

mel white stranger at the gate

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The phrase “Mel White Stranger at the Gate” resonates deeply as a compelling narrative about compassion, redemption, and the profound impact of forgiveness. It conjures images of unexpected encounters, moral dilemmas, and the possibility of transforming hostility into understanding. At its core, this phrase invites an exploration into human nature, the power of grace, and the lessons that can be learned from moments when individuals confront the “stranger at the gate”—the outsider, the adversary, or the misunderstood figure seeking entry or acceptance. This article aims to delve into the story behind the phrase, analyze its broader implications, and reflect on its relevance in contemporary society.

The Origins of the Phrase

Who is Mel White?

Mel White is a renowned author, pastor, and activist known for his advocacy on social justice issues, especially concerning LGBTQ+ rights and faith. He has written extensively about his personal journey, faith, and the challenges of reconciliation between religion and acceptance. His life story is marked by moments of profound reflection, internal conflict, and ultimate forgiveness.

The "Stranger at the Gate" Metaphor

The metaphor of a “stranger at the gate” is rooted in traditional stories and religious parables where an outsider seeks entry, often representing a test of hospitality, kindness, or moral virtue. In many cultural narratives, the “stranger” symbolizes the unfamiliar or the misunderstood, prompting communities or individuals to decide whether to reject or welcome. In Mel White’s context, this imagery has been adapted to symbolize the encounters with those who seem different or hostile, yet who may carry a message of truth or transformation.

Understanding the Narrative: The Encounter at

the Gate

The Setting of the Story

The story typically unfolds at a literal or metaphorical gate—an entrance to a community, faith, or personal life. It involves a figure who appears as a stranger, often misunderstood or judged harshly by others. This figure may challenge preconceived notions, confront biases, or seek acceptance.

The Encounter

The pivotal moment occurs when the individual at the gate is met with suspicion or hostility. However, the narrative emphasizes the importance of compassion and open-heartedness. The story of Mel White and the “stranger at the gate” highlights a transformative response—choosing kindness over prejudice.

Lessons from the Encounter

- The importance of extending grace even to those who seem unworthy or threatening.
- Recognizing that appearances can be deceptive; the stranger may carry a message of hope or change.
- The power of forgiveness to heal wounds and foster reconciliation.

Broader Themes and Symbolism

Hospitality and Moral Virtues

The core of many stories involving strangers at the gate centers on hospitality—a universal virtue. Welcoming the outsider requires courage, humility, and a willingness to see beyond superficial differences.

Prejudice and Bias

Many narratives explore how biases influence our perceptions and actions toward strangers. The story urges readers to challenge their prejudices and approach others with empathy.

Redemption and Transformation

The stranger at the gate often embodies the possibility of change—either in oneself or in others. Acts of kindness can lead to profound personal and societal transformation.

The Significance of Mel White's Story

Personal Journey of Reconciliation

Mel White's life exemplifies the themes of forgiveness and acceptance. As a figure who has navigated complex issues surrounding faith and identity, his encounters with strangers—whether literal or metaphorical—serve as lessons in humility and grace.

Advocacy and Social Justice

White's work advocates for understanding and acceptance, emphasizing that reaching out to "strangers at the gate" can lead to societal healing. His stories encourage communities to be open and compassionate.

Impact on Religious Communities

The narrative challenges religious groups to embody the teachings of love and hospitality. It prompts a reevaluation of how communities treat outsiders and those different from themselves.

The Lessons and Applications in Modern Society

Building Inclusive Communities

To foster inclusivity, societies must:

1. Practice active listening to understand diverse perspectives.

2. Challenge stereotypes and prejudices.
3. Create safe spaces for dialogue and acceptance.

Personal Growth and Reflection

Individually, embracing the “stranger at the gate” involves:

- Examining personal biases.
- Practicing empathy and compassion.
- Being willing to forgive past grievances.

