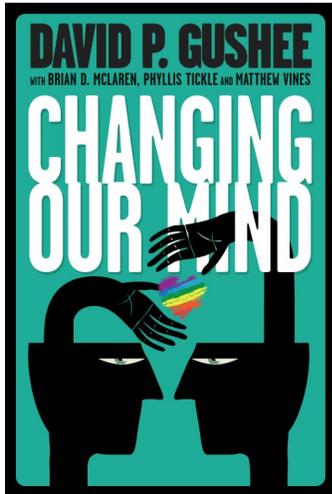




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CHANGING OUR MIND



Headlines from Dr. David P. Gushee's book launch in Washington D.C. are already appearing in Religion News Service, and an upcoming issue of *Sojourners* magazine will include an excerpt from his groundbreaking book, *Changing Our Mind: A Call from America's Leading Evangelical Ethics Scholar for Full Acceptance of LGBT Christians in the Church*.

Based at Mercer University, Dr. Gushee's books have influenced Christian and especially evangelical approaches to many issues, including the Holocaust, kingdom ethics, the sacredness of life, faith and politics, peace-making, torture, climate change, abortion, the death penalty, and marriage.

Now, after years of research and reflection, Dr. Gushee makes a compelling case for full acceptance of LGBT people in Christian families, churches, and schools.

In *Changing Our Mind*, Dr. Gushee takes readers through his own long struggle over an issue that is causing great suffering among teenagers, alienating families, and tearing apart many of our nation's churches.

As a Christian minister and ethicist Dr. Gushee has preached and written in support of traditional evangelical views on LGBT people and their relationships. This new book is a historic turning point in which Gushee describes his gradual change of mind and heart. He calls all Christians to respond to the tragedy, vulnerability and suffering of LGBT teens and others—by ending all contemptuous treatment, by being open to scholarship that challenges traditional readings of key biblical texts, and by loving our LGBT neighbors in accordance with the teachings of Jesus. He invites readers to stand with him in solidarity with a group that has been and continues to be among the most mistreated in the world, and especially—tragically—in the Church.

An ordained Baptist minister, Dr. David P. Gushee is the Distinguished University Professor of Christian Ethics and Director of the Center for Theology and Public Life at Mercer University in Georgia, where he has served since 2007. He holds a Master of Divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (1987) and a Doctor of Philosophy in Christian Ethics at Union Theological Seminary in New York (1993). He has taught for twenty years, and in those years written and edited twenty books in Christian ethics and public theology. He has lectured and written on every continent and is widely quoted in global media. From 2006 to 2009 he served as president of Evangelicals for Human Rights, an organization advocating for an end to torture by the United States in the "war on terror."

Dr. Gushee and his beloved wife Jeanie reside in Atlanta, Georgia, where they enjoy visits from their grown children Holly (with her husband Jonathan), David, and Marie. He teaches the Bible each week at First Baptist Church in Decatur. Follow Dr. Gushee on Twitter @dpgushee.





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Praise For *Changing Our Mind!*

“This book is courageous, clear, balanced, and like everything David Gushee writes, deeply grounded in biblical faith. He takes theology and the Bible with utter seriousness, continuing in his role as a leading evangelical scholar around questions of ethics and discipleship. David's description of how his mind has changed on LGBT issues will be a challenge to some, an inspiration to others, but a gift to all who find themselves at some point on this journey.”

—**WESLEY GRANBERG-MICHAELSON** served as General Secretary of the Reformed Church in America from 1994 to 2011. He was one of the first managing editors of *Sojourners* magazine and plays an active role in ecumenical organizations.

“In this landmark volume, renowned evangelical ethicist David Gushee issues a passionate call for biblically minded Christians to re-think their traditional opposition to same-gender relationships. Gushee presents clear and compelling scriptural arguments for understanding marriage as a faithful, lifelong covenant that is available to gay and straight couples alike. This book will be seen as a major milestone in evangelical engagement with LGBT issues. A must-read for Christians seeking a compassionate, biblically faithful response to the same-sex marriage controversy.”

—**MARK ACHTEMEIER**, theologian, scholar and author of *The Bible's Yes to Same-Sex Marriage: An Evangelical's Change of Heart*.

