



NT/TS259 Sexuality and Marriage in the New Testament

Dr Wesley Hill | 1.5CR

About the Course

One of the distinctive elements of the New Testament is its focus on marriage and celibacy as callings by which believers may live out a Christian existence. This course aims to introduce students to some of the key texts and themes in the New Testament that may speak to matters of embodiment, sexuality, gender, and chastity that Christians face today.

Credits 1.5CR	Fees* S\$225(Credit) S\$120 (Audit)
Class Format Online	* Alumni are entitled to 10% discount on audit course(s)

About the Lecturer

Dr Wesley Hill (PhD, University of Durham) is Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies at Trinity School for Ministry in Ambridge, Pennsylvania, and author of *Paul and the Trinity: Persons, Relations, and the Pauline Letters* (2015); *Spiritual Friendship: Finding Love in the Church as a Celibate Gay Christian* (2015); and *Washed and Waiting: Reflections on Christian Faithfulness and Homosexuality* (2010, 2016).



He is on the editorial board and is a columnist for "Christianity Today". He also contributes to "Books & Culture" and "First Things" and other blogs.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, it is hoped that the student will:

- Be familiarized with key New Testament texts on sexuality, marriage, and celibacy
- Have the opportunity to explore the theological substructure and rationale for the New Testament's ethical instruction, paying particular attention to how these texts might be heard as "good news" in Christ
- Be able to apply the New Testament to some urgent ethical questions facing Christians today

Course Outline & Resources

VIDEO LECTURES & ACTIVITIES

For each topic, the relevant video lectures can be accessed through the video links provided on the course Moodle site. At the end of each set of video lectures, all lecture activities (MCQs and short essays) should be completed before proceeding to the next topic.

REQUIRED READING

All required reading comes from William Loader, *Sexuality in the New Testament: Understanding the Key Texts*, Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 2010. Please see the Course Bibliography below for more details.

S/N	Lecture Topic	Activities	Required Reading
1	Laying the Groundwork: Sexuality and Marriage in Genesis and the OT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Lecture 1 Questions● Lecture 1 Short Essay	William Loader, <i>Sexuality in the New Testament: Understanding the Key Texts</i> . Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 2010
2	Marriage, Family and Celibacy in Paul	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Lecture 2 Questions● Lecture 2 Short Essay	
3	Marriage, Family and Celibacy in the Gospels	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Lecture 3 Questions● Lecture 3 Short Essay	
4	Living the NT in the World Today: Reflections on Marriage, Family, Celibacy and Homosexuality	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Lecture 4 Questions● Lecture 4 Short Essay	

Course Requirements

1. **Video lecture questions:** Complete all video lecture questions.
2. **Short essays:** Complete all short essay questions (200-250 words each).
3. **Reflection paper:** Using the 'threefold framework' of Creation, Fall and Redemption*, craft a 1500 word paper on how you or your church would address a contemporary issue related to sexuality and marriage. Please take into consideration your own ecclesiastical or denominational statement of faith.

An alternative framework is Creation/Fall/Redemption and Consummation/New Creation/Restoration.

Assignments have been slightly amended from Wesley Hill's original class hence the difference from what he says about assignments Topic 2 Part 1.

4. **Essay:** Write a 2000-word essay in the form of a brief theological commentary on either:
 - a. Matthew 19:1-12, or
 - b. 1 Corinthians 7

ASSIGNMENTS BREAKDOWN

S/N	Assignments	Grade Percentage
1	Video Lecture Questions	10%
2	Short essays	15%
3	Reflection paper	25%
3	Essay	50%
	Total	100%

GUIDELINES FOR ESSAY-WRITING

1. The paper must reflect graduate-level research skills. There must be a minimum of five sources in your bibliography (not including the Bible).
2. The paper must reflect academic integrity in that due credit must be given to every source quoted or used. Footnotes should be used to document the sources. Every source cited should also appear in the bibliography. Please abide by the Turabian or Chicago Style for all your footnoting and bibliography.
3. The paper must reflect a good command of English and organisation of thought. Writing must be concise and clear. Please proof-read your paper before submitting it.
4. The paper must reflect the customary hallmarks of academic writing: treat those who hold different opinions from you with respect, and avoid colloquialisms and slang.