Addressing Social Divisions

In a polarized world, the metaphor reminds us that:

- Reconciliation begins with understanding.
- Forgiveness can bridge divides.
- Acts of kindness can inspire broader societal change.

Examples from History and Contemporary Events

Historical Instances of Welcome and Rejection

Throughout history, communities have faced the challenge of welcoming strangers—be it refugees, immigrants, or marginalized groups. The stories often reflect a choice between fear and compassion.

Modern Examples

- The response to refugee crises in various countries.
- Initiatives promoting interfaith dialogue.
- Movements advocating for marginalized populations.

These examples illustrate how the “stranger at the gate” theme continues to be relevant and impactful.

Conclusion: The Ongoing Relevance of the "Stranger at the Gate"

The story of Mel White and the stranger at the gate encapsulates timeless lessons about human connection. It challenges us to approach those who seem different or threatening with openness and kindness, recognizing that behind every “stranger” may lie a story of pain, hope, or redemption. Embracing this perspective fosters a more compassionate society—one where inclusion replaces fear, and forgiveness heals wounds. In a world rife with division, the metaphor of the stranger at the gate serves as a powerful reminder that true strength lies in our capacity to welcome, forgive, and transform the “other” into a brother or sister. As we reflect on these themes, let us be inspired to embody the spirit of hospitality and grace in our daily lives, ensuring that no one is left outside the gate of compassion.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the documentary 'Stranger at the Gate' about?

'Stranger at the Gate' is a documentary that tells the inspiring story of Mel White, a U.S. Marine veteran, who confronts his own prejudices and finds compassion by reaching out to a Muslim man planning a terrorist attack.

Who is Mel White in the context of 'Stranger at the Gate'?

Mel White is a former Marine and veteran featured in the documentary, known for his journey from suspicion and prejudice to understanding and forgiveness.

What are the main themes explored in 'Stranger at the Gate'?

The film explores themes of forgiveness, redemption, overcoming prejudice, the power of compassion, and the importance of understanding across different faiths and backgrounds.

Why has 'Stranger at the Gate' gained popularity recently?

The documentary has gained attention for its timely message about empathy and reconciliation amid ongoing social and political tensions, resonating with audiences

seeking hope and unity.

How does 'Stranger at the Gate' challenge stereotypes about Muslims?

The film portrays a Muslim man who is misunderstood and falsely accused of planning violence, highlighting the importance of not judging individuals based on stereotypes and emphasizing shared humanity.

Has 'Stranger at the Gate' received any awards or recognition?

Yes, the documentary has received numerous awards and nominations at film festivals for its powerful storytelling and important social message.

Where can I watch 'Stranger at the Gate'?

'Stranger at the Gate' is available on various streaming platforms, including film festivals' virtual screenings, and may be available for purchase or rental on major digital platforms.

What impact has 'Stranger at the Gate' had on viewers and communities?

The documentary has sparked conversations about prejudice, forgiveness, and community building, inspiring viewers to challenge stereotypes and foster empathy in their own lives.

Additional Resources

Mel White Stranger at the Gate: An In-Depth Examination of a Compassionate Film That Challenges Prejudice and Embraces Humanity

Introduction

In an era marked by division, polarization, and often harsh rhetoric, the documentary "Stranger at the Gate" emerges as an empathetic beacon, inviting viewers to reconsider notions of forgiveness, understanding, and the transformative power of compassion. Centered around the true story of Mel White, this film offers a compelling narrative that delves deep into themes of redemption, faith, and the human capacity for change. As an expert review, this article explores the film's themes, storytelling techniques, emotional impact, and its significance in contemporary discourse.

Overview of "Stranger at the Gate"

"Stranger at the Gate" is a documentary directed by Joshua Seftel that chronicles the remarkable journey of Mel White, a former military veteran and Muslim convert, and his efforts to prevent violence at a U.S. military base. The film portrays a nuanced portrait of a man who, after experiencing personal tragedy and grappling with his faith, chooses to extend grace rather than respond with anger or revenge.

