

Delve Deeper into "Family Fundamentals"

A film by Arthur Dong

This multi-media resource list, compiled by Carolyn Marvin of the William Fogg Public Library in partnership with the American Library Association, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the upcoming P.O.V. documentary "Family Fundamentals" that premieres on August 26th at 10 p.m. on PBS (check local listings)

"Family Fundamentals" is the filmmaker's personal attempt to answer an explosive question: "What happens when conservative Christian families have children who are homosexual?" Armed with a digital camera, Dong takes viewers into the private and public lives of three families where parents actively campaign against gay civil rights, despite having gay offspring themselves. A search for common ground between seemingly diametrically opposed camps, "Family Fundamentals" is also a battlefield report from America's profound and disquieting culture war over homosexuality.

The following multi-media resources address the issues of conflict between conservative Christian parents and their homosexual children as well as the conflict within the Christian churches over the acceptance/inclusion of gay or lesbian parishioners and clergy. For more specific questions, concerns, or information, please access some of the websites mentioned, as they can connect you to even more extensive resources.

ADULT BOOKS

Aarons, Leroy. *Prayers for Bobby: A Mother's Coming to Terms with the Suicide of Her Gay Son*. San Francisco: Harper San Francisco, 1995.

Al-Hibri, Azzizah, Elshain, Jean Bethke & Haynes, Charles. *Religion in American Public Life: Living With Out Deepest Differences*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2001.

Bawer, Bruce. *Stealing Jesus: How Fundamentalism Betrays Christianity*. New York: Crown Publishers, 1997.

Bernstein, Robert. *Straight Parents, Gay Children: Keeping Families Together*. New York: Thunder Mouth's Press, 2003.

Blumenfeld, Warren. *Homophobia: How We All Pay the Price*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1992.

Bono, Chastity. *Family Outing*. Boston: Little Brown, 1998.

Borhek, Mary. *Coming Out to Parents: A Two-Way Survival Guide for Lesbians, Gay Men, and Their Parents*, 2nd ed. Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 1993.

Boyd, Malcolm and Wilson, Nancy. *Amazing Grace: Stories of Lesbian and Gay Faith*. Freedom, CA: Crossing Press, 1991.

Bull, Chris and Gallagher, John. *Perfect Enemies: the Religious Right, the Gay Movement, and the Politics of the 1990s*. New York: Crown Publishers, 1996.

Davies, Bob. *Portraits of Freedom: 14 People Who Came Out of Homosexuality*. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 2001.

Diamond, Sara. *Spiritual Warfare: the Politics of the Christian Right*. Boston, MA: South End Press, 1989.

Fone, Bryne. *Homophobia: A History*. New York: Metropolitan Books, 2000.

Fortunato, John. *Embracing the Exile: Healing Journeys of Gay Christians*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1982.

Gerstmann, Evan. *The Constitutional Underclass: Gays, Lesbians, and the Failure of Class-Based Equal Protection*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1999.

Gomes, Peter. *The Good Book: Reading the Bible with Mind and Heart*. New York: W. Morrow, 1996.

Griffin, Carolyn. *Beyond Acceptance: Parents of Lesbians and Gays Talk About Their Experiences*. Revised and updated. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1996.

Harding, Susan. *The Book of Jerry Falwell: Fundamentalist Language and Politics*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2000.

Helminiak, Daniel. *What the Bible Really Says About Homosexuality*. San Francisco: Alamo Square Press, 1994.

Herman, Didi. *The Anti-Gay Agenda: Orthodox Vision and the Christian Right*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1997.

Hunter, James Davison. *Culture Wars: The Struggle to Define America*. New York: BasicBooks, 1991.

Jordan, Mark. *The Silence of Sodom: Homosexuality in Modern Catholicism*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000.

Kader, Sam. *Openly Gay, Openly Christian: A Gay-Friendly Approach to Scripture*. San Francisco: Leyland Publishers, 1999.

McNeill, John. *The Church and the Homosexual*, rev. ed. Boston: Beacon Press, 1993.

Miller, Stuart Howell. *Prayer Warriors*. Los Angeles: Alyson Books, 1999.

Murray, Rhea. *A Journey to Moriah*. Bloomington, IN: Banta & Pool Literary Properties, 1998.

Nicolosi, Joseph. *Reparative Therapy of Male Homosexuality*. Northvale, NJ: Jason Aronson, Inc., 1991.

Paulk, John. *Not Afraid to Change: The Remarkable Story of How One Man Overcame Homosexuality*. Enumclaw, WA: Winepress, 1998.

Peck, Scott. *All American Boy*. New York: Scribners, 1995.

Piazza, Rev. Michael. *Holy Homosexuals*. Dallas: Sources of Hope Publishing, 1997.

