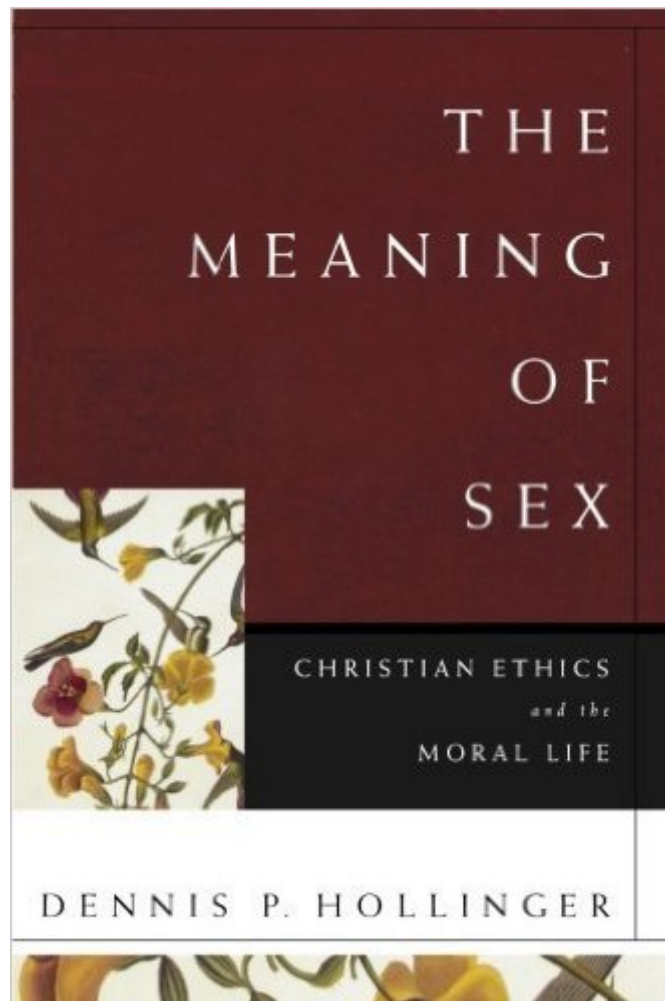


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# The Meaning Of Sex: Christian Ethics And The Moral Life



## Synopsis

Our culture is not only sexcrazed but also deeply confused about sex and sexual ethics. Unfortunately, Christians seem equally confused, and the church has tended to respond with simplistic answers. The reason for this confusion is that the meaning of sex has been largely lost. Dennis Hollinger argues that there is indeed a Godgiven meaning to sex. This meaning, found in the Christian worldview, provides a framework for a biblical sexual ethic that adequately addresses the many contemporary moral issues. *The Meaning of Sex* provides a good balance between accessible theology and engaging discussion of the practical issues Christians are facing, including premarital sex, sex within marriage, homosexuality, reproductive technologies, and faithful living in a sexobsessed world.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I was not familiar with Hollinger before picking this book up, but I was not disappointed. "The Meaning of Sex" is far and away the best book I have come across presenting and defending the Christian vision of human sexuality and what makes for (alternatively) flourishing or degradation. While a few chapters can be a bit dry (the author is an ethics professor!), be sure to especially read chapters 3 ("The Christian Worldview and Sex") and 4 ("The Purposes of Sex"). Besides consistently advocating the right positions on the issues (i.e. he is biblical and almost always within the mainstream tradition of historical Christian orthodoxy), what is most valuable about Hollinger's study is the narrative, big-picture approach he takes to each and every particular ethical issue. This book looks for the "why", not just the "what", of God's commands and the biblical structuring of

sexual ethics. Simply put, Hollinger demonstrates how the Christian vision makes sense of the world we find ourselves in, in the widest, most coherent way possible--and is thus deeply satisfying. Read Hollinger!

In *The Meaning of Sex*, Dennis Hollinger attempts to articulate the meaning and purpose of sex based on biblical standards. He says, "Sex is a good gift of God with very specific purposes, and those purposes best find their fulfillment in a very specific context--the marriage of a man and a woman." He argues that we live in a sex-crazed and sexually disoriented culture. Today, there is little consensus on sexual values. A Christian worldview of sex is almost counter culture. In referring to previous generations, the author says, "People engaged in sex outside of the bonds of marriage, but they did so knowing they had broken not just a societal norm, but an ethical norm." Hollinger tackles some tough issues from a Christian perspective. He is aware not everyone will agree, but he offers a consistent view of the meaning of sex based on his understanding from a biblical worldview.

For an academic/theological text, this book is remarkable understandable. The problem with many such books is they are written in such stilted language, they fail at communication. This is an exception.

I purchased this book in advance of the conference where the author spoke. The author had a limited time to cover some of the points of the book. In reading it I found many details of different sex ethics prevalent in the US and in the world. It was very informative and I would recommend it to those that are interested in the current attitudes and policies surrounding the ethics of sex in our current society in the US. Rev. Doug Blue

Its fine, I suppose. This book lacks, in my estimation, exactly where many of the other books of this nature lack. It doesn't dig deep enough into the creation account to establish male/female, monogamous marriage as a standard. If, as we see in scriptures, all other texts on sexuality and sexual expression are indeed based off of Genesis 1, 2, then particularly those passages need in-depth and insightful exegesis, before the jump can be made to why this must be so for us today. For work that goes more in depth here, whether you agree with what's said or not, I recommend Gagnon or Walton for some thorough 'digging' in the creation account.

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