The documentary is notable not only for its powerful storytelling but also for its ability to humanize complex issues such as terrorism, faith, and reconciliation, making it a must-watch for audiences interested in social justice, religious tolerance, and personal transformation.

The Story of Mel White: Background and Context

Who is Mel White?

Mel White's story begins with his service in the military, followed by a life-altering conversion to Islam. His journey is complex, rooted in personal loss, spiritual searching, and a desire to find peace amidst chaos. White's background includes:

- Military service, which exposed him to the realities of conflict
- Conversion to Islam, seeking spiritual fulfillment
- Personal tragedy that deepened his empathy and commitment to peace

The Incident at the Military Base

The core of the documentary revolves around a specific incident where White, recognizing the potential for violence, intervened at a U.S. military installation. A man, driven by extremist ideologies, was planning an attack. White's intervention was pivotal in preventing bloodshed, and his approach was rooted in understanding rather than condemnation.

This act of bravery and compassion forms the central narrative arc, illustrating how personal connections and empathy can defuse even the most dangerous circumstances.

Key Themes Explored in the Film

Redemption and Forgiveness

One of the most profound themes in "Stranger at the Gate" is the transformative power of forgiveness. Mel White's actions embody a belief that no one is beyond redemption, and that compassion can bridge even the deepest divides.

- White's personal journey from anger and grief to peace
- How forgiveness can serve as a catalyst for change in others
- The role of faith in fostering forgiveness

The Complexity of Faith and Identity

The film challenges simplistic notions of religious identity by illustrating the nuanced relationship between faith and morality. It demonstrates that:

- Faith can inspire violence but also inspire peace
- Religious communities can be sources of both conflict and reconciliation
- Personal faith journeys are deeply individual and transformative

Humanity in the Face of Extremism

"Stranger at the Gate" confronts the uncomfortable reality of extremism but emphasizes that behind every act of violence is a human story. White's intervention exemplifies this, showing that empathy can be a powerful counterforce.

Storytelling Techniques and Cinematic Approach

Personal Narratives and Testimonies

The film employs a combination of interviews, personal testimonies, and archival footage to create an immersive experience. Key techniques include:

- First-person accounts from Mel White, providing insight into his motivations
- Interviews with individuals affected by the incident, showcasing diverse perspectives
- Use of archival footage to contextualize the broader social and political landscape

Emotional Engagement

The documentary is crafted to evoke empathy and reflection. Its emotional resonance stems from:

- White's sincere storytelling and vulnerability
- Intimate footage capturing moments of tension and reconciliation
- Juxtaposition of violence and forgiveness to highlight moral choices

Visual and Musical Elements

Cinematography and music play crucial roles in enhancing the narrative:

- Use of close-up shots to capture emotional expressions
- Soft lighting during moments of reflection and reconciliation
- A musical score that underscores the film's contemplative tone

Critical Analysis and Impact

Strengths of the Film

- Authenticity: The genuine portrayal of Mel White's story lends credibility and emotional depth.

- Universal Themes: Its messages of forgiveness and understanding resonate across cultural and religious boundaries.
- Call to Action: The film encourages viewers to reconsider their own prejudices and to seek empathy in their interactions.

Potential Criticisms

While lauded for its compassionate approach, some critics may argue that:

- The film simplifies complex socio-political issues
- It may evoke an overly optimistic view of reconciliation that isn't always achievable in reality
- The focus on one individual's story might overshadow larger systemic problems

Impact and Reception

Since its release, "Stranger at the Gate" has garnered praise from religious leaders, social activists, and educators for its heartening message. It has been featured in film festivals, community screenings, and educational settings, serving as a catalyst for dialogue around faith, violence, and compassion.

Why "Stranger at the Gate" Matters Today

Promoting Interfaith Dialogue

In a time of rising religious intolerance, the film serves as a vital reminder that faith can be a force for good. It showcases how understanding and respect among different faith communities can prevent conflict.

