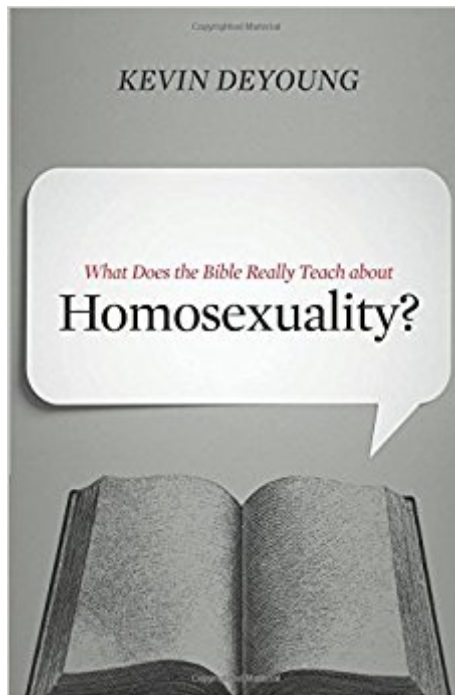




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What Does The Bible Really Teach About Homosexuality?



Synopsis

In this timely book, award-winning author Kevin DeYoung challenges each of us "the skeptic and the seeker, the certain and the confused" to take a humble look at God's Word regarding the issue of homosexuality. After examining key biblical passages in both the Old and New Testaments and the Bible's overarching teaching regarding sexuality, DeYoung responds to popular objections raised by Christians and non-Christians alike, making this an indispensable resource for thinking through one of the most pressing issues of our day.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Many people claim that the Bible speaks specifically about homosexuality by simply quoting the few popular verses. Not many offer to begin by asking the fundamental question, "What does the Bible really teach about everything?" This is what author and pastor, Kevin DeYoung did. He goes back to the beginning of creation, the Fall, the land, the temple, the coming Messiah, and the expectant future of a new heaven and new earth. He points out that the Bible is not about God giving us a lecture about homosexuality. Rather, it is learning to see what the Bible really focus on before we even talk about homosexuality. Having said that, he makes this statement about the book, that it is a "Christian book, with a narrow focus, defending a traditional view of marriage." In other words, DeYoung is writing from a Christian point of view. He is exploring the way the Bible verses talk about homosexuality. It is about defending the traditional view of marriage as between a man and a woman. Aware of the contentious subject, he addresses three groups of potential readers. The first group is the already convinced where he aims to remind them to argue respectfully and

appropriately. This means learning to recognize one's sinfulness and imperfections too. The second group are the skeptics or contentious, where he hopes will argue strictly on biblical grounds rather than on charged up emotions. The third group are the confused or those who just do not know how to respond. DeYoung is careful to define his terms. He writes more about deliberate activity and intentional choices. "Unless specifically stated otherwise, it should be assumed that in speaking of homosexuality I am talking about the self-determined activity of two or more persons of the same sex to become sexually involved.

Few issues cause more handwringing among Christians in our day than that of homosexuality and same-sex marriage. For some, it's not a lack of clarity on what they believe, but about how to express it without being accused of being bigots. And so, many in this group, because they are uncertain of how to speak winsomely, say nothing. Others, the issue itself is extremely cloudy. They don't really know or aren't really sure what, if anything, the Bible says about the issue, and how to interpret what's there. So when they read the arguments of affirming or revisionist authors, they have no idea how to respond or what to think. And because they aren't grounded, they risk falling into serious error. You can see why pastor and author Kevin DeYoung would be compelled to write a book on the subject then, can't you? Which is why *What Does the Bible Really Teach About Homosexuality?* exists. In this book, he wants to bolster the faith of those who know what they believe, but are unsure of how to communicate. He wants to bring clarity to those for whom the situation seems murky. And he wants to challenge those who, flying under the banner of Christ, would seek to revise what the Bible really says about homosexuality. Divided into two parts, DeYoung begins by first examining the texts which directly speak to humanity's design and homosexual practice: Genesis 1-2, Genesis 19, Leviticus 18, 20, Romans 1, 1 Corinthians 6, and 1 Timothy 1. The inclusion of Genesis 1-2 might surprise some, since it is the creation account, but including it makes complete sense. After all, we can't truly understand what the Bible says about homosexuality without first understanding how God created human beings.

Despite the prominence of the debate on same-sex relationships, there are surprisingly few quality contemporary books by traditionalists that discuss the biblical arguments. This is in contrast to the affirming side that has produced several well-written and thoughtful books in the last few years. Thus, there is a significant need for the kind of book that DeYoung has produced. The question is: does this book satisfy the gap left by the traditionalist camp? Yes and No. The first 87 pages (or chapters 1-7) are excellent. I would give them 4.5 or 5 stars. DeYoung's biblical exegesis is astute

and clear. He manages to articulate the most important biblical arguments in a concise and readable manner. This part of the book is a great contribution, and I have no reservations about recommending them. It is probably the best concise articulation of the biblical arguments out there currently. Unfortunately, I cannot say the same about the rest of the book. I would give the remaining material only 2 stars. The arguments are not nearly as compelling and, in fact, some have significant short-comings. DeYoung is at his best when sticking with the exegetical arguments pertaining to same-sex intercourse itself. He falters when trying to answer broader apologetic challenges. This seems to be, in part, the result of common ultraconservative blind spots. Many conservatives mean well, but they seem to lack an ability to truly empathize with the issues at hand and so are not able to engage the factors that have persuaded many young people to become affirming. This is not to say DeYoung is disrespectful. His book is cordial and respectful throughout. His pastoral heart is evident. So what are my primary concerns with the second half of the book? Here are a few:

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