



Recommended Reading

The following are 'faithful' books which give high regard to sacred scripture. These authors use scripture to interpret God's design for sexuality and how it's being handled in modern culture.

Transgenderism:

- Branch, J. Alan. *Affirming God's Image: Addressing the Transgender Question with Science and Scripture*. An immense amount of research and presented with necessary details.
- Walker, Andrew T. *God and the Transgender Debate: What Does the Bible Actually Say about Gender Identity?* A great book focusing on the pastoral and practical aspects of dealing with the transgender issue. It explains why modern transgenderism is different than Biblical teaching.
- Roberts, Vaughan. *Talking Points: Transgender*. This small book is inexpensive and covers how to think about "transgenderism" and all the related issues, this is a good place to start. Succinct and helpful in getting your bearings pointed in the right direction.

Human Sexuality:

- Yuan, Christopher, D.Min. *"Holy Sexuality and the Gospel: Sex, Desire, and Relationships Shaped by God's Grand Story."* This is linked to Holiness, and it's perfect for Nazarenes.
- Yuan, Christopher, D.Min. *"Out of a Far Country: A Gay Son's Journey to God, A Broken Mother's Search for Hope."* This is an amazing biography of a prodigal coming to faith.
- Butterfield, Rosaria, PhD - *"Openness Unhindered"* is the best resource addressing the problems with sexuality as a category of personhood or identity, that is, the gay identity.
- Kevin DeYoung - *"What Does the Bible Really Teach about Homosexuality?"* is an accessible and concise (only 160-pages) refutation of gay-affirming revisionist interpretations.
- Robert Gagnon - *"The Bible and Homosexual Practice: Texts and Hermeneutics"* is considered by many the gold standard. This may be beneficial for the Nazarenes because Gagnon recognizes that Scripture does NOT affirm same-sex relationships. This is not something easy to read at 522 pages, and it's more of a resource.
- Richard Davidson – *"Flame of Yahweh: Sexuality in the Old Testament."* While Gagnon is top NT scholar, Davidson is a top OT scholar. This is not as well-known as Gagnon, but it is really tremendous. It is also more of a resource at 874 pages.

Discernment:

It's important to have discernment and wisdom. Some "non-affirming" Christian authors can use syncretism; the blending of the cultural with the biblical to create a modern amalgamation. Some have said authors like this consider aspects of sexuality/gender that are consistent with modern Intersectionality. Also, avoid all authors who advocate for "spiritual friendship" and co-equal identities like "Gay and Christian" etc. This too is syncretism.

The great preacher Charles Spurgeon once said, "Discernment is not knowing the difference between right and wrong. It is knowing the difference between right and almost right."