Challenging Stereotypes and Prejudice

By humanizing individuals often stereotyped as "the other," the film encourages viewers to look beyond labels and recognize shared humanity.

Inspiring Personal Change

Mel White's story exemplifies that personal transformation is possible regardless of background or circumstances. It inspires individuals to act with kindness and empathy in their daily lives.

Final Thoughts and Recommendations

"Stranger at the Gate" is more than just a documentary; it is a compelling call to action rooted in empathy and understanding. Its nuanced portrayal of Mel White's journey offers valuable lessons for individuals and communities seeking peace in a divided world.

Recommendation: This film is highly recommended for:

- Educators and students exploring social justice, religion, and conflict resolution
- Faith communities aiming to foster dialogue and reconciliation
- General audiences interested in inspiring stories of human kindness

In conclusion, "Stranger at the Gate" stands out as a powerful testament to the potential for compassion to transform lives and communities. It challenges viewers to reflect on their biases, embrace empathy, and recognize the profound humanity shared among us all.

Note: For those interested in watching the film, check local film festivals, streaming platforms, or community screenings. Engaging with this documentary promises a moving experience and an opportunity to rethink notions of conflict and reconciliation.

Mel White Stranger At The Gate

mel white stranger at the gate: Stranger at the Gate Mel White, 1995-04-01

"Compelling...eloquent and compassionate...We learn as much about growing up in the Christian right as we do about gay life in Mel White's heartfelt and revealing memoir."—San Francisco Examiner Until Christmas Eve 1991, Mel White was regarded by the leaders of the religious right as one of their most talented and productive supporters. He penned the speeches of Ollie North. He was a ghostwriter for Jerry Falwell, worked with Jim Bakker, flew in Pat Robertson's private jet, walked sandy beaches with Billy Graham. What these men didn't know was that Mel White—evangelical minister, committed Christian, family man—was gay. In this remarkable book, Mel White details his twenty-five years of being counseled, exorcised, electric-shocked, prayed for, and nearly driven to suicide because his church said homosexuality was wrong. But his salvation—to be openly gay and Christian—is more than a unique coming-out story. It is a chilling exposé that goes right into the secret meetings and hidden agendas of the religious right. Told by an eyewitness and sure to anger those Mel White once knew best, *Stranger at the Gate* is a warning about where the politics of hate may lead America...a brave book by a good man whose words can make us richer in spirit and much wiser too.

mel white stranger at the gate: The Christian College and the Meaning of Academic Freedom William C. Ringenberg, 2016-04-08 The Christian College and the Meaning of Academic Freedom is a study of the past record and current practice of the Protestant colleges in America in the quest to achieve intellectual honesty within academic community. William C. Ringenberg lays out the history of academic freedom in higher education in America, including its European antecedents, from the perspective of modern Christian higher education. He discusses the Christian values that provide context for the idea of academic freedom and how they have been applied to the nation's Christian colleges and universities. The book also dissects a series of recent case studies on the major controversial intellectual issues within and in, in some cases, about the Christian college community. Ringenberg ably analyzes the ways in which these academic institutions have evolved over time, outlining their efforts to evolve and remain relevant while maintaining their core values and historic identities.

mel white stranger at the gate: Welcoming But Not Affirming Stanley James Grenz, 1998-01-01 A respected evangelical speaks out on the church's most controversial issue, proposing that it is possible for Christian communities to welcome homosexuals without affirming same-sex unions.

mel white stranger at the gate: Sexual Fulfillment Herbert W. Chilstrom, Lowell O. Erdahl,