COURSE ASSIGNMENT POLICIES

1. For **style and formatting** of assignments, please refer to the section on “General Formatting for all Assignments” available on the BGST Online Student Manual.
2. ALL assignments are to be submitted by uploading via Moodle. Alternatively, assignments can be sent via email to assignments@bgst.edu.sg without the need to cc. the lecturer (**unless requested by the lecturer**).
3. Students must submit all their assignments **6 months** after the course registration date

Students are advised that BGST **strongly discourages plagiarism**. For more information on this point (what plagiarism is, how BGST penalises it), please consult the BGST ‘Guidelines for Academic Papers’.

Course Bibliography

REQUIRED READINGS

Core Text

*William Loader, *Sexuality in the New Testament: Understanding the Key Texts*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 2010.

RECOMMENDED READINGS

Brown, Peter. 2008. *The Body and Society: Men, Women, and Sexual Renunciation in Early Christianity* (*Columbia Classics in Religion*). New York: Columbia University Press.

Clapp, Rodney. 1993. *Families at the Crossroads: Beyond Traditional and Modern Options*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity.

Colón, Christine A. and Bonnie E. Field. 2009. *Singled Out: Why Celibacy Must be Reinvented in Today's Church*. Grand Rapids: Brazos.

Danylak, Barry. 2010. *Redeeming Singleness: How the Storyline of Scripture Affirms the Single Life*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway.

Davidson, Richard M. 2007. *Flame of Yahweh: Sexuality in the Old Testament*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson.

Evdokimov, Paul. 1985. *The Sacrament of Love*. Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press.

Grant, Jonathan. 2015. *Divine Sex: A Compelling Vision for Christian Relationships in a Hypersexualized Age*. Grand Rapids: Brazos.

Greene-McCreight, Kathryn. 1999. "The Logic of the Interpretation of Scripture and the Church's Debate over Sexual Ethics." In *Homosexuality, Science, and the "Plain Sense" of Scripture*. Ed. by David L. Balch. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.

Grenz, Stanley. 1998. *Welcoming but Not Affirming*. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press.

Hays, Richard B. 1996. *The Moral Vision of the New Testament*. San Francisco: HarperCollins.

O'Donovan, Oliver. 2008. *Church in Crisis: The Gay Controversy and the Anglican Communion*. Eugene, OR: Cascade Books.

Pope Francis et al. 2015. *Not Just Good but Beautiful: The Complementary Relationship between Man and Woman*. Walden, NY: Plough.

Pope Paul VI. 2002 [1978]. *Humanae Vitae: Encyclical Letter of His Holiness Pope Paul VI on the Regulation of Births*. San Francisco: Ignatius.

- Pope St. John Paul II. 2006. *Man and Woman He Created Them: A Theology of the Body*. Boston: Pauline Books & Media.
- Radner, Ephraim. 2016. *A Time to Keep: Theology, Mortality, and the Shape of a Human Life*. Waco: Baylor University Press.
- Roberts, Christopher C. 2008. *Creation and Covenant: The Significance of Sexual Difference in the Moral Theology of Marriage*. London: Continuum.
- Tushnet, Eve. 2014. *Gay and Catholic: Accepting My Sexuality, Finding Community, Living My Faith*. Notre Dame: Ave Maria Press.
- Selmys, Melinda. 2009. *Sexual Authenticity: An Intimate Reflection on Homosexuality and Catholicism*. Huntington, IN: Our Sunday Visitor.
- Sprinkle, Preston et al. 2016. *Two Views on Homosexuality, the Bible, and the Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.
- Watson, Francis. 2004. *Agape, Eros, Gender: Towards a Pauline Sexual Ethic*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Winner, Lauren. 2006. *Real Sex: The Naked Truth about Chastity*. Grand Rapids: Brazos.
- The World Meeting of Families. 2014. *Love is Our Mission: The Family Fully Alive*. Huntington, IN: Our Sunday Visitor.
- Yarhouse, Mark A. 2010. *Homosexuality and the Christian: A Guide for Parents, Pastors, and Friends*. Minneapolis: Bethany House.