

***“Humankind was created as God’s reflection; in the divine image, God created them. God looked around at all of creation and said it was good.” Genesis 1:27,31a***

Dear Siblings in Christ,

God created all people in Gods divine image & calls you good. June is celebrated as Pride month within the Gay/Queer/LGBTQIA+ community due to events that increased visibility, awareness, and acceptance in the late 60s (ie. Stonewall Riots, NYC). We have come far in recognizing the beauty of human diversity, but yet there is still restrictive and harmful legislation introduced, hate crimes continue, & people continue to die for being who God created them to be.

The following list are books highly recommend for those who are interested in deepening your understanding to topics of LGBTQIA+ in regard to religion and faith in honor of Pride month:

- *Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians* - by Austen Hartke  
Weaves together discussion of scripture and personal stories of transgender Christians, as well as includes discussions of language around gender.
- *One Coin Found: How God’s Love Stretches to the Margins* - by Emmy Kegler  
The author, a queer Lutheran pastor, wrestles with faith and scripture, finding it full of Gods promise to always find & bring back those often pushed to the edges.
- *Queer Virtue: What LGBTQ People Know about Life and Love and how it Can Revitalize Christianity* - by Liz Edmon  
A look at Christian theology & queer ethics, Edmon urges that Christianity, at scriptural core challenges readers to break false binaries that pit people against each other.
- *Torn: Rescuing the Gospel from the Gays vs. Christians Debate* - by Justin Lee  
The author, a gay man and devout Christian, bridges the gaps between his faith and sexuality in this insightful and touching memoir.
- *Welcoming and Affirming: A Guide to Supporting and Working with LGBTQ+ Christian Youth* - by Leigh Finke (Companion to Queerfully and Wonderfully Made)  
Personal testimonials are shared from young adults who have experienced the joys and hardships of being queer and Christian.
- *Unashamed: A Coming Out Guide for LGBTQ Christians* - by Amber Cantorna  
Tackling the often asked question of ‘how does one reconcile their sexuality with their faith?’ Encouraging all Christians to embrace their identities & celebrate Gods creation.
- *Unclobbered: Rethinking Our Misuse of the Bible on Homosexuality* - by Colby Martin  
The book reexamines the frequently quoted passages used against our LGBTQ+ siblings, while bringing stories from the author’s life

Peace,

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