

CHURCH SEMINAR PACK

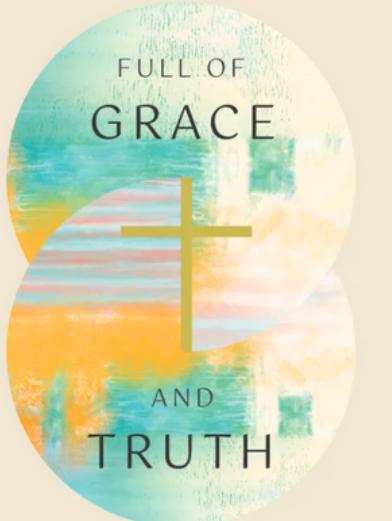
**Help your church handle issues of
sexuality with both grace and
truth.**

Use these resources to encourage truthful and gracious attitudes towards sexuality.

Vaughan Roberts is openly resolved to submit his own sexuality to the Lordship of Christ. He studied law at Cambridge University before a brief spell in South Africa involved in student ministry. He is Rector of St Ebbe's Church, Oxford. He has written a number of books, including *God's Big Picture*, *Battles Christians Face and True Friendship*.



VAUGHAN ROBERTS



The gospel and sexuality
in the global church

Full of Grace and Truth reproduces Vaughan's 2024 address on "Identity and Sexuality" to Christian leaders from 202 countries at the Fourth Lausanne Congress. Together with reflections born from study of God's Word and conversations with many, it **provides a rich biblical vision of how Christians can engage compassionately and faithfully** on issues of sexuality with those inside and outside the church.

Seminar guide

Powerpoint

Guide your church through the topic using these slides

[**Click here for slides**](#)

Watch

[**Vaughan's introduction to the book / topic**](#)



Read out this quote

“Some are predominantly or entirely attracted to the same sex...Such people are not just out there in the world, they are in the room whenever we speak on these topics. Does our content and tone reflect that reality? Many have felt that they dare not speak about their experience for fear that they would be looked down on or even driven away. This has too often resulted in the terrible isolation of loneliness and shame, which only add to the burdens they already feel and make it more likely they will fall into sinful patterns of thinking and action.”

Chat through this hypothetical

In pairs / groups

A fourteen-year-old girl who has been going to church for years is experiencing same-sex attraction.

How might she feel on an average Sunday sitting in your church?

Where would she go for support?

What would her biblical understanding likely be from the churches teaching?

If she was to tell people at church, what do you think the response would be - at the time and afterwards?

Watch

15 MINS: Restoring Biblical Sexuality –
Vaughan Roberts | Fourth Lausanne Congress



Instead of watching the whole of Vaughan's talk, you could consider arranging a speaker from a trusted organisation to do a short talk, for example, if you are in the UK you could ask **Living Out** or **True Freedom Trust**.

Use the scenario cards

Scenario cards

Consider:

1. What would need to change about the church culture for these people to get the right help?
2. How can they find refuge in the gospel - what about the gospel would help them feel and act better?



PHOEBE *"I feel so lonely"*

Phoebe goes to church every week with her parents. She has feelings of same-sex attraction that she has never told anyone. **The only time her church culture mentions sexuality is to strongly denounce it** as a sin of the godless, so she doesn't believe a true Christian could experience a struggle in this area. This makes her doubt her own faith and causes distress and loneliness as she desperately wants to live a godly life.

JOSEPH *Everyone else seems so godly...*

Joseph has been looking at pornography for a few years. He knows it's wrong and has tried to stop, but never managed for long. Shame has held him back from talking to anyone.

Everyone else seems so godly that he can't imagine any of them understanding, so he keeps quiet. It's only after his wife sees some images on his phone that he ends up speaking to someone at church. By that time his sin has become so deeply entrenched that it is very hard to address.

JETHRO *The shame became unbearable...*

Jethro has never wanted to tell anyone about his struggles with sexuality, but the sense of shame and guilt became unbearable, so he blurted something out to his youth leader. Days later, the senior pastor called Jethro to a meeting and told him that if he truly trusted in the Lord, he would be delivered. The pastor then prayed over him, claiming God's power to release him from the oppression of demons. That was it. **There was no attempt to listen to him and understand his experience; no word of encouragement; no follow up whatsoever.** The conversation was never mentioned again. Jethro now feels more desperate than before, not least because he's experienced no change to his desires.

NAOMI

They are never taught...

New Christian Naomi hesitantly asks a family friend about sexuality. When the friend says she believes the Bible teaches that the place for sex is within the marriage of a man and a woman, Naomi says, almost under her breath as if she's admitting a dangerous secret, "I think that too." She says she is fairly sure her pastors have the same understanding, but **she's not certain, as they are never taught on these issues.** "They don't want to put anyone off from coming to Christ, or cause division in the church, so they keep quiet," she says. The result is that **the members of the church, who are mostly young, are just confused.**

What would it practically look like for a church to have the ideal, Jesus-like approach to sexuality?

How can you create a culture of truth and grace in your church?



**Archbishop Laurent Mbanda,
Anglican Church of Rwanda**



**Sarah Breuel, Founder of
Revive Europe**

"I believe Vaughan Roberts is the best voice on this crucial topic. He speaks to real people from life experience, bringing of the truth of Scripture in an incredibly compassionate way."



**Kanishka Raffel,
Archbishop of Sydney**

"...this book will be of great comfort and practical help to those beguiled or betrayed by the lies of the sexual revolution, and those who walk alongside them as disciples of Christ."

"Here is a much-needed encouragement for orthodox Christians across the world to think together about what it means to be faithful to Christ in the face of the sexual revolution."



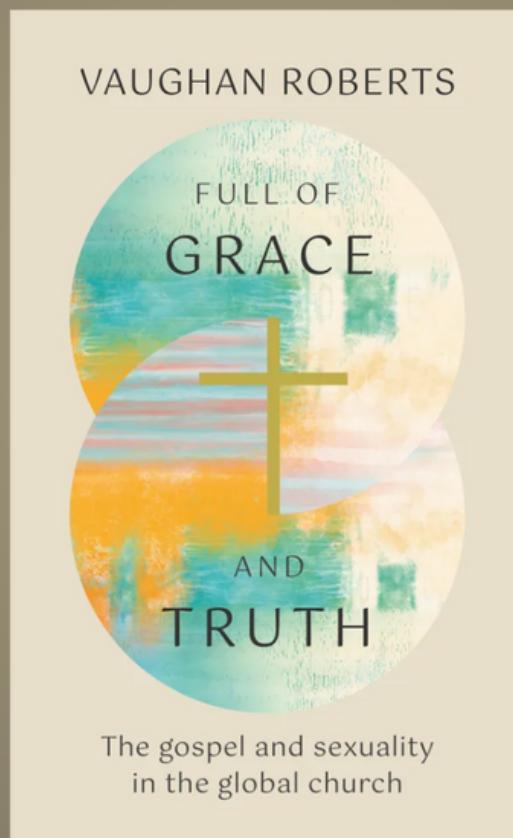
**Patricia Weerakoon, Author,
The Gender Revolution**

"This book is a call to all Christians, especially youth, to live a life in keeping with God's good design for sex and gender even when it clashes with the convictions of our sexualised permissive culture."



**Chris Wright, Langham
Partnership**

"Vaughan Roberts speaks not only with theological conviction of the authority of Scripture in this matter, but also with authentic credibility as one who is openly resolved to submit his own sexuality to the Lordship of Christ"



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+
Discussion
questions



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