

Our Contemporary Task — Thinking Biblically About Issues of Sexuality and Gender in Africa

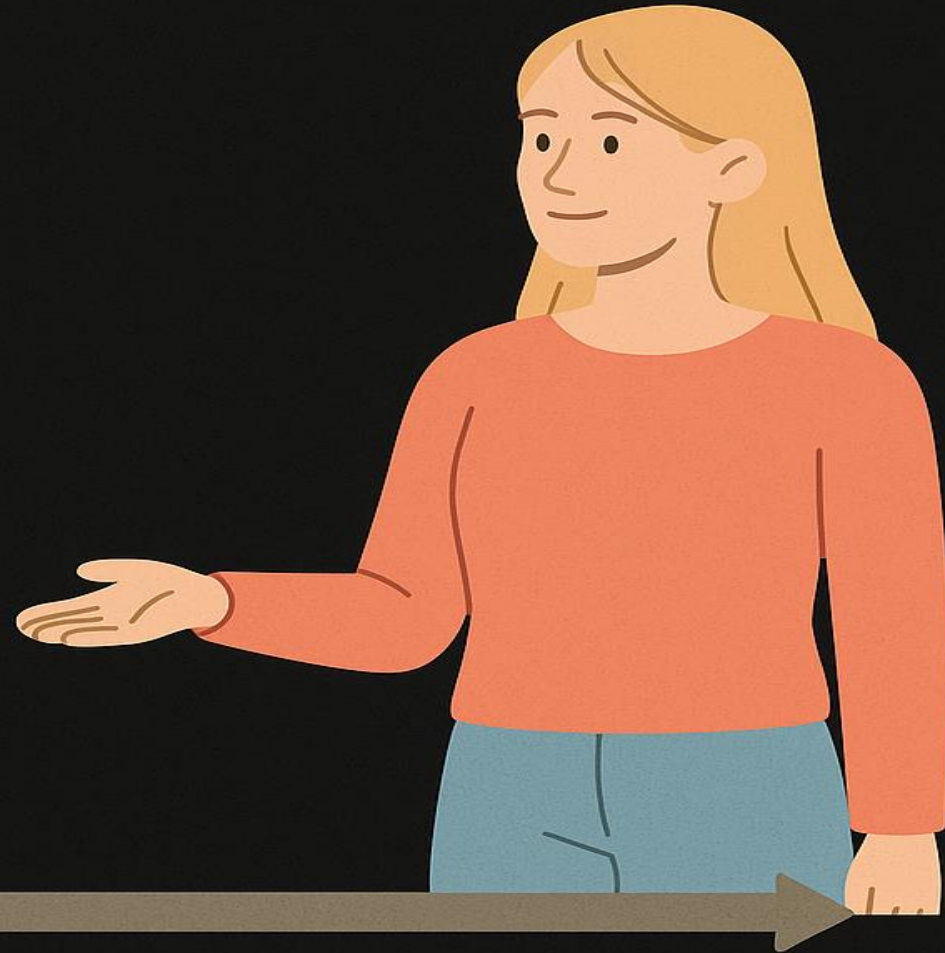
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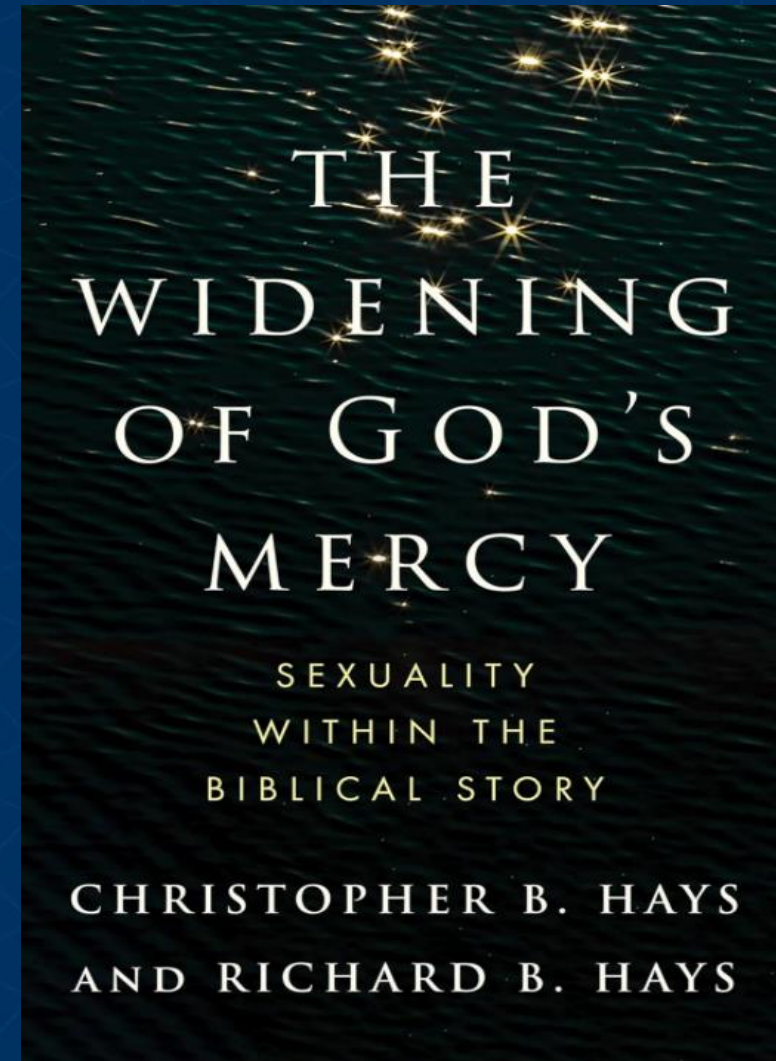
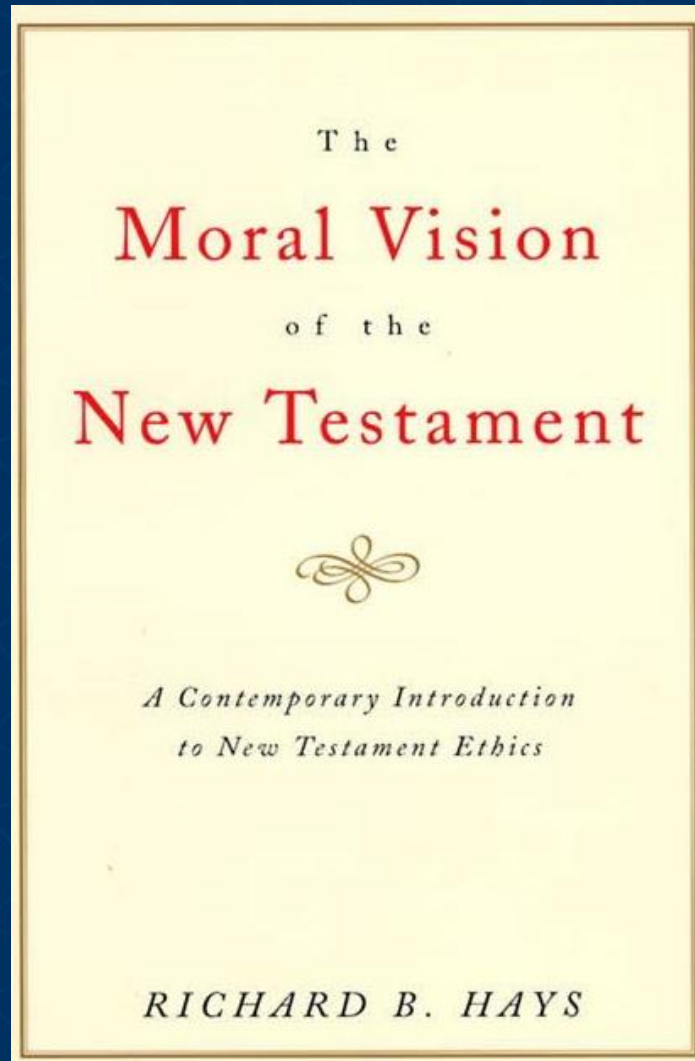


