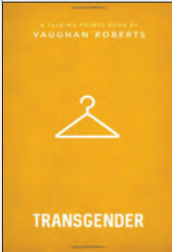


## Transgender

Vaughan Roberts

**T**ransgender is hotly debated among Christians. This book is the perfect starting place for those



new to the discussion. The book aims to give us 'tools to start to think and talk biblically' about transgender, and is a concise foundation for further reading around this complex issue.

One strength is the book's accessibility. The pithy, engaging writing style allows readers to promptly cover the text, with each chapter seamlessly introducing the next. Despite the impressive brevity, Roberts explores an eclectic range of topics with significant detail.

Roberts challenges Christians to respond sensitively, while maintaining steadfast, biblical stances. Scripture is interspersed throughout the book, including Romans 2:10 and 3:10, which call us to be non-judgmental, and remind us of our own imperfections.

The conclusion has advice on how to respond caringly as parents, the church, and Christians struggling with gender issues. The struggle of the latter group is likened to that of Christians attracted to members of the same sex, which the author knows first-hand. In the preface of the fifth edition of *Battles Christians Face*, he acknowledges his own battle with unwanted same-sex attraction, later confirming his choice to remain celibate.

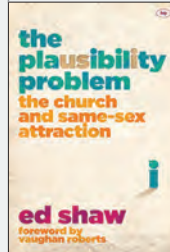
*Transgender* encourages Christian medics to consider the subject 'biblically, constructively and compassionately' in clinical settings, 'and not to feel intimidated when we are challenged or questioned' by colleagues. I learnt a lot in this hard-hitting 60 minute read, and would recommend the book to all Christians. ■

**Toyin Jesuloba** is a medical student in Aberdeen

## The Plausibility Problem

Ed Shaw

**Y**ou know what the Bible teaches about same-sex attraction, but it isn't realistic, is it? If that's what you're thinking then this book is for you.



Ed Shaw, a committed evangelical Christian, who experiences same-sex attraction, sensitively and pragmatically highlights areas where he thinks that we, the evangelical church at large, so often

fail to support our members. He discusses nine major 'missteps' where the nuance of the biblical message is frequently misconstrued (eg 'Godliness is heterosexuality'), causing many of us to stumble. The practical advice ranges from discussing the importance of precision in language when debating these issues right through to how local churches can make a celibate single lifestyle, for anybody, whether same-sex attracted or not, a more openly respected and viable option, just as the Bible teaches.

This is a compassionate and constructive read. The book does start from the premise that God's model for sex is between a man and a woman in marriage and then shows how we can be more supportive to all those who won't experience that (again whether same-sex attracted or not). If you're uncertain about whether that is God's model for sex then there are other books to start with such as *Is God anti-gay?* by Sam Allberry.

If I had a friend struggling with same-sex attraction I might first suggest Wesley Hill's *Washed and waiting* as a particularly personal and open account of that struggle and the website 'Living Out' is also well worth visiting.

Anybody committed to embracing God's model for sexuality and marriage in a faithful way should read *The Plausibility Problem*. ■

**Grace Petkovic** is a medical student in Oxford

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## A Better Story

Glynn Harrison

The Christian view of sex is increasingly despised by society - being labeled as intolerant and unforgiving. Our culture fights for free speech, yet as Christians it is becoming increasingly difficult to voice our own opinions, especially when they go against those of the 'sexual revolution' and the 180 degree



turn in popular opinion. However, evidence suggests that the liberalist view of the past few decades has caused huge amounts of harm to our society. In *A Better Story*, Glynn Harrison tackles how we can retell the story of God's perfect design for sex and human flourishing in a loving and truthful way. The book addresses how our society became so liberal on sexuality so quickly; then moves onto how the change in thinking is currently affecting our society. It finishes with how we can tell this 'better story', and how the biblical vision of sex is good news for all.

This book is perfect for those who are struggling with how to be true to the Word of God, yet loving and understanding to those around us; recognising that we also need to be getting rid of the plank from our own eye! It acknowledges that some of the evidence for the effect of the sexual revolution on society is quite new, and needs further research, preferably from unbiased sources. ■

**Miranda Crawford** is a medical student in Newcastle

students

