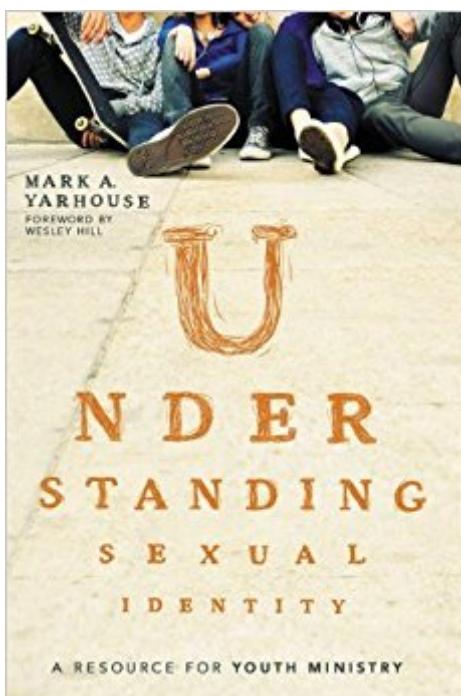


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# Understanding Sexual Identity: A Resource For Youth Ministry



## **Synopsis**

Today's youth struggle with difficult questions of sexual identity. How can a youth worker offer wise care and counsel on such a controversial and confusing subject? Mark Yarhouse, director of the Institute for the Study of Sexual Identity, equips youth ministers so they can faithfully navigate the topic of sexual identity in a way that is honest, compassionate, and accessible. Reframing the focus away from the culture wars, Yarhouse introduces readers to the developmental considerations in the formation of sexual identity, all of which occurs in the teen years. He offers practical and helpful ways to think about homosexuality along with suggestions for talking with people who experience same-sex attraction. He also helps parents and youth volunteers learn to graciously respond to children and teens who struggle with questions of sexual identity, and discusses how youth ministry can become more relevant in the lives of youth who are navigating these issues.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 208 pages

Publisher: Zondervan (October 14, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0310516188

ISBN-13: 978-0310516187

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 0.5 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 15 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #151,152 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #97 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Ministry & Evangelism > Youth Ministry #360 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Living > Social Issues #30768 in Books > Religion & Spirituality

## **Customer Reviews**

Mark is tender and truthful when it comes to dealing with the key issues that our generation is very confused about. He speaks from experience in helping people find their way through the sexual chaos of our culture and the current homo-fanatic culture that says everything PC and the Gay activists say is right and everything anyone else says is wrong. I am confident of his science and compassion. He is Christian without hating, compassion without lying. His understanding of the process is amazing and insightful and helpful for those of us who join youth in their journey to find their true identity that comes from their inner being and not from the culture being forced upon them,

whether it is the church cultural or the sexual chaos and foolishness of the present generation.

Yarhouse offers the readers of this book clear content in the very unclear area of ministry to same sex attracted youth. He offers solid hope to everyone involved and is very careful to not promise more than is possible. While his answers may not please everyone, his conclusions are based on the scope of research in the field...and they are practical enough that volunteers will find a lot they can do to assist kids in the huge task of building their sexual identity. This book brings us the sad fact that we in the church have so much to learn and to do better for our kids in the area of sexual identity formation be they same sex attracted or straight.

Easy, practical read. This is a must have resource for anyone working with youth, ages 7-18. And any parent who has this age child. Very helpful info to aid in your responses to your child as well as his friends. JoAnn-mother, grandmother, friend, Christian.

Compassionate and realistic are the best adjectives to describe this book. Professor Yarhouse writes in a way that is accessible to non-academic types and yet is based on his extensive academic knowledge and 20 years of research on same sex attraction. This book makes suggestions to church youth leaders which, if taken seriously, may allow them to improve their response to the youth in their churches who struggle with questions of sexual identity. As a therapist working with the conservative Christian community, I have seen disastrous responses by church leaders and youth leaders, within the year I have seen my first case of a youth suicide where same sex attraction was handled rather ineffectively. A brief quote from the book may be useful here: "The things we are writing about will not radically change in any young person's life over a short time...What is important is that come to a place where they are clear about the choices they are making...and that they are at peace about the path they are choosing." This book is a valuable resource for our church leaders.

An important book in understanding our children with same-sex attraction. As a church we have spent too long condemning the behavior and driving these precious ones away instead of seeking to understand what they are going through and in then guiding them to find their identity in Christ.

This has been the single most helpful book in giving me categories to think in while discussion gender identity. I'm grateful for Mark taking his work and making accessible to youth pastors and

those in ministry. It's a great book to discuss with parents as well. His writing is fluid and his illustrations are immensely helpful.

Great resource. If you are looking into how to help your students, this is a great start!

great service and a good book

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