

THINKING ALOUD: Responding to the Contemporary Debate about Marriage, Sexuality and Reconciliation

Martin Davie

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In *Thinking ALOUD* Davie brings together a 'collection of papers and reviews [in order to] spell out the biblical foundations for thinking about Christian thinking about sexuality and to offer an incisive critique which can inform our response to this pressure.' The papers included are the St Matthias Day Statement, a paper on the nature of marriage which was presented to the Rochester Diocesan Synod, a *Lutheran Forum* article on the relation between justification by faith alone and same sex marriage, and the St Andrew's Day Statement (included as an appendix). The books reviewed are Alan Wilson's *More Perfect Union*, Robert Song's *Covenant and Calling*, and Groves and Jones' *Living Reconciliation*.

Davie manages to bring together some of the key texts which are currently shaping the debate on sexuality within the Church of England, particularly those produced by its own Evangelical Council. These are produced without comment from the author, allowing them to speak for themselves.

In order to gain the perspective of both sides of the debate, the author offers an in-depth analysis of the three aforementioned books, which are written by authors who possess a more liberal view of sexuality. Davie is particularly stinging in his criticism of the work by Alan Wilson, and picks it apart strand by strand. The author is to be particularly commended for his consistent appeals to be grounded in scripture, particularly when he evaluates his opponents in the debate.

The author does not suggest any possible way forward for the Church of England, nor does he delve into the intricacies and nuances of the debate. However, neither of these were part of his stated aim.

This short work will be a useful tool for one who wishes to gain an overview of the current debate that is raging within the Church of England.

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