Porteous, Skipp. *Jesus Doesn't Live Here Anymore: From Fundamentalist to Freedom Writer*. Buffalo, NY: Prometheus Books, 1991.

Schmidt, Thomas. *Straight and Narrow? Compassion and Clarity in the Homosexual Debate*. Leicester: InterVarsity Press, 1995.

Delve Deeper into "Family Fundamentals"

A film by Arthur Dong

Shidlo, Ariel, Schroeder, Michael & Drescher, Jack. *Sexual Conversion Therapy: Ethical, Clinical, and Research Perspectives*. Binghamton, NY: Haworth Press, 2002.

Smith, Christian. *American Evangelicalism: Embattled and Thriving*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1998.

Spong, Bishop John. *Rescuing the Bible from Fundamentalism*. San Francisco: Harpers San Francisco, 1992.

Switzer, David. *Coming Out As Parents: You and Your Homosexual Child*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1996.

White, Mel. *Stranger at the Gate: To Be Gay and Christian in America*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1994.

Wolfe, Alan. *One Nation, After All : What Middle-Class Americans Really Think About God, Country, Family, Racism, Welfare, Immigration, Homosexuality, Work, the Right, the Left, and Each Other*. New York: Viking, 1998.

Worthen, Anita & Davies, Bob. *Someone I Love is Gay: How Family and Friends Can Respond*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1996.

BOOKS FOR YOUNGER READERS

Because this subject affects all members of a family, it is appropriate to include some books which might be helpful to other members of the family and their friends. These books have won awards of excellence for contemporary books dealing with these themes and are appropriate for ages 14 and up.

Bauer, Marion. *Am I Blue?: Coming Out of Silence*. New York: Harper Collins, 1999.

Boock, Paula. *Dare, Truth or Promise*. New York: Houghton Mifflin, 1999.

Garden, Nancy. *Annie on My Mind*. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 1982.

Heron, Ann. *Two Teenagers in Twenty: Writings by Gay and*

Lesbian Youth. Los Angeles: Alyson Books, 1994.

Marcus, Eric. *Is It a Choice? Answers to 300 of the Most Frequently Asked Questions About Gay and Lesbian People*. San Francisco: Harper San Francisco, 1999.

DOCUMENTARIES/VIDEOS

"All God's Children." Women Vision. 1996. (26 min)

"Assault on Gay America: the Life and Death of Billy Jack." A PBS "Frontline" video. 2000.

"The Brandon Teena Story." Produced by Susan Muska and Greta Olafsdottir. 1998. (90 min.)

"Faith and Politics: the Christian Right." 1995. (47 min.)

"Family Values." Produced by Pam Walton. 1980. (56 mins.)

"Gay Rights, Special Rights: Inside the Homosexual Agenda" Jeremiah Films. 1993. (35 min.)

"How Can I Be Sure That God Loves Me Too? A Sermon" Given by Reverend Mel White. Soulforce Videos. 1997. (24 min.)

"One Nation Under God" by Teodoro Maniaci. First Run Features. 1993. (83 mins.)

"The Rhetoric of Intolerance: An Open Letter to Pat Robertson from Rev. Mel White." Produced by Mel White. 1996. (30 min.)

"Straight from the Heart: A Journey to Understanding and Love." Produced by Dee Mosbacher. Facets Multimedia. 1994. (30 mins.)

"The Trial of Jimmy Creech." Produced by Mel White. Soulforce Videos. 1999. (30 mins.)

FEATURE FILMS

"Before Night Falls." Directed by Julian Schnabel. 2000.

"The Bird Cage." Directed by Mike Nichols. 1996.

"Boys Don't Cry." Directed by Kimberly Peirce. 1999.

"Boys in the Band." Directed by William Friedkin. 1970.

"Common Ground." Directed by Donna Deitch. 2000.

"La Cage Aux Folles." Directed by Edouard Molinari. 1978.

WEBSITES

<http://www.agayopinion.com>
Support group for parents of homosexual children.

<http://www.angelfire.com/>
An on-line journal writing site. The topic for March, 2001 explores the relationship between parents and their gay children.

<http://www.dignityusa.org>
A pastoral message to parents of homosexual children.

<http://hrr.hartsem.edu>
Site of the Hartford Institute for Religious Research. Excellent articles on the subject of religion and homosexuality.

<http://www.nccusa.org/>
Site of the National Council of Churches. A good site for searching for information and the latest news about the stand various churches take on the subject of homosexuality.

<http://www.nglrf.org/issues>
National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. A very comprehensive site with current OpEds and press releases on the subject of religion.

<http://www.outproud.org/>
National Coalition for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Youth.

www.ourtruecolors.org/
A great site offering support as well as many educational links.

<http://www.pflag.org>
The site of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. (P-Flag) P-Flag's pages offer much support and many links.