

Steve Harper Takes on a Theological Examination of Human Sexuality

New book written in response to the 2019 Special General Conference of The UMC

May 14, 2019 (Nashville, TN)—In ***Holy Love: A Biblical Theology for Human Sexuality***, author Steve Harper shares views about the teachings of the Bible and Wesleyan tradition on human sexuality. Harper shows how teachings about what the Bible says about sexuality and marriage are more complex than often portrayed. A fresh and rigorous theological examination of the Bible's teachings is required, and there are ways to interpret scripture faithfully that are illuminating and gracious.

"We have too often rooted our theology in a view of God that is punitive and retributive," Harper says. "A hermeneutic of love requires that we make God central. The tendency to win votes in a debate between those who 'believe the Bible' and those who 'do not believe the Bible' lies at the heart of our inability and lack of will to find common ground on a theology of sexuality. Simply put, the pivot is not the inspiration and authority of scripture, but its interpretation and application."

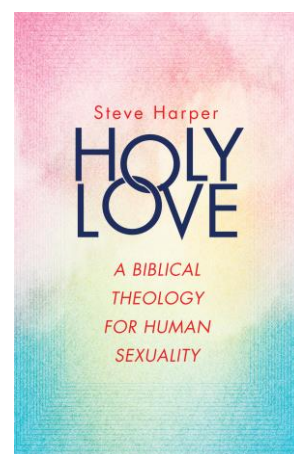
This very accessible book is for those interested in understanding the Bible's teaching on this fundamental component of human life, experience, and relationships. It is ideal for church leaders and small groups wanting to know more on this topic, especially after this year's Special General Conference of the United Methodist Church. The book will help readers make the constructive case that biblical, Christian teaching is compatible with covenantal love and intimacy amidst all sexual orientations.

"This book is not merely another rope in a fierce tug-of-war over biblical authority and human sexuality," says Magrey deVega, senior pastor, Hyde Park United Methodist Church. "Steve offers a wise, compassionate, and deeply Wesleyan perspective on biblical interpretation and LGBTQIA+ inclusion."

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*Holy Love: A Biblical
Theology for Human Sexuality*
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Steve Harper is a retired United Methodist Elder in the Florida Annual Conference, and a retired seminary professor who taught for 32 years in the disciplines of Spiritual Formation and Wesley Studies. He is the author of numerous books and articles, and a frequent speaker. Harper's ministries have included youth minister, evangelist, pastor, professor, and seminary administrator.