

Crucial Conversations Advisory Committee Resource List

February, 2020

This list contains resources for learning more about how to have hard conversations with people of different perspectives, as well as various perspectives on the Biblical interpretation surrounding issues of LGBTQ marriage. Each resource listed here has been read or watched by a member of the Crucial Conversations Advisory Committee at Bethany. All resource descriptions are from the source of the resource and the links to each are found after the title.

How to Have Hard Conversations

The Anatomy of Peace: Resolving the Heart of Conflict ([book](#))

This book unfolds as a story. Yusuf al-Falah, an Arab, and Avi Rozen, a Jew, each lost his father at the hands of the other's ethnic cousins. The Anatomy of Peace is the story of how they came together, how they help warring parents and children come together, and how we too can find our way out of the personal, professional, and global conflicts that weigh us down, even when war is upon us.

Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White, Hamilton ([book](#))

The point is not to get you to agree with me, but to encourage you to think about what you believe. In the end I will be inviting those of you who find this book resonates with what you feel is true, to join the movement to pursue a middle way between the left and the right - to make your voices heard - and to model for our nation and for the church, how we can listen, learn, see truth as multi-sided, and love those with whom we disagree."

Crucial Conversations: Tools for Talking When the Stakes are High, Patterson & Grenny ([book](#))

The first edition of Crucial Conversations exploded onto the scene and revolutionized the way millions of people communicate when stakes are high. This new edition gives you the tools to: prepare for high-stakes situations, transform anger and hurt feelings into powerful dialogue, make it safe to talk about almost anything, be persuasive, not abrasive

Love Your Enemies: How Decent People Can Save America from the Culture of Contempt, Brooks ([book](#))

In *Love Your Enemies*, the New York Times bestselling author and social scientist Arthur C. Brooks shows that abuse and outrage are not the right formula for lasting success. Brooks blends cutting-edge behavioral research, ancient wisdom, and a decade of experience of experience leading one of America's top policy think tanks in a work that offers a better way to lead based on bridging divides and mending relationships.

Resources with Two or More Perspectives on Same Sex Marriage

A Dialogue on Biblical Interpretation and Human Sexuality, Kevin Watson & Kendall Soulen

[Video Part 1](#)

[Video Part 2](#)

The experience is an example of how devout followers of Christ can disagree not on the authority of Scripture, but the interpretation of Scripture. You're invited to watch the videos of the conversation as two scholars, Rev.

Dr. Kevin Watson and Rev. Dr. Kendall Soulen, who have dedicated their lives to the faithful study of Scripture, respectfully disagree regarding full inclusion of LGBTQ folks in the life of the Church.

Two Views on Homosexuality, the Bible, and the Church, Zondervan, Sprinkle, et al ([book](#))

Unique among most debates on homosexuality, this book presents a constructive dialogue between people who disagree on significant ethical and theological matters, and yet maintain a respectful and humanizing posture toward one another. Even as these scholars articulate pointed arguments for their position with academic rigor and depth, they do so cordially, clearly, and compassionately, without demeaning the other.

Resources Offering a Progressive Perspective

God and the Gay Christian, Matthew Vines ([book](#))

Unique in its affirmation of both an orthodox faith and sexual diversity, *God and the Gay Christian* has sparked heated debate, sincere soul searching, and widespread cultural change on the issue of what it means to be a faithful gay Christian.

A Letter to my Congregation, Ken Wilson ([book](#))

"A breakthrough work coming from the heart of evangelical Christianity," writes theologian David Gushee. "Wilson shows how God has led him on a journey toward a rethinking of what the fully authoritative and inspired Bible ought to be taken to mean in the life of the church today."

Changing Our Mind, David Gushee ([book](#))

"Every generation has its hot-button issue," writes David P. Gushee, "For us, it's the LGBT issue." In *Changing Our Mind*, Gushee takes the reader along his personal and theological journey as he changes his mind about gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender inclusion in the Church.