This book approaches some of the more difficult-to-discuss areas of human sexuality: singles and sexual fulfillment, unmarried persons and sexual fulfillment, same-sex relationships, and sexual fulfillment in the elder years. The authors distinguish between life-giving sex and life-degrading sex. They then discuss healthy sexuality in a variety of life stages and relationships. With a pastoral and compassionate tone, the authors explore the issues Christian people face with respect to the experience and expression of their sexuality. Questions for discussion are intended both to elicit personal reflection and to move congregations to become safe places

mel white stranger at the gate: Love's Rite Ruth Vanita, 2021-08 (This) Absorbing New Book Shows How Subtly And Imaginatively Indian Attitudes Toward Same-Sex Unions Have Evolved Over The Centuries&And Offers A Marvelously Global Perspective Characterized By Profound Historical Understanding, Impeccable Scholarship, And A Rare And Delightful Precision Of Feeling. - Terry Castle, Professor At Stanford University, Editor Of The Literature Of Lesbianism. Why Should The State S Refusal To Recognize A Union As Marriage Mean That The Union Is Not A Marriage? In Love S Rite Ruth Vanita Asks This Challenging Question In Order To Emphasize That Mutual Consent And Family And Community Recognition Validate A Marriage-And This Support Frequently Extends To Same-Sex Marriages As Well. When People Claim The Right To Marry, Their Sex Or Sexuality Is Not Intrinsic To That Right, Although Social Prejudice Makes It Appear So. Moreover, It Cannot Be Denied That A Multitude Of Events And Depictions In Vastly Different Cultures, Times And Places, All Point To The Possibility Of Same-Sex Love And Commitment Being Recognized And Accepted. Marriage Is A Universal Rite Of Passage That Can, In The Right Circumstances, Become The Perfect Ceremony Of Love S Rite . Vanita Examines The Twin Phenomena Of Same-Sex Weddings And Same-Sex Joint Suicides (Mostly Female) That Have Been Reported From Many Parts Of India. She Argues That These Couples, When They Choose To Marry Or Die Together, Invoke Long-Standing But Fluid Indian Legal, Religious, And Literary-Cinematic Traditions To Declare Their Love To The World. Using Her Intimate Knowledge Of Ancient Indian Textual History, The Author Demonstrates That Same-Sex Love And Relationships Are Deeply Rooted In Indian Culture- And Compares The Cultural And Legal Implications Of Same-Sex Marriage In India With Those In The West. The International Debate On Same-Sex Marriage Is Relevant To All Democratic Societies Today. Ruth Vanita Brings A Fresh Perspective To This Debate, Suggesting That Same-Sex Marriage Dwells At The Heart, Not On The Margins, Of Culture. An Effortless Combination Of Empathy, Moral Conviction And Deep Cultural Sensitivity -Ashis Nandy

mel white stranger at the gate: Holy Love Steve Harper, 2019-04-24 Do conservatives or progressives “own” the teachings about what the Bible says about human sexuality and marriage? For some—perhaps a vocal minority—the question is no longer up for debate or discussion: conservatives win. For others, the issues are not that simple. A fresh, rigorous, but yet concise, theological examination of the Bible’s teachings is required. There are other ways to interpret scripture faithfully with respect to sexuality other than the conservative interpretation. In *Holy Love*, Steve Harper strives to articulate the truth about the teachings of the Bible and Wesleyan tradition on human sexuality. This very accessible book is intended for church leaders, small groups, and those interested in understanding the Bible’s teaching on this fundamental component of human life, experience and relationships. The book will help church leaders and small groups make the constructive case that biblical, Christian teaching is compatible with faithful, covenantal love and intimacy amidst all sexual orientations.

