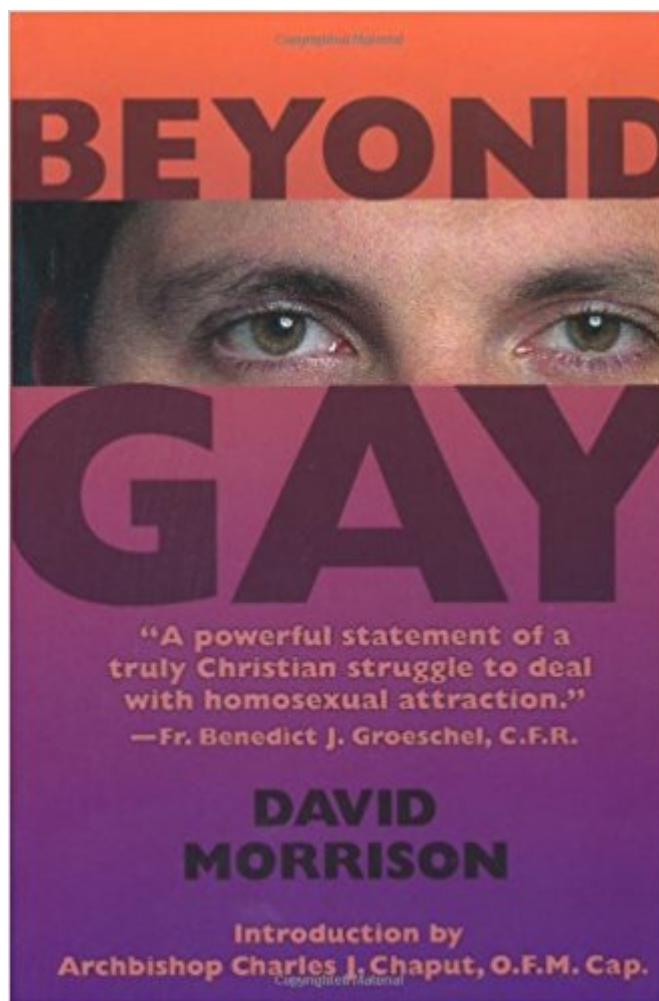


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Beyond Gay



Book Information

Paperback: 287 pages

Publisher: Our Sunday Visitor (September 1999)

Language: English

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Best Sellers Rank: #873,099 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #134 inÂ Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Catholicism > Theology #1571 inÂ Books > Gay & Lesbian > Nonfiction > LGBT Studies #13917 inÂ Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Specific Demographics

Customer Reviews

Text: English, French (translation)

David Morrison presents a compelling story of his journey into and through homosexuality. This book is an excellent resource for anyone interested in this hot cultural issue. Morrisons writing is engaging and thoughtful. His conclusions are faithful to church teaching and to his own conscience.

If you wish to understand the homosexual condition from a first-hand and Catholic perspective, then here is the place to start. In a clear and inviting style Morrion describes his journey from gay-activist to committed Catholic. Included as well is some discussion of the causes, effects, and treatment of homosexual attraction and lifestyle. For someone who knew very little about the issues at the time of reading, I found that it helped me to look upon gay people with not just compassion, but also understanding.

Highly recommend - Found out everything I needed to know - Could hardly put down - Learned a lot

Morrison has written a loving, compassionate, yet unequivocal portrait of "gays", and shows how wrong many Christians are in their approaches to same-sex attracted people. His recommendations on how to deal with youth who question their sexual identities are particularly important for parents. I am sorry that Morrison will (inevitably) experience attacks from extremists on both sides of this

issue. Truth is harsh as well as holy, and courage is required to seek and accept it. Thank you, David, for expressing Paul's "more excellent way" in this wonderful book.

Catholic testimonies are few. For more Catholic testimonies see the film *Desire of the Everlasting Hills*. The earlier parts of *Beyond Gay* are about his journey from boyhood in the scouts to early sexual experiences, to his first visit to a gay bar and that which followed the visit, to college life and its gay and lesbian student union, debating the issues for a student newspaper with conservative Christians whose response he felt to be immature and ill informed, to helping and supporting friends with HIV, to asking "is the most important thing really being gay?" and "is this all there is to life ?" A non-Christian friend casually suggested that he pray, so he does, and he experiences the presence of Jesus. His journey from liberal Anglican to evangelical Anglican is the best part of the book. He considerably liked both sorts of Anglicanism. He experiences Dignity and Integrity and writes for the gay Christian periodical *Malchus*. During this time he had a long-term partner. The relationship is a sexually expressed one until he is baptised in the evangelical parish. (He explains what this involves later in the book). The relationship continues. He stops writing for *Malchus*. His spiritual travels take him into the Catholic Church. Much of the rest of the book is about official Catholic teaching, especially on sexuality and he also writes about *Courage*. He dwells much on the then Cardinal Ratzinger's Letter to the Bishops of the Catholic Church on the Pastoral Care of Homosexual Persons but is over favourable to it on one or two points. Much of what Morrison writes is good and is shared by Christians who think the same way in other denominations. Some of his claims as to the uniqueness of the Catholic Church won't sound convincing to non Catholics. Rev John Stott and Fr Thomas Hopko cover similar groups in some of their writings. His journey is described in great detail and is convincing. *Beyond Gay* is one of the most intelligently written and real books that cover this issue from a conservative perspective. David Morrison writes as an insider in a way that is mostly devoid of clichés, in contrast to many other writers. He explains this well and has spent a considerable time in number of different groups and communities and has really tried to convey the different approaches he experienced in a fair way. In the book's first chapter he writes about the HIV crisis in the US before the arrival of modern medications that now exist. So many people died during this period of indescribable tragedy. He quotes from Eric Rofe's *Reviving the Tribe*. He has walked the walk as well as having talked the talk. He is also the author of the CTS Explanations booklet "Homosexuality".

I'm a married heterosexual who read David's book because I'm an orthodox Catholic interested in

the agonizing debates over sexual matters within Christianity. I was quite surprised by how much "Beyond Gay" had to say to me, a straight man, about the theology of the body. David challenged me to think a lot more deeply about the way *all* of us consider our bodies, and the use of our sexuality. "Beyond Gay" cuts through so much cant and jargon to tell an *honest* story from a compassionate survivor of the sexual revolution. It is indispensable for priests, pastors and lay persons who seek to understand gay folks in charity, while leading them to fidelity to Biblical teaching. And it has almost as much to teach straights about the proper use of their own sexuality. What an unusual, wise book. It should be on the bookshelf of every culturally engaged Christian -- Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox.

I'm a seventeen year-old girl who is a practicing Catholic. I was very confused when talking about the homosexual issue. This book not only helped me realize that you are to love the sinner and hate the sin but it also taught me that it is possible for homosexual's to live a chaste life. I also was taught through this book that many homosexuals just want to be loved, and their search has been a difficult one, as pointed out in Morrison's book that hardly any homosexuals remain monogamous, that some have many, many partners. The problem with today's society is that heterosexual's are just as wrong. They don't even know that sex before marriage is wrong, so it's very difficult for them to understand that homosexual's are not to perform sexual acts and to remain chaste. Thank You, David, for writng this book and offering hope to other homosexuals.

David Morrison shares candidly of his own journey from gay activist to chaste Catholic. He offers realistic hope for those with unwanted same sex attractions. In describing his own discovery of the truths behind Catholic teaching on sexuality, Morrison gives us more than just pious religious sentimentality. He gives a gutsy description of his own transition. This book shows a faith that goes beyond doctrine and into the heartfelt experience of the grace of God.

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