

The Church & LGBTQ+

CCC Seminar - Feb 2024

Introduction & Discussion

1. What is your name?
2. Why have you come?
3. What are the Biggest questions you'd love an answer to today?

Double Listening (John Stott)

Genesis 1:26-28 & 2:45-25, Matthew 19:3-12, John 1:14 & 4:13-16, Romans 1:24-28, 1 Corinthians 6:9-15, Ephesians 5:31-33 & Rev 21:1-2 (*a bridegroom coming for his bride*)

10 uncontested statements

1. The number 1 issue of our day

Carl Trueman: The rise & triumph of the modern self

1. Psychologised our self (Rousseau)
2. Sexualised our psychology (Freud)
3. Politicised our sexuality (Marxist thinkers Reich & Marcuse, The New Left)

2. This is a sensitive and challenging issue for all of us

3. The gospel puts us all on an equal footing

- equally guilty & condemned (in sin)
- equally loved & exalted (in Christ)

4. To disagree is not the same as to hate

- To be tolerant is not the same as affirming

5. The bible is clear

- All sex outside of heterosexual marriage is wrong
- Gender is determined by biological sex (*some complex & sensitive outliers*)
- We are creations not creators

6. We live with beauty & brokenness simultaneously

7. We must tell a better story

8. We must learn counter catechesis & subversive fulfilment

- Broken cisterns to living water (Jer 2:13 & Jn 4:13-14)

9. Jesus is the centre & the answer

10. Suffering & self-denial are essential to following Christ

- We're called to take up our cross (Mark 8:31-38)

5 very challenging tensions

Resident Aliens - require wisdom & courage

- 1. When & how to speak?**
- 2. Combining grace & truth**
- 3. Living freely & fully in Jesus**
 - Helping each other
 - Church discipline
 - Is this a salvation/non-negotiable issue?
- 4. Incorporating complexity**
- 5. Remaining resilient & soft-hearted**

Discussion Groups of 3 people

1. What is helpful?
2. What do you agree/disagree with?
3. What questions are you left with?

Faith, Hope & Love

Resources & Further Conversation(s)

An ongoing conversation within CCC

- **Coffee** - with any of the staff or leadership team
- **Marriage** - [Marriage Preparation/Enrichment](#) - with Steve & Leanne Vaughan, or Maffy & Emma Baskin
- **Singleness** - [Singleness Course](#) with Tim Gaston, Nick Elliott & Rebecca Lynn

Talks & Podcasts

- [The last 10 years of our engagement with the church and the LGBTQ conversation](#) (Sam Allberry)
- [Confronting Christianity](#) (Rebecca McLaughlin)
- [The Genesis of Gender](#) (Abigail Favale, on Mere Fidelity)
- [We are all messy](#) (Rosaria Butterfield) - on loving our gay and lesbian friends

Articles & Book Summaries

- Tim Keller book reviews - [historic position](#) (Allberry & Hill), [affirming position](#) (Vines)
- ['Same sex relationships: should we just agree to disagree?'](#) by Sam Allberry
- [JD Greear](#) - Downplaying homosexual sin won't win the next generation
- Ian Paul - [dozens](#) of great articles, written in Church of England context, good ones are [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#) and superb [talk](#) (from CoE context)
- Andrew Wilson - [6 stories](#) or [sexuality & silence](#)
- Andrew Blunt recommendations - his [book](#) and [others](#)

Short accessible Books - to get started and orientated

- ['Is God Anti-Gay](#) (Sam Allberry) - and other questions about homosexuality, the bible & same-sex attraction?.
- [Transgender](#) (Vaughan Roberts) - Christian compassion, convictions and wisdom for today's big issues
- [Same-sex-relationships](#) (John Stott)
- [True Friendship](#) (Vaughan Roberts)
- [How to reach the west again](#) (Tim Keller) - on counter-catechesis and subversive fulfilment

Autobiographical Books

- [Space at the table](#) (Brad & Drew Harper) - Conversations Between an Evangelical Theologian and His Gay Son
- [A change of Affection](#) (Beckett Cook) - a gay man's incredible story of redemption
- [Born again this way](#) (Rachel Gilson) - coming out, coming to faith, and what comes next
- [Gay Girl, Good God](#) (Jackie Hill Perry) - The Story of Who I Was, and Who God Has Always Been

More in-depth books

- [The plausibility problem](#) (Ed Shaw) - The Church & Same Sex Attraction
- [7 myths about singleness](#) (Sam Allberry)
- [The Secular Creed](#) (**free ebook**) or [Confronting Christianity](#) (Rebecca McLaughlin) - both books have superb chapters on issues around sexuality, gender, relationships & LGBTQ+
- [What does the bible really say about homosexuality](#) (Kevin DeYoung)
- [The air we breathe](#) (Glenn Scrivener) or [short video](#), summarising the bigger Tom Holland book 'Dominion' (see below)

Broader philosophical & historical books to understand our cultural moment

- [A better story](#) (Glynn Harrison) - God, sex & human flourishing
- [The rise and triumph of the modern self](#) (academic and long) or [a strange new world](#) (summary and short) (Carl Trueman)
- [Destroyer of gods](#) (Larry Hurtado) - how the Christian faith was so distinct in the Roman World, including how the Christian sex ethic was so counter-cultural and revolutionary
- [Dominion](#) (Tom Holland) - how Christian transformed western culture, including in regards to sexuality, gender, equality, justice and mercy