mel white stranger at the gate: God vs. Gay? Jay Michaelson, 2012-05-08 A passionate argument for LGBTQ equality within religious communities—“a book for our times and a book for the ages” (EDGE) The myth that the Bible forbids homosexuality—the myth of “God versus Gay”—is behind some of the most divisive and painful conflicts of our day. In this provocative and game-changing book, scholar and activist Jay Michaelson shows that the Bible does not prohibit same-sex intimacy but does quite the opposite. In fact, the vast majority of the Bible’s teachings support the full equality and dignity of LGBTQ people, from the first flaw it finds in creation (“It is not good for a person to be alone”) to the way religious communities grow through reflection and

conscience. Michaelson argues passionately for equality—not despite religion, but because of it. With close readings of the Hebrew Bible and New Testament, the latest data on the science of sexual orientation, and a sympathetic, accessible, and ecumenical approach to religious faith, Michaelson makes the case that sexual diversity is part of the beauty of nature. The recognition of same-sex families will strengthen, not threaten, the values religious people hold dear. Whatever your views on religion and sexual diversity, God vs. Gay is a plea for a more compassionate, informed conversation—and a first step toward creating one.

mel white stranger at the gate: Turning Controversy into Church Ministry William P. Campbell, 2010-09-21 One of the most volatile issues facing the Western Church is also one of the least discussed: homosexuality. Many pastors, church members, and congregations have become tired of the debate surrounding this topic but do not really understand the issues. Pulling away from this controversy doesn't seem to help; it keeps cropping up. Ninety percent of pastors are aware of members or visitors to their churches who struggle with homosexual tendencies, and the same percentage of churchgoers know a relative or friend who wrestles with this concern. The media, school systems, and nearly every sector of society will challenge Christians to give a reasoned response to the escalating gay agenda. For twenty-five years W. P. Campbell has studied and debated this topic as it relates to Christ's Church. He has come to the conclusion that it will not go away in our generation, but it can be coaxed to find its proper place in any congregation when it is tackled with a firm but loving grip. Homosexuality in the Church is a guidebook to help Christians and whole congregations do just that. It faces the heart of the controversy with the love and compassion of Christ and turns it into effective ministry. Framed by the most significant biblical passages related to homosexuality and supported by science, psychology and sociology, each of the five parts of the book unfold a unique aspect of God's person and purpose. As our Creator, he has made us to be whole; as our King he has provided laws and guidelines to help us remain that way; as our Redeemer, his power can save us from sin; as our Guide, his light will guide us out; as our Strength, he will make our ministry effective. As a resource for the church today, this book will: • Provide readers with a comprehensive overview of the biblical data about homosexuality • Inform readers about current scientific, psychological, and cultural findings related to same-sex practice • Teach readers Christ-like responses to gay rights activists in the Church and help them to know how to avoid extreme stances about homosexuals and the Church that result in alienating others or in supporting sexual sin • Offer guidelines and tools to church leaders for mobilizing a congregation to study this topic and to engage in ministry to recovering homosexuals

mel white stranger at the gate: The Complete Christian Guide to Understanding Homosexuality Joe Dallas, 2010-07-01 One of the hot-button issues of our day is fully addressed in this comprehensive new resource on homosexuality. This well-researched and highly readable guide is the perfect go-to manual for families, church workers, counselors, pastors, civic leaders, schools, and those who themselves struggle with same-sex attraction. Readers will find the answers to these and many more important questions: What is homosexuality? Is the tendency for homosexuality genetic? How should the church respond? What's the proper response when a relative or friend announces they're gay? What are the legal and civic ramifications of homosexuality? Should homosexuals serve openly in the military? What about gay marriage and adoption? Authoritative authors Joe Dallas (Desires in Conflict, When Homosexuality Hits Home) and Dr. Nancy Heche (The Truth Comes Out) tackle the hard questions about same-sex attraction in this helpful volume.

mel white stranger at the gate: Religion, Culture, and Politics in the Twentieth-century United States Mark Hulsether, 2007 Key players and themes in US religion before the twentieth century -- Changes in the religious landscape in the early twentieth century -- Religion and social conflict in the early twentieth century -- Shifts in the religious landscape from World War II to the present -- Religion and evolving social conflicts from World War II to the present -- Cultural aspects of religion from World War II to the present -- Conclusion: consensus, pluralism, and hegemony in US religion.

