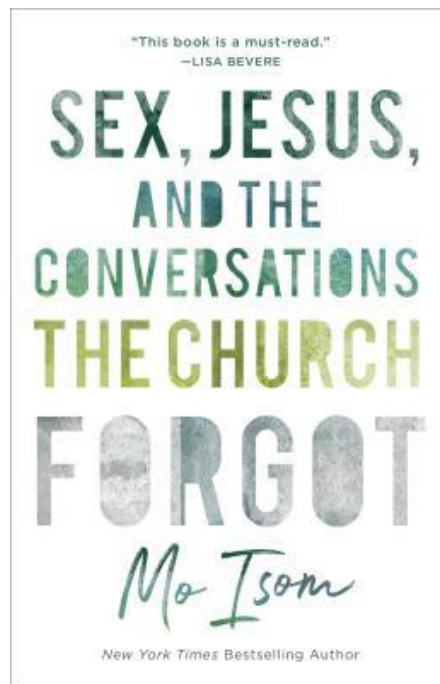




Sex, Jesus, and the Conversations the Church Forgot

Mo Isom

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Sex. In a world overwhelmingly obsessed with it, why is the church so silent about it? While our secular culture twists, perverts, cheapens, and idolizes sex, there are gaping holes in the church's guidance of young people. The result is generations of sexually illiterate people drowning in the repercussions of overwhelming sin struggles.

Enough is enough, says Mo Isom. With raw vulnerability and a bold spirit, she shares her own sexual testimony, opening up the conversation about misguided rule-following, virginity, temptation, porn, promiscuity, false sex-pectations, sex in marriage, and more and calling readers back to God's original design for sex--a way to worship and glorify him. This book is for the young person tangled up in an addiction to pornography, for the girlfriend feeling pressured to go further, for the "good girl" who followed the rules and saved herself for marriage and then was confused and disappointed, for the married couple who use sex as a bargaining tool, for every person who casually watches sex play out in TV and movies and wonders why they're dissatisfied with the real thing, and for every confused or hurting person in-between.

Sex was God's idea. It's time we invited him back into the bedroom.

Sex, Jesus, and the Conversations the Church Forgot Details

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From Reader Review Sex, Jesus, and the Conversations the Church Forgot for online ebook

Caitlin Groth says

I'm glad I read this book, and I'm glad Mo Isom wrote it. She's absolutely right when she says that the church doesn't talk enough about sex to counter the world's image of sex with God's purpose for sex. However, I think there is something of a mismatch between what this book promises to be and what it is—and I think I would rather read the book that it promises to be.

Probably because of the second half of the title, I was expecting a critique of how specifically the modern church has fumbled the message on sex. Isom focused mainly on her story and how her particular religious upbringing failed her—and to be fair, that makes sense because that's her experience. But I was hoping there might be more exploration of others' parallel experiences and how her story represents just one of a larger trend. There was a researched chapter on the prevalence of sexual sin, but it was all statistics and little story (and didn't connect back to the church much, except to say that, well, everyone's doing it so Christians are doing it too). I guess I was expecting her to explore the middle ground between her personal story and the statistical story at some point, and that time never really came.

In the same vein, Isom spent some good time talking about God's plan for sex and shouting the beauty and sanctity of sex within marriage. But there wasn't a follow-up of "and this is how we should communicate all that to our young people" or "we should continue preaching these truths to married people!" In both cases I felt like she stopped one step short of discussing the "conversations" of the title that the church should be having.

My last unmet expectation was that only a small portion of the book covered sex within marriage—for some reason I expected there to be a lot more discussion about the issues that married Christians face in their sex lives. But maybe that's the subject of another book.

Again, I'm so glad that Isom shared her redemptive story as well as some great thoughts on what God means sex to be. I'm sure others coming to this book with different experiences than mine will learn and appreciate different things than I did. It's worth it just to start "the conversations that the church forgot" about sex, even if Isom doesn't guide those conversations as much as I would have liked.

Kacey says

Okay. So first I want to say that it's incredibly brave and honest of Mo to share her story so openly with others. There's a lot about my own past that I'm still struggling to talk openly about even to family, so I really admire her being able to do it on a very public scale. It's great and if people who struggle with similar sexual sin can find encouragement and hope in her redemption story, that's amazing.

But that's not what I thought I was going to get with this book. I thought she was going to talk about what God meant for sex to be and how we should celebrate it instead of shunning it or not even discussing it. There's an entire book of the Bible devoted to sex between a husband and wife, so I would recommend people reading Song of Solomon to have a better idea of how God intended us to see sex. She does eventually get into how sex should be a holy act and how husband and wife should find joy in it and use it as an act of worship. The problem is this isn't discussed until almost the end.

