



# **Love Into Light: The Gospel, the Homosexual and the Church**

*Peter Hubbard*

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Homosexuality is one of most controversial moral issues of our day. Headlines teem with stories of athletes "coming out," politicians changing positions and courts handing down same-sex marriage rulings. Sadly the church has often been afraid to talk about homosexuality. Many Christians feel confused and divided between the call to love and the call for truth. And many who struggle with unwanted same-sex attraction feel alone and alienated by the church. The time is ripe for God's people to think and speak about same-sex attraction in a way that is both biblical and beneficial. We must reject our fears and misunderstandings and see ourselves together in need of the grace of Jesus. *Love Into Light* is designed to move the church toward that end. Written from the heart of a pastor with a love for people and a sensitivity to our culture, *Love Into Light* is your next step toward becoming more faithfully and helpfully engaged with people in your families, in your church and in your neighborhood.

## **Love Into Light: The Gospel, the Homosexual and the Church Details**

Date : Published July 12th 2013 by Ambassador-Emerald International (first published June 18th 2013)

ISBN : 9781620202227

Author : Peter Hubbard

Format : Paperback 172 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, Religion, Theology, Sexuality, Christian, Christian Living, Christianity, Church



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# From Reader Review Love Into Light: The Gospel, the Homosexual and the Church for online ebook

## Hillary Renner says

This book took a little while for me to push through, but that last two chapters were worth all the work. Excellent, thoughtful words.

'Jesus often exposes our sin and highlights His grace in the midst of "insignificant" or, from our perspective, "useless" people. The kind of people we most fear, despise, or misunderstand may be the very ones who open our eyes to more of Jesus.'

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## Jason says

After I came out to my Southern Baptist father, he gave me this book. The title is hopeful enough, but what I found inside rarely helped and mainly hurt. I have never annotated a book like this one, which I peppered with sticky notes and my refutations, exclamations, and expletives. I transcribed and expanded them into two-column notes in a word processing document that reached thirteen pages.

Some highlights:

- \*In the Introduction, Hubbard acknowledges "feeling spoiled" to get to come home to his wife and children-- a basic human experience he would deny LGBT people
- \*Hubbard employs the bizarre (and evangelical?) term "same-sex attraction" to refer to gay men and women, stripping them of their identities. SSA begins to sound like a disease or plague after a while, which can be "cured."
- \*Hubbard uses the incorrect term transgendered instead of transgender.
- \*Hubbard never acknowledges that Jesus never spoke about LGBT people. Paul made references, sure, but not Jesus.
- \*Hubbard claims that Christians live in a casteless society, yet he still does not accept LGBT people. They are separate and other to him.
- \*Hubbard never addresses children who become Christians but later realize they are LGBT. All of his examples are about "sinners" who find Jesus & attempt to lose their SSA.
- \*Hubbard harps on and on about not being able to determine what causes someone to be gay. That is not the point, Peter!
- \*Hubbard thinks gay people are obsessed with sex. What about straight people, Pete?! This entire book is anti-sex. (All you need is Jesus.)
- \*Hubbard compares homosexuality to bestiality and incest! I mean, really!
- \*Hubbard claims LGBT people's feelings are not true or valid. What a jerk!
- \*Hubbard never reveals any of his sexual sins or struggles. Sure is he easy for him to beat up gay people with a few verses from the Bible, though!
- \*Hubbard argues that being gay is a choice but later says some people are naturally gay. He argues both sides. Fail!
- \*Hubbard thinks you can pray the gay away. He thinks sexuality, which is fixed, can be changed. No!
- \*Hubbard says that since Jesus was single, gay people can just be single too, amirite? (Wrong!)
- \*Hubbard uses the word "image" as a verb. Yes, that's irrelevant, but I'm an English teacher, and it really bothered me when did that.

\*Hubbard denies gays because they can't have children, even though some straight couples are infertile or choose not to have children.

\*Hubbard says since marriage and sex are temporary things and won't exist in heaven, it's not a big deal to deny them to gay people on Earth. Are you freaking kidding me?!

\*Hubbard calls homosexuality an addiction. Where does he get off? Fine. Then being straight is an addiction too, Pete.

\*Hubbard wants a pat on the back because his church now acknowledges some people have SSA. That's not enough!

\*Hubbard never acknowledges the Bible verses that say divorce is a sin, and which is commonly accepted in evangelical churches. So divorced people get a free pass, but gay people don't.

\*Hubbard never says if he has close friends or family members who are LGBT.

