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CHRISTIAN Sexuality

Normative & Pastoral Principles

Russell E. Saltzman, editor

Here are nine brilliant essays, dealing with the questions of homosexual ordination and the blessing of same-sex unions.

“A vital read. Scientifically responsible and theologically faithful, this compendium illuminates the issue of God’s intention for human sexuality.”

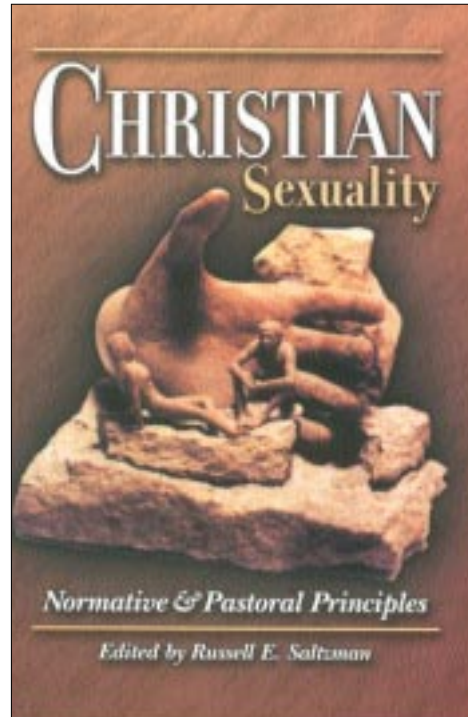
*-Lee Griffin, M.D.,
psychiatrist, theologian*

The essays are from a distinguished company of academic and pastoral leaders who seek to defend the continuity of witness, both in Bible and tradition, which has guided Christians across the centuries. Their work is both scientifically responsible and theologically faithful, illuminating God's intention for human sexuality. This is an indispensable text for those who feel that the Mainline Church in America has lost its way in the crucial matter of sexual ethics.

This book is a collection of papers presented at the Conference on Christian Sexuality in Kansas City, Missouri in October 2002. The conference was sponsored by the American Lutheran Publicity Bureau, publishers of the Forum Letter. Authors contributing to this volume are Robert Benne, James A. Nestingen, Thomas A. Skrenes, Russell E. Saltzman, Amy C. Schifrin, Phillip Max Johnson, Merton P. Strommen, Robert A.J. Gagnon, and Jay Scott Newman, J.C.L.

About the Editor: Russell E. Saltzman (Kansas City, MO), is a pastor at Ruskin Heights Lutheran Church and the editor of the Forum Letter.

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What the reviewers are saying about **Christian Sexuality**

“I had the privilege of attending the Kansas City conference and hearing the original presentations. I experienced first-hand the love and faithfulness by which these writings were prepared and shared with those present. I'm thankful that many others will have the opportunity to learn and grow in their understanding of Christ's boundless love for us that indeed confronts each of us with real and necessary boundaries for life and service.”

-Jaynan Clark Eglund, President/CEO, WordAlone Network

“This is an indispensable text for those who feel that the Mainline Church in America has lost its way in the crucial matter of sexual ethics. Russell Saltzman has gathered together a distinguished company of academic and pastoral leaders who seek to defend the continuity of witness, both in Bible and tradition, which has guided Christians across the centuries, and now faces a most critical challenge by the proponents of sexual liberation.”

-Walter Sundberg, Professor of Church History, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN

“Here are nine brilliant essays dealing primarily with the questions of homosexual ordination and the blessing of same-sex unions. In view of the overpowering evidence from Scripture and two millennia of church tradition, one is truly puzzled as to how these bitterly divisive issues could ever have arisen in the first place. To claim biblical support for such drastic changes in the church is to replace truth with torque. As these papers show, there are far more ethical ways to defeat homophobia and extend a loving outreach to those burdened with what is obviously a problem - despite the American Psychiatric Association's claim, a score of years ago, that it is not.”

-Paul L. Maier, Professor of History, Author

“A vital read. Scientifically responsible and theologically faithful, this compendium illuminates the issue of God's intention for human sexuality. As the church teeters on the brink of apostasy and a fractured international Christian unity, this volume constitutes a clarifying light of truth amidst our swirling darkness.”

-Lee Griffin, M.D, Psychiatrist, Theologian

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Christian Sexuality

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James A. Nestingen is professor of church history at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota. A nationally recognized Luther scholar as well as a popular speaker and lecturer, he is the author of numerous books, including *The Faith We Hold*; *Martin Luther: His Life and His Writings*; *Roots of Our Faith*; and *Manger in the Mountains*.

Thomas A. Skrenes is bishop of the ELCA Northern Great Lakes Synod, elected in 1999. He is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin in Madison, Wisconsin, and Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Ohio. Ordained in 1980, he served as pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Ishpeming, Michigan, and later as assistant to the bishop prior to becoming the synod bishop.

Russell E. Saltzman is pastor of Ruskin Heights Lutheran Church, Kansas City, Missouri and editor of *Forum Letter*, published by the American Lutheran Publicity Bureau. His articles have appeared in *The Lutheran*, *Lutheran Partners*, *First Things*, *The Christian Century*, and in many other publications.

Amy C. Schifrin is pastor of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, St. Cloud, Minnesota. She is the former seminary pastor at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Berkeley, California, and is completing her doctoral program at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley.

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Merton P. Strommen is a pastor, a research psychologist, and founder of the Search Institute and the Youth and Family Institute. He is author of *The Church & Homosexuality: Searching for a Middle Ground* (Kirk House Publishers; 2001).

Robert A. J. Gagnon is Associate Professor of New Testament at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. He is the author of *The Bible and Homosexual Practice: Texts and Hermeneutics* (Abingdon Press, 2001; 520 pp.) and co-author of *Homosexuality and the Bible: Two Views* (Fortress Press, 2003). He has also published a number of articles in scholarly journals, including *Journal of Biblical Literature*, *New Testament Studies*, *Novum Testamentum*, and *Catholic Biblical Quarterly*. Dr. Gagnon is a frequent guest speaker in Lutheran, Presbyterian, Episcopalian, and Methodist gatherings.

Jay Scott Newman is pastor of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Greenville, South Carolina. He is a frequent lecturer in ecumenical settings and a contributor to many journals.

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