The majority of the book is focusing on our sexual sin, or what sex *isn't*. Which is fine and definitely worth discussing. We get so saturated in sex that sometimes we forget the boundaries that God designed for us and we let things slide. But here's the thing: that's exactly what she was saying the church was doing, giving out a list of "do" and "don't", focusing largely on the negative. I get that it's her realm of experience, but if this is to be a conversation maybe she could've enlisted people who struggled with sex in other ways. Like those who suffered sexual abuse or assault, or those who've been obediently abstinent for a long time and struggle with sexual desire that way, something like that.

Again, I have no problems with what she chose to write in this book. It's very eye-opening and I admire her for being so candid about her personal struggles and experiences. But I was hoping for more of what God designed sex to be and how we should be celebrating it and using it to glorify Him, less of what sex isn't meant to be and how the world has glorified that version rather than the truth.

Amy Langmaack says

How do you begin a book review about a book on sex? I'm not really sure other than to dive right in. Which is exactly what Mo Isom does in her new book, *Sex, Jesus and the Conversation the Church Forgot*.

Isom shares her story with sex in a vulnerable way. She shares the heartache. The questions and conversations that weren't answered or had. And the pain of expectations and addictions gone wrong.

But Isom doesn't share these things just to share them. Isom shares her story so that she can point us back to the importance of bringing God back into the bedroom. Back into the story of sex. And the need to speak openly about the issues surrounding sex in our churches.

Growing up, sex was definitely not something spoken about in my church. And I grew up in the True Love Waits era. Complete with the rings and the message to stay pure. Despite this, sex was always hush-hush and we were always told to wait until marriage. Because of this, I could definitely relate to many of the things that Isom spoke about in *Sex, Jesus and the Conversation the Church Forgot*.

I truly appreciated the way that Isom approached this topic. Her vulnerability allowed for the reader to feel like we understood each other. There was no condemnation or shame in this story. Rather it was a story that pointed straight back to Jesus and how we need to involve him in all aspects of our lives - including and maybe most importantly - sex.

Isom writes a message to bring freedom to those in bondage to sexual sin. To further the conversation in our homes and churches. And she wants to bring Jesus back into the bedroom.

I received a copy of this book from NetGalley and Baker Books. This review is my own, honest opinion.

Shannon Mejia says

We all will have a sexual past, regardless of the path you take. We all struggle with choices we have made and will make. God wants us to talk about what matters to Him and one of the first things he said to do was procreate and fill the earth. Mo tackles this taboo subject head on and works to make it not taboo. The Lord has blessed her with amazing insight and boldness to speak to the masses.

“We’ve forgotten to celebrate sex as an incredible gift given to us by God and instead have solely preached against the symptoms, forgetting to address the root of it all.” To me, this book is about this quote straight out of the book. It is healing, cathartic, and God breathed. Mo takes something difficult and makes it simple. If you are someone who struggles with knowing how to talk to the younger generation about God’s plan for sex, or if you are someone who struggles with knowing how to break the chains of pornography or sexual impurity, or if you just know someone who is and need to be able to relate to them, this book is for you. This book is for everyone who loves God and the world he created.

Mackenzie Lane says

SUCH TRUTH. SUCH LOVE.

Shannon says

“Sex, Jesus, and the Conversations the Church Forgot” - Mo Isom

Wow the title alone makes you stop in your tracks and think. Really think. This is a subject you don’t hear people talking about often or really at all. When in reality WE NEED TO BE. Thankfully someone did. Mo stepped up and used her story, a story that could be very similar to yours, or mine, someone you know, or maybe it’s nowhere close. I know for me personally this book hit home on so many different levels, I laughed, I cried, and I felt a HUGE HUGE weight lifted off of my chest when I was finished reading it.

“Redemption finds us where we are, and it’s waiting here for you.” - Mo Isom

It’s raw, emotional, REAL, and POWERFUL all in one. This book is going to help so many people and touch so many lives! There are NO AGE LIMITS!!! It’s for the single people, the married couple, the divorced people, the widowed, the moms, and the dads. THE LIST GOES ON! EVERYONE NEEDS THIS BOOK!

You’ve HELPED me more than you know. I feel like I’m a better person after reading this book. I will never be able to thank Mo enough for the opportunity she has given me. Being part of the launch team for this amazing book has been a life changing experience for me.

Laura says

You have to appreciate and be thankful for people like Mo Isom who bares her soul and worst secrets in Sex, Jesus and the Conversation the Church Forgot. She clearly has a compassion for young people and a concern for Christians who have jumped on board the secular idea that sex before marriage is okay. It isn’t, and Isom

gets to the heart of the matter by bravely sharing her own sexual testimony and pointing out why.