Part 1: Holding Fast to the Word – Scripture as the Anchor of our Worldview.

God Has Spoken: What Scripture says, God says.

**For with you is the fountain of life;
in your light do we see light –Psalm 36:9 (ESV)**

The Slide from Scripture to Sentiment (Hermeneutical Drift)



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“In light of the freely acting God whom we have encountered in the Bible, we cannot point to the Bible as if it timelessly settled all the issues about human sexuality. *It remains our responsibility to decide what we must say.* We have thought long and hard about what we must say about human sexuality and have concluded that it is part of the Biblical story of God’s widening mercy.” Hays & Hays, *The Widening of God’s Mercy*, pp. 215–216

Proposal 1: Remember the God Who is Good—and Who Said It Was Very Good.

Mark 10:18 (ESV):

“And Jesus said to him, ‘Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone.’”

James 1:17 (ESV):

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

THE PINNACLE OF CREATION

Genesis 1:27

Crescendo
of Creation

26 And God said, "Let us make a human in our image, by our likeness, to hold sway over the fish of the sea and the fowl of the heavens and the cattle and the wild beasts and all crawling things that crawl upon the earth."

27 And God created the human in His image,
in the image of God He created him,
male and female He created them.

Genesis 1:26-27 (Robert Alter)

Proposal 2: Remember the Goodness of Distinction— It Is Not Good for Man to Be Alone

Genesis 2:18 (ESV):

Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”

Male and Female together image God

*Proposal 3: Remember Our Contemporary
Challenges - The Fall and its Fruit*

Romans 1:18, 24, 26-27 (ESV)

v.18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven

v.24: Therefore, God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves.

v.26: For this reason, God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature.

v.27: And the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another

Expressive Individualism



Jesus Our Prophet!

Matthew 19:4–6 (ESV):

4 He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”

The Hermeneutical Prophet: Luke 24:25–27 (ESV):

25 And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

Jesus Our Incarnate Priest!

Hebrews 2:14–18 (ESV):

Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham.

Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a *merciful and faithful high priest* in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Jesus our Risen and Returning King!

Philippians 3:20–21

“But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.”

1 Corinthians 15:47, 49

47: The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven...

49: Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.”