“David Gushee is one of the most thoughtful evangelical theologians writing today. I have known David for quite some time and have been moved to witness how his heart and his mind have changed on LGBT inclusion and Christianity. His is not a story of instant transformation, but of many years and long hours listening, praying and continually returning to Biblical study for guidance. Like Jacob wrestling with the Angel, David has wrestled to understand God's calling for Christians at this moment when they struggle mightily to understand how to be true to their faith and to their LGBT sisters and brothers, daughters and sons, mothers and fathers. Far from asking us to park our beliefs at the church door, David forges a path to liberation. By admitting that the Church got it wrong about the LGBT community, he shows us how we can embrace a more authentic, more responsible, more loving and finally truer faith. I have been longing for just this book for many years and I can't recommend it more highly.”

—**SHARON GROVES** is director of the Religion and Faith Program at the Human Rights Campaign. She develops training tools and resources to help families welcome LGBT family and friends from a faith perspective



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“David Gushee’s book is a rare glimpse into the process of deep paradigm-shifting by an extremely thoughtful and accomplished Christian ethicist. It lays out the moral, ethical, and biblical questions surrounding the LGBT controversy clearly and comprehensively. Moreover, Gushee helpfully clears away a host of false stereotypes on both sides of the debate, making distinctions that will help the whole church focus more clearly on core issues as it struggles through this paradigm-changing question. Gushee addresses one of the most controverted issues in our time, and does so with wisdom and grace.”

—**JAMES V. BROWNSON** is an educator, theologian, New Testament scholar and the author of *Bible, Gender, Sexuality: Reframing the Church’s Debate on Same-Sex Relationships*.

“Progress scares many people—especially when it moves quickly and feels uncontrollable. David P. Gushee’s new book will help people feel more comfortable with an issue they have been in deeper and deeper conflict over as progress on understanding gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people continues. When I first read his earlier book, ‘Righteous Gentiles of the Holocaust,’ I realized immediately how a complicated subject had been brought so much better into focus. The book allowed for significant change in my own life. I came to understand that religious teachings too often play the most significant role in creating a climate of hostility toward innocent and vulnerable LGBT people—especially youth. I know from personal experience that a book like ‘Changing Our Mind’ will save lives and minds.”

—**MITCHELL GOLD** is co-founder of a furniture and home furnishings company with stores across North America. He is the author of *Crisis: 40 Stories Revealing the Personal, Social, and Religious Pain and Trauma of Growing Up Gay in America*. In 2005, Gold founded www.FaithInAmerica.org to counter the harm caused to LGBT men and women by exclusionary religious teachings.

“Thank you David Gushee for the courage to share so beautifully and articulately what God has shown you. ‘Changing our Mind’ is a must-read for anyone who struggles with how sexual orientation fits together with a life of faith. Praise God for patiently guiding each of us to this place of new understanding, as God moves the Church into the 21st century.”

—**JANE CLEMENTI** co-founded The Tyler Clementi Foundation with her husband Joseph after their son Tyler committed suicide as a result of a Rutgers University cyberbullying incident. The foundation promotes education, research and public programs to promote inclusive communities for LGBT youth.



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From the book's Introduction....

“For decades now, David Gushee has earned the reputation as America's leading evangelical ethicist. In this book, he admits that he has been wrong on the LGBT issue. He explains why he has changed his mind and heart. Not only is David Gushee's work deep, thoughtful and brilliant; and not only is David philosophically and theologically careful and astute; he is also refreshingly clear and understandable by ‘common people’ who know neither philosophical nor theological mumbo jumbo. “

—**BRIAN D. MCLAREN** - Author, activist and theologian

“David Gushee's work in this book stands to be of pivotal importance in reframing the LGBT dialogue in the church, and in reclaiming the church's moral authority for a new generation. One day, even many of those who respond with dismissal and outrage now will thank him for it. Certainly, I and other LGBT Christians already have much reason to be grateful. “

—**MATTHEW VINES** - Author, founder of the Reformation Project

“David Gushee has paid us, as his readers, the ultimate compliment. He has chosen to recount publicly and in detail, his wrestling with and his conclusions about the theological issues separating many traditional Christians from embracing the full inclusion into the body of Christ of their fellow Christians who are members of the LGBT family. Such words as these are fashioned only with wrenching effort on the part of their author. “

—**PHYLLIS TICKLE** - Scholar of religion, journalist and author

Changing Our Mind

*A Call from America's Leading Evangelical Ethics Scholar
for Full Acceptance of LGBT Christians in the Church.*

David P. Gushee, Author
Foreword by Brian D. McLaren
Preface by Phyllis Tickle
Introduction by Matthew Vines

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