

Our Church's Steamy Romance Book Club

Why this is All Good: see www.RomanceIsNotSin.com

Coming Out: Many think this is the first big challenge in accepting personal identity. This church is a safe place for people to come out, to express and celebrate their colors of the rainbow. This is great, but coming out is not the first big challenge.

Coming To Terms: This is the true first big challenge in accepting personal identity. So many have tested the waters inside themselves by watching various flavors of porn. This can leave people jaded by focusing only on the body, completely ignoring dimensions of spiritual and emotional love expressed in physical affection. With few exceptions, porn treats people as bodies with no hearts. Is this what we want seekers to become?

The Church as a Safe Place: We applaud, as we should, efforts to make our church a safe place for coming out, rather than expecting *LGBTQIP+* individuals to struggle in secrecy. One thing that defines our church today is being such a safe place. As risky and scary as coming out is, there's a hidden risk many have allowed to remain in place. Coming to terms by exploring heartless media, people risk becoming jaded. We need to face facts about how people are coming to terms, and provide meaningful alternatives that recognize and celebrate the emotional and deeply personal aspects of physical intimacy.

Our Book Club: We're meeting each week to discuss Steamy Romance Books showing a variety of different colors of the rainbow. Besides literary qualities of writing, we discuss how different scenarios presented in the books make us feel, and whether we can relate to the emotions of the characters. This is where true romance shines as opposed to porn. We can openly and safely connect our emotions to aspects of physical affection we find ourselves drawn toward considering or at least imagining. We can also develop empathy for those enjoying colors besides our own. We can be happy for people in romances without needing to imitate everything they do.

Price of Admission: The groups are free. The books we discuss are inexpensive ebooks. Cost should be no barrier to attending. Just let us know and we can work things out. Many authors will grant permission for a certain percentage of free copies within each discussion group. Talk to the group leader in private and we'll get there together. If you're a group leader, write to authors for such permission. As struggling artist types themselves, they can relate. They write romance because they're lovers.

How Steamy is it: Remember, many of us are using these written fantasies to help come to terms with our own sexuality. You can expect the books to get totally explicit. As a church we make no pretense about it...sex is at the center of sexual orientation. That's why so many have resorted to unemotional porn to explore their own desires. We need to offer just as sexually explicit a venue for exploring within. You may be encouraged to know, however, that the action isn't only physical. Steamy Romance Books are still romance. The deeply personal and emotional is intimately connected with the physical affection in the stories, just like it ought to be. Obviously, this is for adults only.