The secular refrain that "It's our body, our life, and our choices" is, as Isom points out, what everyone, especially Christian young people, have been conditioned to believe and therefore it has affected their behaviour and beliefs in regards to sex. As Isom says, "We compartmentalize our faith from our actions to serve our own desires. We often disregard the rule list and act according to impulse." And this is one of the main problems with sexuality promiscuity in the church today. The church says to its young people, "Just be good. Don't have sex until you are married." But they do not emphasize the reason why! It isn't about keeping yourself pure for "the one" it is so much more than that and until our young people (and older unmarried Christians as well) realize that, they will continue to fall into sin.

Sex is God's invention. It's comprised of physical, mental, emotional, and above all spiritual acts of connection designed by the Creator for the unity, pleasure, and reproduction of the very lives He created. Sex is a holy gift purely designed by a God who delights in lavishing His creations with every good and perfect blessing. It is a pure act given to us as a gift to enjoy and delight in under the divine guidance of the appropriate context, circumstances, and boundaries.

The author says, "When we exalt virginity as the goal and disassociate how purity plays any role, it's way too easy to lose ourselves in that gray area in between. I had missed the three most beautiful layers of purity. I had missed (1) the purity in God's design and design of me, (2) the purity in His redemption of me through Jesus, and (3) the true purpose of His call to purity in my conduct as a vessel He desired to use. . . Because of God's perfect and unobstructed purity, impurity and immorality simply can't exist in His presence. He is too holy. Too faultless. Too righteous to coexist with darkness. So impurity in our lives separates us from a perfectly pure God."

The church needs to stop emphasizing that sex is wrong and instead emphasize the purity of God and that as Christians we are now part of that purity, "called to be the very vessels responsible for reflecting God's truth, His love, and His instruction and design to the world."

I believe this is an important book for Christian parents to read with their teenagers and for Youth Leaders to use as a discussion guide on sexual morality and purity. I gave it four stars because the author tended to repeat herself and her point was made early on so that it seemed like the rest of the book was just filler. But I still believe in its message and that it should be a book in every Christian home.

Book provided courtesy of Baker Publishing and Graf-Martin Communications, Inc.

Jessica Barmer says

As a single, late twenty-something, I honestly think this was one of the most important books I could have read this year.

Christian Fiction Addiction says

Written with refreshing honesty while grounded in Biblical truth, "Sex, Jesus and the Conversations The Church Forgot" is a book that everyone would be wise to read. The author writes in an engaging manner where it feels like you are sitting down with her in a coffee shop and talking about sex and Jesus in a totally natural way. She doesn't hesitate to share her own past mistakes and struggles, and because of this you feel like you can trust what she's telling you. Readers will be given the courage to take a look at their own lives, to examine the decisions that they've made and probably the excuses that they've given themselves over the

years. Although women will be especially comfortable with the stories that Isom shares, male and female readers alike will benefit from the spiritual truths that she writes about. One takeaway in particular that has blessed me is where Isom talks about the importance of teaching people to pursue purity and not just concepts like keeping one's virginity. This is something that the next generation especially needs to hear, as youth in the church are struggling to look any different than their cultural counterparts in terms of their sexual choices. Isom's experience of technically remaining a virgin while crossing the line into sexual sin will no doubt resonate with countless readers. I really appreciate the way that she weaves scripture into what she writes. The topics she raises may be difficult for readers to consider if they are dealing with unacknowledged sin in their own lives and have perhaps been justifying their sinful choices for sometime. Yet at the same time, Isom points people to grace, and to the fact there is no condemnation in Christ Jesus. That is a powerful truth indeed!

I hope that many people in the church will take the time to read this book, and that it will spark honest and real conversations about sex and purity and about welcoming Jesus into our bedrooms. I award this book a high 4.5 out of 5 stars.

Book has been provided courtesy of Baker Publishing Group and Graf-Martin Communications, Inc.

Lisa Hudson says

FORGOTTEN CONVERSATIONS!!

Finally someone has been obedient and bold enough to step forward and write a book on the conversations churches have long neglected to have with young people. Unfortunately, it seems so have most of their parents. The conversations are about SEX. Just saying the word out loud will raise the eyebrows of everyone around you! As the church we've forgotten to talk about the whys. Mo Aiken tackles this task in a soul bearing book that proves she's paid her dues in the area of dealing with sexual temptations and pornography. More importantly she knows there's a way out of the bondage that comes from being a slave to that temptation. She writes that we should strive for purity above all because it is a condition of the heart. Nothing is sugarcoated in this book! The good news is that she reveals the answer to your soul's deepest longings, desires and needs. It's not an easy path but it's the only path to true freedom and redemption.