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## **L says**

As much as I appreciate a pastor attempting to break down the details of SSA, it becomes increasingly clear he does not understand the realities of SSA men. It is contradictory. This is an updated version of "loving the gay way." Wildly uneducated, and inappropriate.

Loving others is not something to be applauded, as if it is a performance. Why, pastor? Why must you feel you need to write a book on homosexuality while applauding how well your church has loved gays. You are establishing further roots in how disconnected the christian culture is from knowing/seeing gay people.

I strongly urge you to have anyone who has been "healed" from homosexuality to come forward. Exodus International apologized for the damage they have done to many, many innocent souls by conversion therapy. They have no evidence that it helped anyone, while the original founders left their wives and ended up together.

As long as the church feels like "loving others" is the way to help someone escape their sexuality, then the church will continue to be a damaging force to be reckoned with.

This book grieves me. It is a masked version of the damage that has already been done. I urge anyone to read Matthew Vines "God and the gay christian."

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## **Mathew says**

Peter Hubbard writes winsomely and pastorally. You can feel he's struggled with, loved, and cared for those who've come to him for care regarding their same sex attractions (SSA). He says,

The more I listened the more I learned, the more I realized--we are not different. We are the same. Our specific battles and sins may vary, but our hearts are the same. And our daily need for the grace of Jesus Christ is the same. (11)

He also tethers himself to the Scriptures as God's Word and the truth God reveals about Jesus Christ in the gospel. Right off the bat, Peter delves into the gospel and how it should change the way we approach SSA. He corrects our tendency to speak of us and them, and instead talk just about us as image bearers who have

fallen. If that's the case, then the solution is the same for all of us. "The gospel of Jesus . . . is a death certificate that unfolds into a new birth certificate, providing us with a renewed identity!" (26). So the struggles we face are not uniquely heterosexual and homosexual. All sin strikes at our identity.

I also appreciated Peter readily admitting the why and how are complex. Often Christians are sloppy on this point. We want easy, clean lines, yet life in a fallen world is rarely simple. There's almost always blurred lines. Recognizing this, would allow us to not shrink away if one day it was determined SSA was primarily biological. Things fall apart in a fallen world. As a he frequently does, Peter brings this approach back to God.

But here's the good news: our cravings, with all their complexities, point beyond themselves. They are insatiable signposts directing us away from temporal relief. We need God to search our hearts. We need God to satisfy our hearts. (41)

Finally, outside of exploring the topic of SSA and homosexuality from a Biblical point of view, Peter urges us to bring SSA struggles into the light. Find a church family who will minister and love you through your struggles. Hand in hand, churches encourage open relationships with SSA strugglers. We do this by preaching the gospel fully and making application on this topic. Silence kills engagement. Church members who struggle with SSA must know the church is ready to love and encourage them to the gospel.

Love into Light is a book you can confidently share with your friends, family members, and churches. Peter isn't a political pundit. He's a pastor who loves the gospel and loves people. Those truths come across in the book. He doesn't hide truth in the shadows, but brings the light of the gospel to bear on our hearts by focusing on our identity in Jesus Christ.

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### **Jordan Francis says**

The most helpful book I have ever seen when it comes to facing this issue as a Christian

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### **Sara says**

This started out weak and I was afraid it'd be shallow, but Hubbard surprised me as I got further into it. Here's a pastor in the heart of the south who is utterly committed to applying the gospel to one of the toughest pastoral issues in the church today.

He challenges churches to address same-sex attraction openly and even-handedly, recognizing that no one is sexually pure and all of us should be living in repentance through God's grace. Christians living with unwanted same-sex attraction need communities where they can be honest about their struggling and questions without shame or fear of rejection. The church may soon be the only place where people can go to hear that their identities are not defined by their desires, sexual or otherwise. Contrary to popular perception, there are a lot of people who want out of the homosexual lifestyle and need support to change their lives - communities who will allow them to follow their conscience without attacking them as "traitors", who will offer them safe same-sex friendships and patience to work through their beliefs.

Hubbard does touch a little bit on the biblical passages that prohibit homosexual sex, why he holds to a

traditional understanding of marriage, factors that contribute to same-sex attractions, etc., but if you're looking for a detailed discussion of that you'll be disappointed. This is primarily a call for churches to be more intentional about helping people (both straight and gay) to follow their callings and grow in their faith.

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### **Jeni Enjaian says**

Disclaimer: My mother is Peter's assistant so I heard a lot about the behind the scenes process of getting this book written and published. I did not, however, read the book until many months after publication. Whoops :)

This is an excellent book. I have been privileged to attend North Hills Community Church and sit under Peter Hubbard's teaching since I was 10 years old. I have learned and grown so much. This book is simply an extension of what he does every Sunday from the pulpit.

