

Review of: "Christian Ethical Perspective on Sexual Orientation and Sexual Behavior"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This manuscript is easy to read and contains some interesting points. It is appreciated that author is seeking to hold individuals of differing sexual orientations to the same spiritual standard, if judgment were conceivably to be rendered by one human being upon another.

The author makes sweeping generalities throughout the text regarding Christianity. Beginning with the title of this manuscript, this can be rightly described as one Christian perspective on sexual orientation and sexual behavior. Using a source identified by the author, The Pew Research Center, identifies at least eight categories of Christian religious groups with numerous subsets to each category. The fact that there are so many Christian denominations, stemming from Judaism, would suggest that over the centuries, people of all faiths have long found it difficult to agree on much of anything. Sexual orientation and gender identity are only two of numerous issues which the church has wrestled - and likely won't be the last.

In the very first sentence of the abstract, the author suggests that sexual expressions are just now becoming diverse while affirming that these "previously stereotyped expressions are gaining popularity." This would suggest that these sexual expressions have long been known but discounted due to an oversimplified and prejudiced opinion (i.e. stereotyped and discriminatory) about their validity.

In the Introduction, the author states that "homosexuality and bisexuality is increasingly becoming a concern in 21st-century society...secular society may readily make provisions that favor the inclusion of various sexual expressions." A December 18, 2015 Pew Research Center study reported that "Most U.S. Christian groups grow more accepting of homosexuality." The report goes on to state that homosexuality should be accepted by society according to 70% of Catholics, 66% Mainline Protestants, 62% Orthodox Christians, and 51% of Historically Black Protestants. This is incongruent with the authors statement that "faith communities generally find these demands disturbing" and that these LGBTQI+ orientations are "a contradiction of conventional Christian faith and practice." The Pew Research Center does support the authors reference to a study by Andrew R. Flores which also reported increased global acceptance of diverse sexual orientations.

The author suggests that "The activities of human rights activists are likely to change these statistics in favor of the LGBTQI+ community." It is suggested that this will increase "the tension... in most mainline Christian denominations will be acute." In an August 18, 2022 Amici Curiae brief to the Supreme Court of the United States, members of the United Methodist Church, United Church of Christ, Unitarian Universalist Association, and Reconstructionist Rabbinical

Association, support protection of LGBT persons under antidiscrimination laws.

The authors reference to author Mark Yarhouse's published work includes reference to the Hebrew Bible text of Genesis 1. This reviewer agrees that the full text of the first creation story in the Genesis 1:26-27 be included in the discussion regarding sexual orientation and gender identity. "Then God said, "Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness...So God created humans in his image, in the image of God he created them, male and female he created them." This suggests a Creator which is both male and female which supports a spectrum of gender expressions, sexual orientations, and sexual expressions.

Again, this reviewer suggests that this manuscript reflects one Christian ethical perspective - not **the** Christian ethical perspective.