Andy Angel, *Unity, Division and Living in Love and Faith as the Church of England*, (LLF Paper, 2020)

This essay represents the personal views of the author but was written for, and discussed within, the Biblical Studies working group of LLF.

Andy explores the nature of church unity in key New Testament texts, and works through some of the realistic (although difficult) possibilities of working towards the true missional and relational unity to which the church is called within the context of our current divisions.

Nathan MacDonald, Holiness and Inclusivism (LLF Paper, 2020)

This essay represents the personal views of the author but was written for, and discussed within, the Biblical Studies working group of LLF.

MacDonald examines a biblical case of profound theological and ethical disagreement around holiness and inclusivism. He develops the implications for our contemporary controversies about sexuality within the church.

Walter Moberly, Can Channels of Grace be in Conflict?, (LLF Paper, 2020)

This essay represents the personal views of the author but was written for, and discussed within, the Biblical Studies working group of LLF.

I look here at the problem of Christians encountering the grace of God in ways that appear incompatible. I offer some brief biblical and personal reflections on how to understand and live with this.

Jennifer Strawbridge, Inclusion and Exclusion in the New Testament (LLF Paper, 2018)

This essay represents the personal views of the author but was written for, and discussed within, the Biblical Studies working group of LLF.

The paper engages the dynamics of inclusion and exclusion through engagement with the call to hospitality (love of stranger) in 1 Peter and with God's gifts of righteousness and holiness, suggesting that only God can determine boundaries of inclusion/exclusion.

'Reading' the biological sciences

Christopher C. H. Cook (2018) Science and Theology in Human Sexuality. *Theology & Sexuality*, 24, 183-199.

Considers the ways in which the present debates on human sexuality within Christian churches reflect wider debates on understandings of the proper relationship between science and theology.

Michael King, The Critique of Science and Scientists, (LLF Paper, 2020)

This essay represents the personal views of the author but was written for, and discussed within, the Social and Biological Sciences Group as a part of its work in support of LLF.

Michael sets out, briefly, the nature of the scientific enterprise and its limitations. Science is "not dependable because it provides certainty but rather because it constantly questions current knowledge". The essay gives particular attention to the need to address bias and the consequent importance of peer review in the process of scientific publications.

Social and cultural studies

Jessica Martin, The Commodification of Desire, (LLF Paper, 2020)

This essay represents the personal views of the author but was written for, and discussed within, the Social and Biological Sciences Group as a part of its work in support of LLF.

Jessica sets out an account of the ways in which sexual desire and fulfilment have been distorted within western society by consumerism, individualism and secularism. Christianity has played its part in the social and cultural processes which have led to, and perpetuate, this situation.

Jessica Martin, *Holiness and Desire: What makes us who we are?*, (Canterbury Press, 2020)

Drawing on sources from the Bible to literature and social media, Jessica Martin considers what a distinctive holiness might look like within the distorting pressures of our highly sexualized modern culture.

Roger Trigg, *Cultural and Biological Formation of Sexuality*, (LLF Paper, 2020)

This essay represents the personal views of the author but was written for, and discussed within, the SBS thematic group as a part of its work in support of LLF.

Roger places sexuality and gender in evolutionary and cultural context. This is a primarily philosophical essay, rather than a scientific one, but provides a helpful background, reflecting on the ways in which the culture and biology of sex/gender might be understood in relation to each other.

Theological and ethical discussions of sexuality

Timothy Bradshaw (ed.), *The Way Forward?: Christian Voices on Homosexuality and the Church*. 2nd ed (SCM Press, 2003)

Despite its date this remains one of the best collections of different perspectives which all, to varying degrees, engage with the evangelical St Andrew's Day Statement. Important contributions from, amongst others, Michael Vasey, Jeffrey John, Rowan Williams, Elizabeth Stuart and Oliver O'Donovan.

Andrew Davison, *Amazing Love: Theology for Understanding Discipleship, Sexuality and Mission* (DLT, 2016)

Written from a 'revised' perspective, Davison – who is both a theologian and a natural scientist – explores issues of sexuality in relation to being followers of Jesus, being human, being biblical, being part of the story, being in love and being missional.

