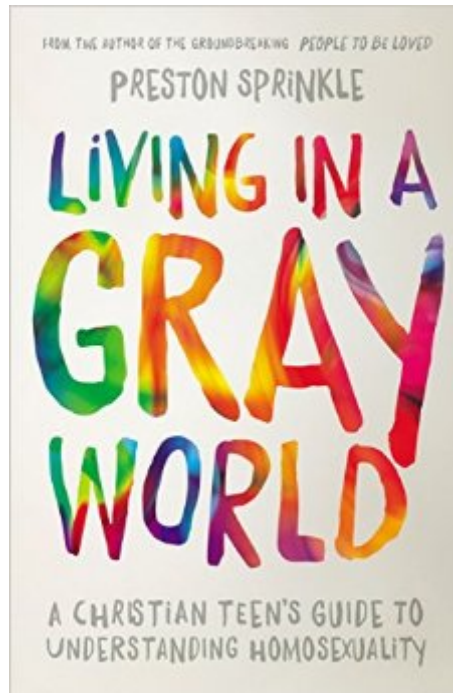


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# Living In A Gray World: A Christian Teen's Guide To Understanding Homosexuality



## Synopsis

In today's world, the topic of homosexuality seems to be part of everyday conversation in the media, in politics, and even inside churches, with pressure to accept one view or the other. And if you're a Christian teen, there seems to be few easy answers to the issues you regularly encounter, such as: Can you be friends with someone who is gay? What if your sister is a lesbian, or you sometimes wonder if you might be as well? Does the Bible really say homosexuality is wrong? What does God want us to do and say? Preston Sprinkle has encountered these same questions, and as a theologian and a college professor he has dealt with these issues firsthand. Through honest conversation, real-life examples, and biblical research, Sprinkle unpacks what we can know to be true, and how Scripture's overall message to us today allows us to move forward and find answers that align with God's intent.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

ARC kindly provided by Zonderkidz-Books via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Reviewl, as a Christian, have always wondered about homosexuality as it is on the top of everyone's tongues. I hoped that picking up 'Living in a Gray World' may give me something new: a new understanding. I didn't understand it; I didn't know how to broach the topic with other people, yet alone homosexual people or Christian homosexuals. It was a puzzling topic that I definitely needed to do some reading up on: and this ARC gave me a great chance to do so. I wanted to know what the bible said. And this short read gave me exactly that. What I noticed straight away was how qualified this author was to write this book. Yet another thing? The great, easy,

straight-forward, honest and personal way the author wrote it. It sounded kind yet matter-of-fact on the page and I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW THAT IS POSSIBLE. The writing style was great for this type of subject, which is highly debated by many. The author wasn't afraid to state his belief " which was that the Bible did not support same-sex relationships and endorses opposite-sex relationships. It gave me what I wanted to know straight away. I know that LGBTQIAP is a very, very, very highly debated topic but in my opinion, this book gave the best, most basic side to it. I support this author in the belief that same-sex attraction is okay, and that we should accept people for who they are, not just for what their attraction is compared to other people. It felt dangerous and hard reviewing this book. The most popular Goodreads review of this book completely dismissed and rejects the entire thing. I felt like most of the people believed it as bad. But here is my opinion: I felt it was great.

In Sprinkle's short and to-the-point book for teenagers, he explains his views on homosexuality - suggesting that although homosexual sex is a sin, Christians should show love and acceptance rather than hate, disgust, and venom. In a conversational format, Sprinkle educates the readers on the differences between being attracted to people of the same gender (homosexuality - which is not a sin in itself) and actually acting on those desires (which, according to his interpretation of certain Bible verses, is a sin). He also educates the readers on the nature of transgender and transsexualism. Throughout his discussion, he asserts that although Christians should hate sin, they should not be the ones to cast stones. He points out that name-calling, or even incautious unaccepting statements, can cause great pain in a confused and vulnerable teenager - it can lead to self harm and suicide. The behavior of the Christian adults around Sprinkle's readers might show disgust, but this hatred is not becoming of a Christian and is just as sinful as the sin they are judging. Sprinkle calls his readers to love without judgement. He points out that sinners more easily change their sinful behavior if they are gently called to the church by acceptance and love. Sprinkle also addresses homosexual and transgender teens themselves - urging them to build a support network of loving and accepting people, hopefully Christians. He even provides his own contact information in case the teen can't find someone understanding to talk to. At the end of his book, Sprinkle provides an appendix with Bible verses and discusses why these verses show that homosexual sex is a sin.

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