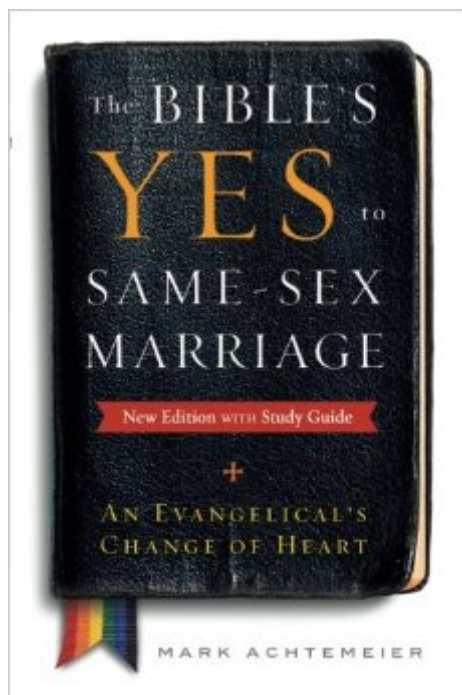


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# The Bible's Yes To Same-Sex Marriage, New Edition With Study Guide: An Evangelical's Change Of Heart



## Synopsis

In the early 2000s, Mark Achtemeier embarked on a personal journey with the Bible that led him from being a conservative, evangelical opponent of gay rights to an outspoken activist for gay marriage and a fully inclusive church. In *The Bible's Yes to Same-Sex Marriage*, Achtemeier shares what led to his change of heart: the problems with excluding groups of people and the insights into the Bible's message that led him to recognize the fullness of God's love and support for LGBT persons. Readers will discover how reading snippets of Scripture out of context has led to false and misleading interpretations of the Bible's message for gay people.

Achtemeier shows how a careful reading of the whole Scripture reveals God's good news about love, marriage, and sexuality for gay and straight people alike. This new edition includes a study guide and a new introduction from the author that reflects on the U.S. Supreme Court ruling and changes within the church. Perfect for groups or self-reflection, the study guide directs readers over four sessions to explore both Achtemeier's book and the Bible.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This "new edition with study guide" has, as far as I can tell, preserved the original text word-for-word, except for a little expansion of the Introduction, and the addition of the study guide. Because of this, my detailed critique of the previous edition still applies and I reproduce that below. The only hint that Achtemeier has listened to any criticism of this slipshod work is when he admitted, in his Introduction (p. xvi), that he has not tried to interact with other scholars on this issue. He

excuses himself from this task by describing his book as a personal testimony and a "spiritual travelogue." Okay, except that if a "travelogue" describes the Tower of London as being in Berlin, and Niagara Falls in Arizona, the reader needs to find a better guide! My full review is below. This book is rife with poor scholarship, simple reasoning errors, and some pretty twisted exegesis. A hallmark of good scholarship is seen in interacting with the counter-arguments of those in the intellectual community. There is virtually no evidence of that in this book. This is a noteworthy omission, especially given his hit-and-run references to the biblical statements about slavery as a supposed analog to biblical prohibitions against homosexual behavior. Here (e.g., pp. 19, 23, 28 and 40) the author shows no awareness of any of the careful biblical scholarship done in this area (for instance, Webb's *Slaves, Women and Homosexuals*, or the meticulously researched and vetted *The Bible and Homosexual Practice* by Robert A.J. Gagnon) which clearly refute his biblical comparison of slavery, and women's issues, to homosexuality.

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