In clear, easy to understand but not watered down words, Peter navigates this difficult topic. His narrative is theologically sound and well- formatted. His points thoroughly support his main premise. He uses relevant and succinct illustrations to support his points.

This book is definitely a must read. The only thing I wish I would have done differently is to have read it sooner.

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### **Matt says**

This book is a solid primer for Christians who want to think biblically — that is, with grace and truth — about homosexuality. Peter Hubbard has a genuine love for homosexuals and those in the church who have same-sex attraction (SSA). At the same time, he is firm on his conviction that homosexual behavior is sin. His goal here is to help believers remember that they, too, need Christ as much as homosexuals. They aren't any more lost than anyone else God invites to the table. As we share the gospel, we should keep this foremost in our minds.

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### **Kyle Alt says**

Simply an amazing book. He stresses the most loving conservative theology I've ever seen. Every thought is very thought out. There isn't a cliche in the book. Loved every chapter. I cannot imagine anyone reading this book and not being inspired to be more thoughtful, strong, and loving in this ongoing culture war surrounding homosexuality.

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### **John says**

This book is not very well known but I suspect it will become very popular in the next year or so.

Hubbard writes as a pastor committed to the truth of the Bible, but it is also very clear in his writing that he

has many gay friends and has much experience interacting with and helping those who struggle with same-sex attraction, as well as those who don't struggle with it at all but embrace it.

The biggest strength of this book is that it doesn't fall to the extreme of being so focused on why homosexuality is sinful that it alienates gay people that might find help through the book... and it also doesn't fall the other extreme of simply accepting LGBT lifestyles and reinterpreting the Bible on those grounds. He stays committed to the truth of the Bible that homosexuality is a sin, all the while communicating a message of love toward those in its grasp.

Not sure how someone who is gay would respond to this book, but I think all Christians would benefit from reading this, if only to better learn the balance between loving the LGBT community while refusing to compromise on God's word.

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### **Luke Hess says**

Very solid and candid discussion of how the Church should respond biblically to homosexuality/same sex attraction. Everything Pastor Hubbard says is biblically informed and well thought out. I can't say that he presented me with something that I didn't already know, but the way that he packages it is both thought-provoking and insightful. This book is definitely a resource that the Church today is in great need of! I hope it is the first of many like it. I would recommend "Love Into Light" to anyone.

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### **Robin says**

One the best books I have read on the subject. Heartfelt, compassionate, thought-provoking and balanced with truth.

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### **JM says**

This book was excellent on all fronts. The subject- pressing; the organization of content- simple; the insight of the author- priceless. If I had to recommend a beginner book on homosexuality, this would be it.

#### **The Good**

-Breadth- the book covers just about all the bases of the same sex attraction (SSA) issue, from how to view homosexuality to origins to what change for a person with same sex attraction would look like.

-Hubbard's writing style- Hubbard came at this book from a gentle pastoral perspective. There was no "anathema to the heretics," but a kind, balanced, and biblical evaluation and response to the problem.

-Real life counseling experience- some books and articles I've read feel like the person has never met a homosexual. Hubbard has counseled and gone out of his way to understand the SSA struggler.

-Labels- one section I found particularly forceful was chapter 5 on Labels. On the first page of that chapter, he says, "...the one doing the naming is in authority over the one named," pointing out the problem with accepting LGBTQ labels. While some Christians like Wesley Hill prefer to understand their attractions through the label "gay", inherent in that label are other connotations that mean much more than being attracted to the same sex. The label "gay" identifies with a lifestyle that is strictly unbiblical, and accepting the label is a subtle way of linking yourself to that lifestyle.

#### **The Bad**

-Hubbard's writing style- As pastoral as his writing was, at times I felt like I was reading an old John R. Rice book, where you are reading a transcription of a sermon. During portions, Hubbard would use first person pronouns where third person would have been more appropriate. People are looking for answers on this topic, not personal opinion, and the times where he digressed to using "I" and "me" took away from the force of his arguments. For me, a little more formal writing style, at least in the application sections, would have been more appropriate.

-Format- I know much of the book was born out of a DMin project, but the average reader of this book will not be comfortable reading Turabian. The subject is already loaded enough, and having footnotes at the end of each page seemed overwhelming.

All in all, I loved the book, and feel that it is probably one of the best treatments on a topic that seems to be growing in importance.

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### **Josh says**

Excellent. I highly recommend this book on a topic every church will have to think through in our new cultural climate.

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### **Andrew says**

A most helpful book by a seasoned veteran pastor. It caused me to think and re-think. Highly recommended!

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