



## Gifted by Otherness: Gay and Lesbian Christians in the Church

By L. William Countryman

Morehouse Publishing. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 164 pages. In the past two decades or so the issue of homosexuality has taken center stage at national and regional denominational meetings and in local church communities. The response of the majority of churches ranges from condemnation to toleration of the gay and lesbian community, neither of which offers much hope for homosexual Christians. In *Gifted by Otherness* L. William Countryman and M. R. Ritley conclude that being gay or lesbian is not actually a problem at all; rather it is a vocation, and, in fact, a gift to today's church. As outsiders gay men and lesbians challenge the church to be inclusive of all God's children—the central message of the gospel. God has drawn us to this difficult place, they write, in order to reveal God's grace to us and in us and through us. Basing their book on retreats they have presented to churches and seminaries, Countryman and Ritley explore what it means to affirm, not merely accept, being gay or lesbian, as well as Christian. Written primarily for the lesbian and gay community, they explore the ways in which the gay and lesbian community can appropriate and re-tell the biblical story,...



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The questions of the other and otherness took the geographical world by storm beginning in the 1980s. Of course, geographers were interested in the elsewhere before that date. Homer enchanted us with his description of faraway, dreamlike lands; Herodotus was fascinated by Persian society; Hippocrates sought to explain societal diversity through the environment's influence. In order to reach this point, geographers have had to ask questions about the diversity of groups in terms of socio-discursive construction rather than in terms of supposed objectives of difference, as had been done until then. 2 Definitions. Otherness is the result of a