Wesley Hill, *Spiritual Friendship: Finding Love in the Church as a Celibate Gay Christian*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos, 2015.

Written from a traditional ethical perspective, celibate gay New Testament scholar Hill's explores his experiences of friendship and intimacy, both positive and painful. Hill's thesis is that gay Christians have a particular gift or genius for friendship, and that intimacy requires commitment. See also the website/blog: <https://spiritualfriendship.org/>. Both are inspired by Aelred of Rievaulx's book, *Spiritual Friendship* (1164-7).

Ed Shaw, *The Plausibility Problem: The Church and Same-Sex Attraction* (IVP, 2015)

An exploration, drawing on his own story and experience, of various intellectual and practical challenges facing traditional church teaching, from a single, same-sex attracted evangelical.

Robert Song, *Covenant and Calling: Towards a Theology of Same-Sex Relationships*, (London: SCM Press, 2014)

Song argues that the topic of same-sex relationships needs to be approached by way of the wider doctrines of Christology and Eschatology in particular, including how they shape ideas about marriage. In this way this book places questions to do with relationships within the deeper relationship with God, and the relationship between God and Church.

Autobiography and testimonial

Vicky Beeching, *Undivided: Coming Out, Becoming Whole, and Living Free From Shame* (William Collins, 2018)

Vicky Beeching, well-known worship leader and song writer, tells her story of her struggles with her sexuality and her coming out and reactions to it.

David Bennett, *War of Loves* (Zondervan, 2018)

A personal story of an Australian gay activist who becomes a Christian and describes how he relates his sexuality to his developing personal experience of God in a life committed to celibate singleness.

Stephen Cox, *Navigating by the Son: Finding Our Way in an Unfamiliar Landscape* (Matador, 2021)

Written by a clergyman and father of a gay son, this is about how we live with difference and disagreement, as individuals and as institutions, in a way that reflects the values and character of Jesus. The implications for leadership, for integrity, for mission, for ecumenism, for handling conflict and disagreement, and for how we read the Bible are all worked out before taking same sex attraction as a case study to examine applications.

Wesley Hill, *Washed and Waiting: Reflections on Christian Faithfulness and Homosexuality* (Zondervan, 2017, updated and expanded edition of 2010 original)

Reflections from a celibate gay Christian and biblical scholar on his sexuality and his understanding of the pattern of faithful Christian discipleship.

Jayne Ozanne, *Just Love: A journey of self-acceptance* (DLT, 2018)

The story of an evangelical Anglican's journey to self-acceptance as a lesbian.

History of sexuality and marriage

Mark D. Chapman, *The Church of England and Homosexuality from the First World War to Issues in Human Sexuality*, (LLF Paper, 2020)

This essay represents the personal views of the author and was written for the LLF History Working Group.

This essay tells the story of key moments in the history of the Church of England's discussions and publications on the question of homosexuality following the First World War to *Issues in Human Sexuality* in 1991. It draws on a wide range of sources and seeks to inform the debate rather than to argue for any particular viewpoint. It is a preliminary study for what is likely to become a more extensive book on the subject.

Sean Doherty, *Inheritance*, (LLF Paper, 2020)

This essay represents the personal views of the author but was written for, and discussed within, the Theology and Ethics working group of LLF.

This paper argues that the Church of England has inherited a coherent and consistent teaching on same-sex sexual relationships, and sets out the evidence for this by examining attitudes from the Patristic era through to the Middle Ages, before looking at the Anglican formularies and more recent documents and statements.

Julian Rivers, *A Brief History of Marriage Law*, (LLF Paper, 2020)

This essay represents the personal views of the author who was a member of the History Working Group of the LLF.

For almost all of its long history, the Christian Church has sought to regulate marriage and sexual behaviour through the medium of law. Only comparatively recently has marriage become primarily a matter of state regulation. In this essay, I trace the main elements of that long and complex story. Should marriage continue to be subject to law?