

Rainbow Romance Book Club

Relating to Our Rainbow Through Literature

Vanilla is a perfectly good flavor of our rainbow. God cares about us all. Imagine a rainbow flag where all the colors are separated by big black border stripes, barely leaving room for colors to shine through. That's what a rainbow flag of indifference looks like. Are we affirming, or passively tolerant? Tolerance is a funny word. It makes me think of tolerating dental work, heavy traffic or bad smells by a dumpster.

As individuals, how can we be more affirming of the entire rainbow? By tuning in to feelings and experiences of those who share different colors from ours. It's no secret that at the center of 'sexual orientation' is 'sex'. Dare we name it? Dare we own it as humans? Dare we celebrate that aspect of the human condition? We don't have to try everything they do, but it would be nice to affirm others through compassion.

Romance literature has long been rather steamy. In fact, it's been pretty explicit. Now we have romance literature celebrating all the colors of the rainbow. Jessica Mandella is a rainbow romance author whose site 'www.RomanceIsNotSin.com' recommends steamy book clubs within churches and secular organizations. Her site proves fantasy is not adultery of the heart, since there's no real intent. Romance is a safe way to explore many aspects of the human condition.

The rainbow romance book club has a two-fold purpose.

1. To build compassionate bridges of understanding between all the colors of the rainbow, even vanilla.
2. To provide a safe venue where seekers may compare the flavors of experience in such literature to the desires and leanings in their own hearts.

How will this be accomplished?

A book club using rainbow variety romance books. We can read chapters in between each meeting, and then discuss our feelings about aspects of it, including:

- * Gender identities and orientations of desire in the characters
- * Emotions and journeys of coming to terms and coming out
- * Reactions and responses within and outside the LGBT community
- * What it means to compassionately affirm others' experience

One may discover one embraces colors of the rainbow.

One may discover one has compassion for other flavors.

One may discover one can accept everyone, even oneself.

If you're interested in something like this, please contact a pastor.