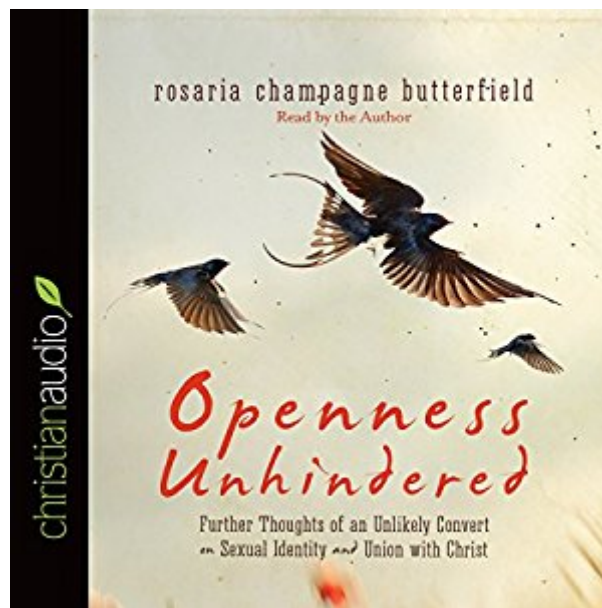


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Openness Unhindered: Further Thoughts Of An Unlikely Convert On Sexual Identity And Union With Christ



Synopsis

Before you can resolve the issues of our day, you must be able to clarify them. Terms like same-sex marriage, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gay Christian are parts of daily discourse, yet enormous controversy surrounds them. They are the stuff of news headlines and vitriolic social media posts. But they also reflect stirrings of the heart in real people with real questions and concerns. Rosaria Champagne Butterfield, once a leftist professor in a committed lesbian relationship and now a confessional Christian, but always the thoughtful and compassionate professor, has written a follow-up to *The Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert*. This book answers many of the questions people pose when she speaks at universities and churches, questions not only about her unlikely conversion to Christ but about personal struggles that the questioners only dare to ask someone else who has traveled a long and painful journey. Dr. Butterfield not only goes to great lengths to clarify some of today's key controversies; she also traces their history and defines the terms that have become second nature today - even going back to God's original design for marriage and sexuality as found in the Bible. She cuts to the heart of the problems and points the way to the solution, which includes a challenge to the church to be all that God intended it to be and for each person to find the true freedom that is found in Christ. Chapters include: Conversion: The Spark of a New Identity Identity: The Flame of Our Union in Christ Repentance: The Threshold to God and the Answer to Shame, Temptation, and Sin Sexual Orientation: Freud's 19th-Century Category Mistake Self-Representation: What Does It Mean to Be "Gay"? Conflict: When Sisters Disagree Community: Representing Christ to the World

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Customer Reviews

Acts 28:30-31 --And he stayed two full years in his own rented quarters and was welcoming all who came to him, preaching the kingdom of God and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all openness, unhindered. Taking the title from the last verses of Acts--Openness "implies we hold nothing back from the God who made us and will take care of us." Unhindered "means that we are unencumbered by our failures."-- Rosaria Butterfield yet again, with clear and beautiful prose, gives us insights into Biblical truths and life lessons from her very own, unique, and fascinating life. It's about more than homosexuality or sexual sin--though it certainly deals with this intensely. It's about who we really are. Butterfield writes: "The root of my lesbianism was pride. The root of my heterosexual sin was pride as well." To know the root of our sin requires Scriptures' truth. To know who we are--our true identity--we must know the God who made us and gave us those Scriptures. And in this generation where the Church needs to understand these sexuality/gender-identity issues like never before, Butterfield is one person well-equipped to give us teaching and special understanding of such matters. I can't help but think she is here and eloquent for just such a time as this. I'm putting this incomplete review as a placeholder for now--I have been reading since she sent me the book in the wee hours of July 1--because I want browsers to know that this is a book worth buying and reading. Even studying. There are beautiful moments in Mrs. Butterfield's voice. Reading it, I already prefer it to her previous work (which I also reviewed a while back).

A few years ago, Rosaria Champagne Butterfield wrote a memoir. Her book was about her journey from being a lesbian, women's studies professor in upstate New York to being a Christian pastor's wife and mom of four kids. Her book was aptly titled *The Secrets of an Unlikely Convert*. She was won over to Christ, not by man's words or by the four spiritual laws, but by Christ and the Word of God. Her first book was intended to share her story--to encourage people to love instead of to preach. There was a pastor and his wife who God used to encourage and walk alongside her quietly, listening in love, unwavering in God's Truth. This book was not intended to be one given to someone living a homosexual lifestyle with the hope that it would convince them of the truth. But, Ms. Butterfield has now written a second book which tackles sexual sin and God's Truth. This new book is one that can be given to one who is struggling. It is one that addresses all sexual sin and the roots of that sin. She writes in the same writing style--you can tell she was a college professor. So, it

isn't always an easy read, but rather a worthwhile read packed with nuggets of thought worth chewing on and mulling over. I deeply appreciate Ms. Butterfield's commitment to God's Truth. Concern has filled my heart as I've watched the changes in our culture at large and even within the Christian community at large. Christians seem to be of two minds when it comes to homosexuality. One camp says that it is not being homosexual and struggling with that temptation that is the sin, but it is acting on that temptation which is sin. We are all tempted by different sins. WE are ALL sinners. This is true.

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