

Précis

Much Ado About Something: Sexuality and the Eternal Word

Author Louise Hearn¹

Link to kindle book: <https://a.co/d/6TahlcS>

Paperback details available soon!

Précis written by Ian Hearn

In this work Louise endeavours to bring together a wealth of input from diverse scholars into a concise volume that addresses the issue of same sex relations from a Biblical viewpoint. The book is not an exhaustive literature survey - far too much has been written to cover this in a small accessible book, but it is a well balanced and eclectic survey of modern thought.

Louise asserts that the Western Church faces a significant challenge. Efforts to redefine the Bible's viewpoint on Sexuality and in particular Homosexuality are challenging the authenticity of the Bible in a way and on a scale that has not been seen since The Enlightenment. We are inundated with information and misinformation, bombarded by emotive appeals and human centric logic. In this book she attempts to provide a systematic theologian's investigation of the biblical facts and apply these to a church strategy.

After setting the scene in the introduction the book presents a new model of Christian Knowledge vs Obedience and looks at the need to move to a position where we have both a high degree of knowledge and also a high degree of obedience to the Word. The dangers of extremes of either alone are outlined where we can see zealot like behaviour from the ill informed who seek zealously to follow unsound direction generated by those who have knowledge but do not live in obedience.

Louise then refreshes our appreciation in the authority of Scripture so that we are reminded of the key role of the Bible as the truth, the Word of God. Moving on to Chapter four Louise reviews the response to Homosexuality in the Old Testament, starting with considerations of Creation and its implication on heterosexual relations, considers the importance of understanding how we are created in God's image, the creational natural union and concludes the chapter by bringing the understanding of Sodom and its sin into sharp focus, before clearing myths regarding cult prostitution.

¹ Rev Dr Louise Hearn is a Baptist Minister pastoring in a church in London. She has a Doctors degree in Systematic Theology where she advanced ideas in the understanding of evil and suffering from a multi religious viewpoint. Louise is a firm believer in the accuracy and infallibility of the Bible.

Chapter 5 is a careful review of the key aspects homosexuality in antiquity from a historical perspective and progresses in a review of the New Testament on marriage and sexuality, focusing on the relevant teachings of Jesus and then on to the contributions that the Apostle Paul made in this area.

Louise opens chapter six with a discussion on the misconceptions that are commonly held in respect to sexuality. A discussion of the roles of genes in orientation is presented, and then she moves on to demonstrate why female ministry is relevant and why this can be justified from a sound biblical basis. Many pro LGBTQ+ advocates try to persuade their readers that the evangelical stance against same sex marriage (and all sexual activity outside of marriage) means that evangelicals are also against women in ministry and this chapter the fallacy of this viewpoint is established.

Chapter seven presents a wealth of examples which refute many of the claims of the pro same sex relations advocates who often make claims to history that are not supported by historical evidence.

The book is closed in chapter 8 where the difficult subject of church discipline is considered, and looks at possible church responses to same sex challenges that are an expression of love, and grace without undermining the established truths and guidance of the Bible. This section carries valuable thoughts on possible responses to real life situations in churches today where a path needs to be trodden that provides love and support, teaching and discipling and guidance. Advocating engagement and tolerance, rather than ostracisation, to grow the necessary relationships for the development of knowledge and obedience leading to true discipleship. Louise concludes the chapter and the book with her thoughts: "The question of sexuality outside of the Biblical norm is a serious and significant challenge in our time, a veritable tsunami. The church is not called to assimilate cultural trends and developments, the church is called to uphold the word of God. Paul made it clear that he did not, and we should not, judge the people of the world (1 Corinthians 5:12) but in the same verse rhetorically states that it is the church's responsibility to judge those within. So we are to guard the word of God, ensure that we strive to maintain purity according to the standards of Scripture, and not to conform to the world. At the same time we must show love, and seek restoration for those who are of the world, or those among us, who have fallen in to sin even if that sin is deemed acceptable by current cultural norms.

Written to be an accessible resource to guide people through the vast volumes of publications, blogs, sermons and opinions that represent both sides of the debate, this book is a valuable and concise way to review same sex relations in a Biblical context.