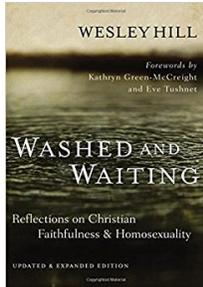


# Across the Spectrum

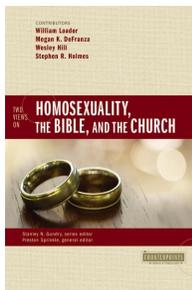
Resources that Wrestle with Christian Faith and LGBT Inclusion



## ***Washed and Waiting: Reflections on Christian Faithfulness and Homosexuality*** by Wesley Hill

For Hill, the challenges the LGBT community faces in the church have become very personal. As a gay man, the author had to reconcile his own identity with his theology, namely his traditional sexual ethics. Hill tells his own story while asking several key questions about the life of any gay Christian wrestling with how God can view them favorably or struggling with loneliness and shame.

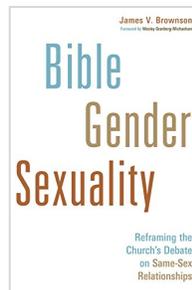
Ultimately, Hill both rejects changing the church's traditional views on marriage and sexuality and traditional methods of responding to sexual and gender minorities. Instead, Hill advocates that the church welcome all people as those striving for faithfulness in a broken world and that gay individuals, like himself, can offer a meaningful witness to God's redemptive work by remaining celibate.



## ***Two Views on Homosexuality, the Bible, and the Church*** Edited by Preston Sprinkle

Sprinkle moderates a written dialogue between four authors, Dr. William Loader and Dr. Megan K. DeFranza, who advocate for LGBT inclusion in matters of marriage and ordination, and Dr. Wesley Hill and Dr. Stephen R. Homes, who advocate for traditional understandings of marriage and sexuality and different forms of inclusion. Each author presents their own interpretations of key Bible passages about sexuality, marriage and inclusion and models respectful

dialogue as each author also responds to each of their coauthors' essays. In addition to hosting a wide array of well-researched arguments into biblical studies, linguistic nuances in the original biblical languages and church history, *Two Views* displays how well people can disagree with one another about hotly contested topics.



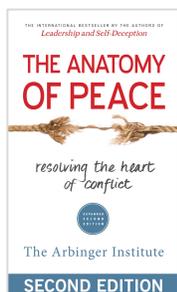
## ***Bible, Gender, Sexuality: Reframing the Church's Debate on Same-Sex Relationships*** by James V. Brownson

Brownson, a Reformed Church in America pastor and seminary professor, presents an even-handed analysis of the current debate around same-sex relationships. Brownson's son's announcement of his own sexual identity caused him to reexamine his own views on sexual orientation. After more than three years of conversations and seeking not only what the Bible says but also why the Bible says it, the author advocates for the same widening of the

imagination with respect to committed same-sex relationships that has happened with the church's views on cosmology, slavery and gender roles. Brownson takes the reader in depth through the key scriptural references to human sexuality and critically analyzes arguments made by both "Traditionalists" and "Revisionists."

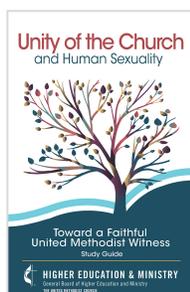
# Beyond the Spectrum

Resources that Empower Healthy Conversation



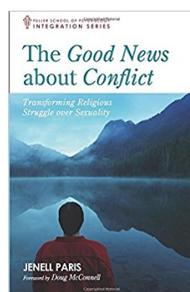
## ***The Anatomy of Peace: Resolving the Heart of Conflict*** by The Arbinger Institute

The Arbinger Institute, an organization devoted to improving human relationships and organizations, offers in this book a concrete method of changing relationships by understanding what every person brings to conflict. With universal applicability, this book advocates for cultivating a heart of peace to carry into one's interactions with the world. Though practical, this approach requires a certain level of self-awareness and maturity that will help one better navigate conflict. Although there is no mention of God or any other moral authority, this parable presents concepts about conflict that encourage self-reflection. As a Christian, considering one's own arrogance and/or ignorance helps one understand where their action conflicts with their intentions and God's purposes in the world. This book is a must-read for anyone hoping to navigate conflict well and live with a heart of peace.



## ***Unity of the Church and Human Sexuality: Toward a Faithful United Methodist Witness Study Guide*** by General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of The United Methodist Church

This small group resource can help congregations begin conversation about and promote civil discourse around the United Methodist Church's (UMC) considerations about LGBT inclusion. Within each session, this four-week curriculum helps participants articulate their own ideological views, deescalates potentially volatile conversations and maintains neutrality when considering potential denominational outcomes. In its inclusion of up-to-date and relevant studies about sexuality and religion, this resource helps participants consider the future of the UMC's global connection while advocating for preserving unity.



## ***The Good News about Conflict: Transforming Religious Struggle Over Sexuality*** by Jenell Paris

Paris, by viewing religious conflict over sexuality as a Christian anthropologist, invites the church to dialogue about LGBT inclusion and to remain centered on reconciliation. More academic in nature, this text brings the current debate around LGBT inclusion into a broader social paradigm, rather than focusing on strictly moral questions. In addition, Paris offers practical, tangible suggestions for leaders navigating the rough waters of conflict in their congregations or organizations. This text challenges all readers to consider conflict in a new, hopeful light, especially as related to our future together in the church.