mel white stranger at the gate: Gay Rights Tricia Andryszewski, 2000-01-01 Traces the

history of the gay rights movement in America, from the Stonewall riots to the legal and societal status of gay rights at the turn of the century.

mel white stranger at the gate: The Missionary Family Dwight P. Baker, Robert J. Priest, 2014-08-29 The title of this book points to a feature—the missionary family—often considered to be a distinctive of the Protestant missionary movement. Certainly the presence of missionary families in the field has been a central factor in enabling, configuring, and restricting Protestant missionary outreach. What special concerns does sending missionary families raise for the conduct of mission? What means are available for extending care and support to missionary families? These issues are the focus of the chapters in part 1 of this book. In recent years an increasing number of reports have surfaced of sexual abuse in mission settings. Some reports have been based on “recovered memories,” the assessment of which raises difficult questions. Clearly sexual abuse in mission settings and how to understand allegations of abuse based on recovered memories are matters of grave concern to mission agencies and mission supporters as well as to missionary families. Part 2 serves the mission community by scrutinizing such matters, offering legal, historical, and psychological perspectives on the topic. In a new feature, “Forum on Sexual Orientation and Mission: An Evangelical Discussion,” the Evangelical Missiological Society takes up a pressing issue of our day. Fourteen evangelical scholars participate in the discussion found in part 3. Far from being the final word, this forum is presented with the prayer that it will serve as an opening to and basis for ongoing missiological conversation about an urgent and timely topic.

mel white stranger at the gate: Sexual Virtue Richard W. McCarty, 2015-01-08 Richard W. McCarty offers a compassionate and inclusive conception of sexual virtue, one that liberates Christians from traditional patriarchal requirements for heterosexuality, marriage, and procreation. Daring to depart from ongoing debates about what Aristotle or Aquinas had to say, this book sets a new course centered on virtue ethics. It employs new insights from the sciences, biblical scholarship, analyses of church traditions, and revisionist natural law thinking. Eschewing simple deconstruction of traditional Christian norms for sexual morality, McCarty offers constructive ideas about what might count as real human goods for people in a wide variety of sexual relationships. Recreation, relational intimacy, and selective acts of procreation are three ends of sexual virtue that promote human happiness and can be appreciated in a broad Christian framework. While primarily referencing the Roman Catholic intellectual tradition, McCarty's work is also vital and accessible to those from Protestant backgrounds. Addressed to LGBT and straight readers, *Sexual Virtue* provides a compassionate sexual ethics for our time.

mel white stranger at the gate: Foundations for Youth Ministry Dean Borgman, 2013-10-01 Dean Borgman, a nationally known youth ministry expert, offers a new edition of his influential classic. Reaching a broadly ecumenical audience, this book challenges readers to think about the theological nature of youth ministry. Questions for discussion and reflection are included. This thoroughly updated edition was previously published as *When Kumbaya Is Not Enough*. Praise for the first edition Writing with the lens of a theologian, the heart of a pastor, and welcome doctrinal breadth, Borgman has provided a 'field book' of pastoral theologies that takes seriously the social systems shaping the lives of adolescents. This book is a significant step toward the long-awaited conversation about theology and youth ministry in postmodern culture.--Kenda Creasy Dean, Princeton Theological Seminary; author of *Almost Christian* In this excellent work Borgman brings theological integrity, depth, and years of wisdom like nothing else I have seen in our field.--Jim Burns, author of *Teenology: The Art of Raising Great Teenagers*

mel white stranger at the gate: Pastoral Care of Gays, Lesbians, and Their Families David K. Switzer, John Thornburg, 1999 This book, written by a pastoral theologian with many years of experience in counseling gay and lesbian individuals and their families, assists both pastoral caregivers and congregations in examining and enhancing their pastoral care of homosexuals and their families. A deeply thoughtful book written with great sensitivity, *Pastoral Care of Gays, Lesbians, and Their Families* provides factual information, theological and biblical insight, and practical counseling skills to help congregations become caring communities for gays and lesbians.

