

Resources for April, 2024 POTE Training Event on Same-Sex Attraction and Pastoral Care.
Compiled by Cameron Shaffer

Theological Resources:

John Owen is the theologian par excellence on sin, temptation, regeneration, sanctification, and union and new identity in Christ. He has several works helpful to this discussion.

-*The Mortification of Sin* (1656). This short, classic work is an accessible explanation and guide for how believers can and should kill sin in their lives as they grow in their communion with Christ. Banner of Truth [publishes a stand-alone abridged version](#), and Aaron Renn [has published a modernized version](#).

-*Temptation: Resisted and Repulsed* (1658). Owen's theological explanation for the origins and nature of temptations to sin is the best Reformed treatment of the subject. Banner of Truth [publishes a stand-alone abridged version](#).

-*Indwelling Sin in Believers* (1667). Based on Romans 7:21, 'I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil present with me', Owen's work shows that sin is a powerful inward law or principle lodged in the heart whose whole nature is enmity against God. This powerful river, flowing from the Fall, can only be brought under control by regenerating grace. It serves as a field manual for Christian living. Banner of Truth [publishes a stand-alone abridged version](#).

These three works can be found together in [Volume 6 of Owen's collected writings](#).

-*The Dominion of Sin and Grace* (1688). Following Romans 6:14, this treatise looks at the nature of sin's dominion over people, the nature of believers being under the dominion of grace, and living in light of the gospel of grace. This can be either found in [Volume 7 of Owen's collected writings](#) or online [at Monergism.com](#) or [as a Kindle edition of the CCEL version](#).

Carl Trueman:

-*The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self: Cultural Amnesia, Expressive Individualism, and the Road to Sexual Revolution* (2020). "Modern culture is obsessed with identity. Since the landmark Obergefell v. Hodges Supreme Court decision in 2015, sexual identity has dominated both public discourse and cultural trends—yet no historical phenomenon is its own cause. From Augustine to Marx, various views and perspectives have contributed to the modern understanding of the self. In this timely book, Carl Trueman analyzes the development of the sexual revolution as a symptom—rather than the cause—of the human search for identity. Trueman surveys the past, brings clarity to the present, and gives guidance for the future as Christians navigate the culture in humanity's ever-changing quest for identity."

-*Strange New World: How Thinkers and Activists Redefined Identity and Sparked the Sexual Revolution* (2022). *Strange New World* is a more concise presentation of *The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self*.

Cameron Shaffer. "[10 Theses on Same-Sex Attraction and Mortification](#)" (2022). This is a summary written for the World Reformed Fellowship, a fraternal partner of the EPC.

Recommended Resources:

Sam Allberry. [*Is God Anti-Gay? And Other Questions about Homosexuality, the Bible and Same-Sex Attraction*](#) (2013). The author is honest and transparent about his own journey of sexual brokenness. He proceeds to the topic less like a teacher and more like a friend. He treats the pertinent Biblical passages, and a hearty dose of the gospel makes them understandable and relational.

Tim Geiger. [*Explaining LGBTQ+ Identity to Your Child: Biblical Guidance and Wisdom*](#) (2018). In this mini-book, Geiger explains the categories associated with the LGBTQ+ acronym with an understanding of common sin patterns. In doing so, he gives wisdom to help parents prepare their children to extend the love of Christ in this world, particularly to those struggling with same-sex attraction and/or gender identity.

Christopher Gordon. [*The New Reformation Catechism on Human Sexuality*](#) (2022). This brief catechism is a tool designed to teach the biblical understanding of gender and sexuality to the church, especially teenagers, and does so in an incisive, faithful way that keeps the glory of the gospel of Jesus front and center.

Cooper Pinson. [*Helping Students with Same-Sex Attraction: Guidance for Parents and Youth Leaders*](#) (2017). In this mini-book, Cooper uses the Harvest USA model of gospel heart-change to help parents and youth leaders understand and help, with sensitivity and wisdom, young men and women who are struggling with same-sex attraction.

David White. [*Can You Change if You're Gay?*](#) (2013). This mini-book deals with the controversial subject of change. White avoids errors common to this topic by grounding the idea of change in the gospel.

Below are three different, semi-autobiographical perspectives on maintaining the historic, biblical sexual ethic while struggling with same-sex attraction. These books are a helpful overview of the different perspectives on this issue:

Rosaria Butterfield. [*The Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert: An English Professor's Journey Into the Christian Faith*](#) (2013). Butterfield, who was a tenured English professor, recounts her conversion when she was an active lesbian. Her conversion was radical and upended her life. She married a man, a Reformed Presbyterian pastor, and is now the mother of four children.

Greg Johnson. [*Still Time to Care: What We Can Learn From the Church's Failed Attempt to Cure Homosexuality*](#) (2021). With some of his biography present, Johnson provides a summary of the evolution in evangelical response to Christians who are homosexual/same-sex attracted, from care (mid-20th century) to cure (late 20th, early 21st century, ex-gay movements), and the path to care again.

Wesley Hill. [*Washed and Waiting: Reflections on Christian Faithfulness and Homosexuality*](#) (2010, rev. 2016). Hill grew up an evangelical fundamentalist and realized he was gay as young man. Here, he reflects on coming to that realization, not finding a change in his orientation, yet remaining a committed Christian unwilling to deviate from scripture's sexual ethics. He is washed (1 Corinthians 6:11) and waiting (Romans 8:23).