

Responding to God in Love Unites Us

Some Biblical Resources

The resources below, mostly books, have been commended and recommended by a variety of people, members of the Faith and Order Committee, theological educators, and biblical scholars. They represent the breadth of our own thinking about this subject, and its pastoral, theological and social implications. None of them necessarily should be seen as an 'official' position. All of them could be helpful, in informing individual reflection, in deepening our engagement, and in facilitating some of the ongoing conversations we'll be having in coming months.

The resources are divided into three sections.: The first is on the broader subject of which our thinking about marriage is a part: how we read and understand the Bible in today's world. The second offers some resources on biblical views of relationships, sexuality and gender in general, and the third, much the longest, on the specific issue of same-sex relationships and marriage.

Part One: Approaching, reading and interpreting the Bible

It's good to begin with the Conference report on the Bible, and how we read and approach it. It's called [*A Lamp to my Feet and a Light to my Path*](#) and was adopted in 1998.

Commentaries such as those of Fortress Press, the Women's Bible Commentary of Newsom & Ridge, The Queer Bible Commentary edited by Deryn Guest and others, or the Global Commentary edited by Daniel Patte, are helpful tools.

Other books include:

Ballard, P. & Holmes, S., *The Bible in Pastoral Practice* (DLT, 2005), and especially chapter 12

Bennett, Zoe, *Using the Bible in Practical Theology* (Ashgate, 2013), and especially the first chapter

Birch et al, *Bible and Ethics in the Christian Life: A New Conversation* (Fortress Press, 2018)

Collins, J.J., *What are Biblical Values?* (Yale, 2019) – chapters 3 and 4 contain material particular to sexuality

Fee, G.D. & Stuart, D., *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth* (Zondervan, 4th edition, 2014)

Goldingay, J., *Old Testament Ethics: a Guided Tour* (InterVarsity, 2019)

Hays, R., *The Moral Vision of the New Testament* (T&T Clark, 1997) includes specific sections also on marriage and same-sex relationships

Instone-Brewer, D., *Morals Questions of the Bible* (Lexington, 2019)

Kim & Smith, *Toward De-centering the New Testament* (Cascade, 2018), looks at the texts from the perspective of minority and marginalised communities

Knight, D. & Levine, A, *The Meaning of the Bible* (HarperOne, 2011)

Loveday, S., *The Bible for Grown-Ups* (Icon, 2017), is an accessible introduction for non-specialists

Richardson, N., *Paul for Today* (SCM, 2009) is a very helpful introduction to the breadth of Paul's theology and includes specific reflections on gay people

Van Til, K.A., *The Moral Disciple* (Fortress Press, 2018) and especially Part One

Van Wijk-Bos, J.W.H., *Making Wise the Simple: The Torah in Christian Faith and Practice* (Eerdmans, 2005) includes some helpful reflections on ideas of 'purity' in the Hebrew Bible

Part Two: The Bible, Marriage, Sexuality and Gender

Bradbury, J., & Cornwall, S., *Thinking Again about Marriage* (SCM, 2016) is a good place to start in engaging with some central issues

Cornwall, S., *Theology and Sexuality* (SCM, 2013) includes some questions for reflection and is aimed at students and those training for ministry

Countryman, W., *Dirt, Greed and Sex* (Fortress, 1988) is a 'classic' exploration of these questions

Davison, A., *Amazing Love – Theology for Understanding Discipleship, Sexuality and Mission* (DLT, 2016)

Hess, R.S., & R., M.D.C., *Family in the Bible: Exploring Customs, Culture and Context* (Baker Press, 2003)

Loader, W., *Making Sense of Sex: Attitudes Towards Sex in Jewish and Early Christian Literature* (Eerdmans, 2013)

Loader, W., *Sexuality in the New Testament* (SPCK, 2010)

Martin, D.B., *Sex and the Single Saviour: Gender and Sexuality in Biblical Interpretation* (Westminster/John Knox, 2006)

Noble, T., Whittle, S., Johnston, P. (eds.), *Marriage, Family and Relationships: biblical, Doctrinal and Contemporary Perspectives* (IVP, 2017) offers a 'traditionalist' perspective on some of the questions

Olson, D., *Issues in Contemporary Christian Thought* (Fortress, 2011) and especially chapter 8

Rowland, C., & Roberts, J., *The Bible for Sinners* (SPCK, 2008)

Thatcher, A., *Making Sense of Sex* (SPCK, 2012)

Part Three: The Bible, Same-Sex Marriage and the LGBTQA+ Community

The Church of England's [Living in Love and Faith](#) project includes a resource which contains a wealth of material and stimulation for thought in this area. The [Whosoever](#) website offers some reflections on the seven major texts from the perspective of the Metropolitan Community Church. From the Roman Catholic perspective the [Report of the Wijngaards Institute](#) may contain helpful resources, including on the Bible.

Allberry, S., *Is God Anti-Gay?* (Good Book Co., 2013), offers a straightforward reading of a more traditional, conservative view

Brownson, J.V., *Bible, Gender, Sexuality: Re-framing the Church's Debate on Same-Sex Relationships* (Eerdmans, 2013)

Patrick Cheng's *Radical Love* (Seabury, 2011) is an accessible introduction to Queer Theology, and includes helpful biblical reflections. Those wanting to pursue more scholarly articles on biblical themes may find Hornsby & Stone's *Bible Trouble* (Brill, 2012) a valuable resource.

De Franza and others, *Two Views on Homosexuality, the Bible and the Church* (Zondervan, 2016) opens up the variety of interpretation on this question

Ford, M., *God, Gender, Sex and Marriage* (Jessica Kingsley, 2018) is another accessible introduction

The work of Robert Goss offers a Queer perspective on Jesus and the Bible, including his *Jesus Acted Up* (Harper, 1993) and *Take Back the Word* (Pilgrim Press, 2000)

Herbert, C., *Towards a Theology of Same-Sex Marriage* (Jessica Kingsley, 2020), offers an Anglican point of view

Hornsby, T. & Guest, D. (eds.), *Transgender, Intersex and Biblical Interpretation* (SBL, 2016) pushes the discussion a little deeper into other important questions

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

Keen, K., *Scripture, Ethics and the Possibility of Same-Sex Relationships* (Eerdmans, 2018) is a good 'way in' to the debate

Martin, C., *Unclobber: Re-thinking our Misuse of the Bible on Homosexuality* (Westminster/John Knox 2016): as the title suggests, this comes from a pro-LGBT perspective

Song, R., *Covenant and Calling* (SCM, 2014) is a theologically more liberal reading of the case for same-sex relationships

Vines, M., *God and the Gay Christian* (Convergent, 2015) is a lucid, articulate and accessible effort to examine the biblical texts often associated with homosexuality in a way which understands their original context and is written by a young evangelical LGBT leader

Biography and autobiography are also helpful here, and may include Vicki Beeching's *Undivided* (Collins, 2019), Marcus Green's *The Possibility of Difference* (Kevin Mayhew, 2018), and Heskins', *Face to Face: Gay and Lesbian Clergy on Holiness and Life Together* (SCM, 2005)