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Review: Growing Up Straight: What Families Should Know about Homosexuality

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Recommended Citation
Hindson, Edward, "Review: Growing Up Straight: What Families Should Know about Homosexuality" (1985). *Faculty Publications and Presentations.* Paper 132.
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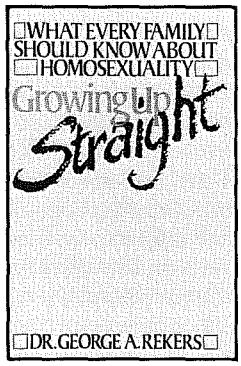
GROWING UP STRAIGHT
by George Alan Rekers

Reviewed by Ed Hindson



This book is unique in all the literature that gives a Christian perspective on the homosexual issue. Writing from 10 years of clinical research, George Rekers, a Christian psychologist and professor of family and child development at Kansas State University, offers specific guidance to parents who want to protect their children from homosexuality. To those whose children may already be involved, he offers redemptive hope.

The author views homosexuality as a sin and not a genetic determination. He presents straightforward and disturbing evidence of the shift in the American Psychiatric Association away from viewing homosexuality as deviant behavior. Rekers dates this shift at December 15, 1973, when the homosexual liberationists successfully lobbied to get the APA to remove homosexuality from their list of mental disorders.

Rejecting the secular approach to dealing with homosexuality, the author argues that children can be protected from homosexual development patterns. He strongly states that vulnerability is not determinism. This means that a child who has effeminate characteristics will not necessarily become a practicing homosexual. Rekers argues that proper counseling can correct sexual role problems if it is available to children at early stages in their development.

The author devotes two chapters to helping parents deal with homosexual tendencies in both children and teenagers. He urges parents to be honest and informative when alerting their children to the dangers of sexual temptation and the importance of sexual responsibility. He also gives two chapters to the discussion of help and hope for those already involved.

Throughout the entire book the author balances psychological insight with spiritual advice. His approach is biblically based, personable, and practical. This book is professional in the highest sense and a must for every parent, pastor, teacher and youth worker. (Moody Press, 1982, 158pp., $4.95)

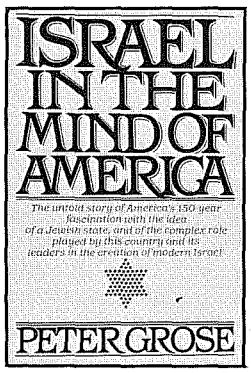
ISRAEL IN THE MIND OF AMERICA
by Peter Grose

Reviewed by James O. Combs, editor of *Baptist Bible Tribune.*

For the first time, the full and documented story of the rise of pro-Israel attitudes over a period of 150 years, culminating in the formation and support of the Jewish state, has been told by a distinguished scholar with impeccable credentials. Peter Grose is a senior fellow and director of middle eastern studies at the Council of Foreign Relations in New York City. He has served in various journalistic and editorial positions and has worked for the U.S. State Department. Grose is a graduate of Yale and Oxford Universities and wrote *Israel in the Mind of America* as a Research Associate at Columbia University's Middle Eastern Institute.

Every conservative Christian who believes that Israel in the Bible means Israel (with the exception of a few figurative usages) needs to read and absorb this book. Its contents adds weight to the Fundamentalist's claim that Bible-believing Christians have been among the best friends the Jews have ever had.

Grose fairly and objectively gives credit to the Bible-reading Christian



community for helping to forward the cause of Jewish nationalism. (Alfred A. Knopf, 1984, 361pp., $17.95)

BOOK NOTES

THE HEALING OF THE HOMOSEXUAL
by Leanne Payne

This book is written from the heart with an appeal for hope and healing for homosexuals. The author rejects the concept that homosexuality is a genetically determined condition and argues that it is an identity crisis that can be corrected only by the inner healing of gender identity. Written from a Christian perspective and especially for women, this powerful book offers excellent insights to those struggling with this problem. (Crossway Books, 1984, 48pp., $2.95) —E.H.

HUMAN SEXUALITY: CONTEMPORARY CONTROVERSIES
edited by Harold Feldman and Andrea Parrot

This book represents a first in the publishing world! The editors have