Faithful and Inclusive: The Bible, Sexuality and the Church, Rob Fuquay ([video series](#))

Rev. Rob Fuquay, pastor of one of the largest United Methodist congregations in the country, creates a safe space to navigate through this thorny issue, relying on the biblical-interpretation approach of Methodism's founder, John Wesley.

UnClobber: Rethinking Our Misuse of the Bible on Homosexuality, Colby Martin ([book](#))

UnClobber reexamines each of those frequently quoted passages of Scripture, alternating with author Colby Martin's own story of being fired from an evangelical megachurch when they discovered his stance on sexuality.

Torn: Rescuing the Gospel from the Gays-vs.-Christians Debate, Justin Lee ([book](#))

As a teenager and young man, Justin Lee felt deeply torn. Nicknamed "God Boy" by his peers, he knew that he was called to a life in the evangelical Christian ministry. But Lee harbored a secret: He also knew that he was gay. In this groundbreaking book, Lee recalls the events--his coming out to his parents, his experiences with the "ex-gay" movement, and his in-depth study of the Bible--that led him, eventually, to self-acceptance.

A Plea to the United Methodist Church, Bishop David Wilke

[Ministry Matters](#) video

Bishop Richard Wilke, who wrote the four-part Disciple Bible Study series, offers his impassioned appeal in a video released Monday. "I have given my life to revitalizing the church and bringing people to Christ," Wilke says, adding that the current conflict "breaks my heart." --

Resources Offering a Traditionalist Perspective

God and the Gay Christian? A Response to Matthew Vines, Albert Mohler ([ebook](#))

Christians and homosexuality is a hotly debated topic in today's evangelical world. Southern Seminary president R. Albert Mohler Jr. and four other seminary faculty members refute Vines' claims from six specific Scriptural references to homosexuality.

A War of Loves, David Bennett ([book](#))

As a young gay man, David Bennett saw Christianity as an enemy to freedom for LGBTQI people, and his early experiences with prejudice and homophobia led him to become a gay activist. But when Jesus came into his life in a highly unexpected way, he was led down a path he never would have predicted or imagined.

Into the Light: Healing Sexuality in Today's Church, Mark Ongley ([book](#))

While recent cultural upheaval has focused the sexuality conversation squarely on the issue of homosexuality and same-sex marriage, sexual brokenness presents in many other ways--infidelity, sexual abuse, incest, emotional adultery, and sexual addiction, just to name a few. *Into The Light* begins a biblically grounded and theologically informed discussion of the beautiful gift of sexuality.

Understanding Sexual Identity, Mark Yarhouse ([book](#))

Yarhouse introduces readers to the developmental considerations in the formation of sexual identity during the teen years. He also helps parents and youth volunteers learn to graciously respond to children and teens who struggle with questions of sexual identity, and discusses how youth ministry can become more relevant in the lives of youth who are navigating these issues.

Grace and Truth, Parts 1 and 2 Preston Sprinkle ([book](#) and [video series](#))

Grace and Truth 1.0 and 2.0 are five-week small group learning experiences that introduces Christians to LGBT+ people, the language to use and avoid, a theologically faithful view of marriage and sexuality, and practical guidance on how to embody the love of Christ toward sexual and gender minorities. Also available is a documentary about Christians who have wrestled with their faith, sexuality or gender identity, along with several short teaching videos for each chapter that help the group to engage the topics discussed in this book.

People to be Loved: Why Homosexuality is Not Just an Issue, Preston Sprinkle ([book](#))

Simply saying that the Bible condemns homosexuality is not accurate, nor is it enough to end the debate. Those holding a traditional view still struggle to reconcile the Bible's prohibition of same-sex attraction with the message of radical, unconditional grace. This book meets that need.

Loving My (LGBT) Neighbor, Glenn Stanton ([book](#))

A personal journey of building bridges with the LGBT community, showing us how to speak the truth in love on this difficult but important issue.

Messy Grace, Caleb Kaltenbach, ([book](#))

As a Pastor who was raised by gay parents, Caleb offers a unique perspective, states his views clearly, leaves room for disagreement, and champions love no matter where you are in this conversation.