Envisioning Queer Culture: Toward a Theological Framework for Reimagining Sexuality and Sexual Orientation

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Abstract
In this thesis, I argue that the both the Church and the Queer Community will benefit from a reexamination of Church teachings on sexuality. I argue that Church’s current position on sexuality does not uphold its own teaching on the importance human dignity, because a sexual ethic that opposes homosexuality contributes to the marginalization of members of the Queer Community. I then argue that Michael Lawler’s and Todd Salzman’s The Sexual Person: Toward a Renewed Catholic Anthropology provides a revisionist theory on sexual ethics that is inclusive of same-sex couples while also paying deference to the fundamental elements of the Church’s teaching on sexual ethics. Having suggested that a revisionist sexual ethic such as Salzman’s and Lawler’s serves as a cohesive response to the Church’s existing position on sexuality, I appeal to Elizabeth Johnson’s framework in Quest for the Living God: Mapping Frontiers in the Theology of God. Johnson argues that individuals who experience marginalization are an asset to the Christian Church because they offer unique insights into God. I propose that instead of approaching homosexuality solely in terms of ethics, Johnson’s framework allows us to regard members of the Queer Community in terms of the contributions they have to offer the Church. Finally, I employ David Tracy’s methodology in Blessed Rage for Order: The New Pluralism in Theology and propose that in light of postmodernity, we ought to use a pluralistic model when approaching a multiplicity of belief systems as well as when approaching the multi-faceted nature of sexuality. I conclude that in doing so both the Church and the Queer Community will benefit from the Queer Community’s full and open participation within the Catholic Church.

Recommended Citation

Sexual orientation is an enduring pattern of romantic or sexual attraction to persons of the opposite sex or gender, the same sex or gender, or to both sexes or more than one gender (American Psychological Association, 2013). It is a complex trait that is shaped by multiple genes, biological, environmental, and sociocultural influences (Hamer, Rice, Risch, & Ebers, 1999). The following are the common classifications of sexual orientation: heterosexual, homosexual, asexual, and bisexual. What is gender identity? Therefore, sex can be thought of...
as a spectrum where each part of the curve represents a varied set of primary and secondary sex characteristics. In layman's terms, sexual orientation is your attraction to other people, or for some, to themselves. You can be attracted to the same, different, or a variety of genders. We've compiled an in depth sexual orientation list that and looks at the definitions of different types of sexuality. List of Sexualities: Gay/Lesbian (Homosexual). People who are attracted to the same gender. “Gender and Sexual Orientation Differences in Sexual Response to Sexual Activities Versus Gender of Actors in Sexual Films.” Journal of Personality and Social Psychology 93, no. 6 (2007): 1108-1121. http://indiana.edu/~sexlab/files/pubs/Chivers_Seto_Blanchard_2007.pdf. Diamond, Lisa M. “What Does Sexual Orientation Orient?” Bogaert, Anthony F. “Toward a Conceptual Understanding of Asexuality.” Review of General Psychology 10, no. 3 (2006): 241-250. “Considering Asexuality as a Sexual Orientation and Implications for Acquired Female Sexual Arousal/Interest Disorder.” Archives of Sexual Behavior 46, no. 3 (2017): 631-635. Cranney, Stephen. Sexuality has to do with the way you identify, how you experience sexual and romantic attraction (if you do), and your interest in and preferences around sexual and romantic relationships and behavior. Who your sexual or romantic partner is at a given moment in time doesn't necessarily define this part of who you are. Sexuality can be fluid — changing in different situations for some, and over the years for others. Observing patterns in sexual and romantic attraction, behavior, and preferences over time is one way to better understand your sexual identity or romantic orientation. Sex-indifferent describes those who are asexual and feel indifferent or neutral about sex or sexual behavior. Sexual orientation or sexuality. Sexual orientation or sexuality is an aspect of self that involves Queer is an umbrella term for sexual and gender minorities who are not heterosexual or are not cisgender. Originally meaning "strange" or "peculiar", queer came to be used pejoratively against those with same-sex desires or relationships in the late 19th century. Beginning in the late 1980s, queer activists, such as the members of Queer Nation, began to reclaim the word as a deliberately provocative and politically radical alternative to the more assimilationist branches of the LGBT community.