We've forgotten to start from the beginning and share why and what should frame and guide our sexual understanding. She writes, "We need to hear more than 'do this, don't do that.' We need to know why it matters to listen and obey in the first place. Because most of our sexual sin struggles grow out of our lack of a deep-rooted understanding of what sex is, how God sees us, why God calls us to what He does, and why obedience to that calling is worth the sacrifice."

Aiken points out that most people see the holy and hope-filled Word of God as a rule book rather than a love letter written to our hearts. As you peruse this book, Aiken will leave you with no doubt that the Bible is a layered and wisdom-soaked love letter gently explaining the deep-rooted whys that compel us to live differently from the start.

I was provided an ARC of this book by the Publisher and NetGalley. The opinions expressed here are entirely my own and without influence.

Kathryn says

I feel this book is necessary. I struggle saying that because as the church- as people we shouldn't have to seek a book instead of our own communities & church bodies to provide discussion and knowledge about sex. I recommend this book and commend Mo for her vulnerability. I'm taking from the book that I need to be a voice, and not fall into the fear of our church to shy away from conversations that need to be had.

Tracy Erler says

I just finished this. And I literally have no words. Nope. Just kidding. I have one: needed. This book is so necessary. Thank you Mo, for speaking up about a topic the Church has forgotten.

I received an ARC of this book via the Publisher and NetGalley. Thoughts are my own.

Mary Welchans says

This a great book on the topic of sexual purity. I think it relates well to women in all seasons of life, single or married!

Aurelia Mast-glick says

This is not the typical book I review, simply because I try to avoid having to write reviews on these subjects, but I think this is a very pertinent book with some thoughts we would do well to listen to. There are some practical things here both relating to sexuality as well as relating to life in general.

Mo is a former All-American goalkeeper for the Louisiana State University soccer team. She was also very sexually promiscuous while boldly proclaiming her commitment to virginity. Exposed to pornography at 8 years old by finding pictures in her dad's truck, she became addicted. This led over into her relationships with boys where she would go as far as she could while still being able to hold on to her virgin title. This would be one conversation the church could do better at. She was told it was good to remain a virgin until she got married, but neither the church nor her parents gave the deeper reason: purity. She saw it as a thing to accomplish, not a heart matter or a commitment to God. She missed the why of remaining a virgin.

I was blown away by the stats she gave on pornography. Yeah, I knew it was a big money making industry, but I had no idea how big. In one single calendar year, "people watched 4.6 billion hours of pornography at just one website. That is 524,000 years of porn - 17,000 complete lifetimes. Just in 2016." The other thing that staggered me a bit was how many women are exposed to porn and view porn regularly. Moving into adulthood, about 18% of women will admit to viewing porn once a week and 49% of those who view porn see it as a healthy way of expressing their sexuality. Clearly, we have a big problem on our hands.

This was good for me to realize that we need to have these difficult conversations. Our children need to know the why behind the "don't do this" rules. We need to be looking out for the next generation both male and female. Mo will say she was just another statistic, she fit right into these categories. Then God got a hold of her. She goes into that more in her first book called "Wreck my Life" She was able to stay single and free

until she met her future husband, then the cycle of going as far as she could began again. And I don't want to tell her whole story.

Another thing she touches on is sex expectations in marriage, both for those who are virgins and those who are not. She has some good things to say there as well.

A lot of the things she says can be applied to other areas of life as well. In two of the final paragraphs in the book, she says this and I think this is so applicable to all of life and the temptations we face and sins we commit. "I don't blame the conversations that the church forgot as the catalysts of the roller-coaster ride that was my sexual testimony. I don't blame the men involved....I don't blame family....

"My sexual struggles were a result, from the very beginning, of my sin-nature. My wants. My thoughts. My actions. My pride. My choices. My rebellion. My desperation for affirmation. My desires. My decision to make myself the god of my own story."

I appreciated how she took the full responsibility and that is what all of us must do. God is willing to redeem our stories just as He was willing and ready to redeem Mo's story.

I received this book from Baker Books and was not required to write a positive review.

Joanna Ellis says

Though there are a few things that didn't exactly align with my personal beliefs I did really appreciate the authors lessons she taught about intimacy in marriage and the sacredness and important-ness of sex in marriage. It was a good reminder of things I'd thought before, and a perspective I hadn't thought before. I'm grateful for Gods plans and His blessings he gives us in the sacred marriage relationship.