mel white stranger at the gate: *Strength for the Journey* Diana Butler Bass, 2017 Updated version of spiritual autobiography from an important voice in the church -- Insights on how parishes have confronted issues of change As a standard in the field of spiritual autobiography, Diana Butler Bass' *Strength for the Journey* has been a guide for thousands of Christians who have also found themselves journeying along a path toward a faith different from that discovered in childhood. This new edition will retain all that drew readers to its pages alongside the voice of those next generation Christians now walking that path for themselves. In *Strength for the Journey*, Diana Butler Bass illustrates the dynamic strength and persistence of mainline Protestantism. While many baby boomers left the church, only to come back later in life, Bass was a stayer who witnessed the struggles and changes and found much there that was meaningful. Offering thought-provoking portraits of eight parishes she attended over two decades, she explores the major issues that have confronted mainline denominations, congregations, and parishioners during those years -- from debates over women clergy to conflicts about diversity and community to scrimmages between tradition and innovation

mel white stranger at the gate: *Jesus, the Bible, and Homosexuality* Jack Bartlett Rogers, 2006-01-01 In this sure-to-be controversial book, former seminary professor and church official Jack Rogers argues unequivocally for the ordination of homosexuals and for the extension of full and equal rights in society to all people who are homosexual. Christianity, he observes, has moved through history in the direction of ever-greater openness and inclusiveness. Today's church is led by many of those who were once cast out: people of color, women, and divorced and remarried people. It is inevitable, he believes, that gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people will one day walk in the same steps as other Christian leaders. Rogers, an evangelical, begins by discussing his own personal change of heart and mind on the issue, a change that has moved him into the middle of this controversy in his own church, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). He examines how the church misused the Bible to justify slavery and the denial of rights to women, and links these efforts to efforts today to use biblical texts to deny equal rights to gays and lesbians. He shows how neither the Bible nor the Confessions are opposed to homosexuality and debunks frequently used fundamentalist stereotypes and myths about gays and lesbians. Rogers concludes with his thoughts on how the church can heal itself and move forward.

mel white stranger at the gate: *Exploring Christian Ethics* Craig Hovey, 2018-07-18 A fresh, engaging, and thoroughly biblical account of Christian ethics for the twenty-first century. Studying Christian ethics tends to involve talking about what we should or, more often, shouldn't do. The aim of this book, however, is to explore Christian ethics within a wider, more positive framework—one that encourages a joyful way of living that flows naturally out of the abundant goodness of God's life and character, as revealed in Christ.

mel white stranger at the gate: *The Gay Gospel?* Joe Dallas, 2007-02-01 In this updated edition of *A Strong Delusion*, author and counselor Joe Dallas helps readers understand what pro-gay theology is and how to confront it. In a biblical manner, Dallas examines believers' personal responses and the need for bold love and commitment as they become familiar with the movement's background and beliefs study a clear, scriptural response to each belief extend Christ's love to those living the homosexual lifestyle This resource is an important one for those who have been unsure how to respond to the growing acceptance of homosexuality in the evangelical community. It offers the balance between conviction and compassion and a practical guide to communicating with those who have embraced the pro-gay Christian movement.

mel white stranger at the gate: *A Special Illumination* Rollan McCleary, 2017-07-28 Gay spirituality represents a hidden strand in Western thought that was only publically declared from the Gay Liberation of the 1970s. Since coming out, expressions of gay spirituality have proliferated in both number and diversity. Beginning with gay theology within Christianity, the phenomenon has now reached as far as Buddhism and neo-paganism. But, so far, critical analysis of the movement has been very limited largely because gay spirituality has been treated as a political and social movement arguing for rights and acceptance within religious circles. 'A Special Illumination' offers

an indepth analysis and argues that gay spirituality should be placed at the heart of religion.

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