

Praise for *This We Believe: The Christian Case for Gay Civil Rights* (2012)

“This book is a veritable *CliffsNotes* on what we now know about homosexuality and its relationship to Christian faith. In a few short pages, C.S. Pearce debunks long-held myths, clarifies Scripture and argues for a much needed rethinking of the Church’s traditional stand. Just reading these words will reassure young gay and lesbian people that God loves them just as they are, while challenging those who are not so sure that perhaps they have put God’s love in too small a box. I welcome this fine and well-written resource for the Church.”

—Rt. Rev. V. Gene Robinson, Bishop of New Hampshire

“This book by C.S. Pearce is a wonderful resource. The author has done a thorough job of gathering together information that I have found sadly lacking in many areas of Christendom.”

—Peggy Campolo, Christian advocate for those children of God who happen not to be straight

“Many will read this book who find themselves unable to judge gay and lesbian people and who want to understand why that’s the right response. Some will be unsure what to say, and they will find in these pages immensely helpful guidance. Still others who pick up the book will believe that homosexuality is always and everywhere sinful. You who start with that belief and yet read these chapters with an open mind have my highest respect. I trust you will recognize here that same message of compassion that you see also in the life of Jesus.”

—Dr. Philip Clayton, Provost of Claremont Lincoln University and Dean of Claremont School of Theology, Claremont, Calif.

“C.S. Pearce’s book should be read by all who wish to navigate through the misinformation used to religiously justify the persecution, abuse, and oppression of our gay brothers and sisters in Christ. She gets to the heart of the debate in a crisp, profound, and accessible manner. Enlightening for those seeking answers on how to respond to the ‘Gay Debate’ from a Christ-centered position.”

—Rev. Dr. Miguel A. De La Torre, author of *A Lily Among the Thorns: Imagining a New Christian Sexuality*, professor of social ethics at Iliff School of Theology, Denver, Colorado, and Southern Baptist minister

“*This We Believe* is an excellent resource for those who are willing to investigate Christian perspectives on homosexuality. C.S. Pearce succinctly presents the latest biblical, legal, psychological, and ethical research to help Christians think through the issues of gay civil rights in a highly accessible first look into the field. If you care about people and their suffering, you should read this book.”

—Rev. Dr. Monica A. Coleman, associate professor of constructive theology and African American religions at Claremont School of Theology, Claremont, Calif., and African Methodist Episcopal minister

“C.S. Pearce doesn’t waste a word in reclaiming God’s love for LGBT young people. May they read *This We Believe: The Christian Case for Gay Civil Rights* and realize God loves them just the way they are. Then, may they share this little book with their friends, parents, other relatives, pastors, and fellow congregants. If enough people are exposed to this Spirit-filled common sense, Christianity will become an ally rather than an antagonist in the LGBT rights movement.”

—John Cepek, board member and former national president of PFLAG, Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (www.pflag.org)

“*This We Believe: The Christian Case for Gay Civil Rights* is an important contribution to bridging the divide over homosexuality in the church with compassion, clarity and grace. In this thorough and accessible book, C.S. Pearce offers us both a faith-based response to the myths that marginalize LGBT young people and hope that the hurting can stop and the healing begin. It should be a staple on every pastor’s bookshelf.”

—Rev. Canon Susan Russell, priest, All Saints Church, Pasadena, Calif., and former president of Integrity, the LGBT advocacy organization of the Episcopal Church

“C.S. Pearce’s *This We Believe: The Christian Case for Gay Civil Rights* offers an informative, challenging, and compelling perspective on changing cultural and biblical understandings of homosexuality today. Regardless of one’s biblical perspective, it is well worth the read.”

—Rev. Joe Roos, co-founder of *Sojourners* magazine and Mennonite pastor