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## ***The Straight Mind in Corinth*** **Queer Readings across 1 Corinthians 11:2–16**

**Gillian Townsley**

**A new reading that troubles and transgresses the normal with regard to biblical studies and our understandings of gender and sexuality**

Despite its lack of both historical and exegetical clarity, 1 Corinthians 11:2–16 has often been fundamental to understandings of gender and sexuality in many Christian traditions. In particular, a hierarchical model of gender and a heterosexual model of sexuality tend to dominate and are presented as “natural” and “God-ordained.” With the materialist lesbian theory of Monique Wittig providing the theoretical basis for discussion, this book intersects various biblical, theological, and queer lines of inquiry across 1 Corinthians 11:2–16 in order to reveal and challenge these models of gender and sexuality that lie behind both the text itself and its various interpretations.

### **Features:**

- Reveals the complex relationship between effeminacy, masculinity and sexual relations in the first century Greco-Roman environment of the New Testament
- Explores the ideologies of sexuality that underlie much of the debate within evangelical circles
- Examines the binary pairing of “man and woman” as asymmetrically related to each other and to God, revealing and challenging the ways in which this reflects androcentric and patriarchal ideologies

**Gillian Townsley** is a Secondary School Teacher and Chaplain, and a Teaching Fellow at The University of Otago in New Zealand. Townsley has contributed essays to *Bible Trouble: Queer Reading at the Boundaries of Biblical Scholarship* (Society of Biblical Literature), *Pieces of Ease and Grace* (ATF), and *Sexuality, Ideology, and the Bible: Antipodean Engagements* (Sheffield Phoenix).

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