

Understanding and Evaluating Queer Theory

What is queer theory? Where did it come from? Why was it formulated? In this session, we will investigate queer theory and explore the impact it is having on this moment in time. We will see that despite appearances, the current questioning of gender is not a new phenomenon, but is the fruit of a theory that has been growing steadily for over three decades. This session is concerned with helping Christians to understand the context into which we seek to proclaim the gospel. By understanding better how queer theory is shaping our world, we will be better equipped to speak truth into it.

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I. Introduction

II. Feminism

A. Wave 1: Legal Script

B. Wave 2: Cultural Script

C. Wave 3: It's complex

III. Identity politics vs Queer politics

A. Identity Politics

B. Queer Politics

IV. Queer Theory

A. The term “queer”

1. The history

2. The verb

B. Method *not* destination

1. A Question

2. Undermining

3. Beliefs

V. Conclusion

A. Active listening

B. Responsive engagement

Suggested Readings:

Linn Marie Tonstad, *Queer Theology: Beyond Apologetics* (Eugene: Cascade, 2018). [Note: I'm not endorsing this book's contents. It's an affordable, readable, and concise entry point on the topic.]

Peter Sanlon, *Plastic People: How Queer Theory is Changing Us* (London: The Latimer Trust, 2010). [Note: This book is dated and misses some important themes and emphases.]