

# Sexuality and Identity:

Is Christianity Oppressive?

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Andy Bannister

Solas

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THREE



“Are we the baddies?”

# Being the **Badd** Guys

How to Live for Jesus  
In a World That Says You Shouldn't

Stephen McAlpine





Christians end up self-censoring when it comes to evangelism





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of  
St Andrews

St Andrews  
of





“Why is Christianity against  
my sexual freedom?”



University  
of  
St Andrews

2019



freedom





“They may take our lives, but they can never take our **freedom!**”



Freedom



# Freedom

= Simply the absence of constraints?



# Our desires conflict ...





What were  
human beings  
designed for?







What is sex and sexuality for?



# Our deeply confused culture

- A sex mad media



# Our deeply confused culture

- A sex mad media
- Sex elevated to the highest possible good



# Our deeply confused culture

- A sex mad media
- Sex elevated to the highest possible good
- Sex and sexuality framed in terms of consumerism



“I call this a ‘Sexular Age’ — a time in which sexual expression unhindered by anything other than consent — reigns supreme. Our sexual identity and practice is being promoted as good news! It is another gospel.”

Stephen McAlpine





# Our deeply confused culture

- A sex mad media
- Sex elevated to the highest possible good
- Sex and sexuality framed in terms of consumerism
- Sex still considered sacred



# Our deeply confused culture

- A sex mad media
- Sex elevated to the highest possible good
- Sex and sexuality framed in terms of consumerism
- Sex still considered sacred
- Sex has got tangled up with identity



# What is *sexuality* for?

- Shared pleasure
- Uniting a couple together
- Having children



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- Shared pleasure
- Uniting a couple together
- Having children
- ????



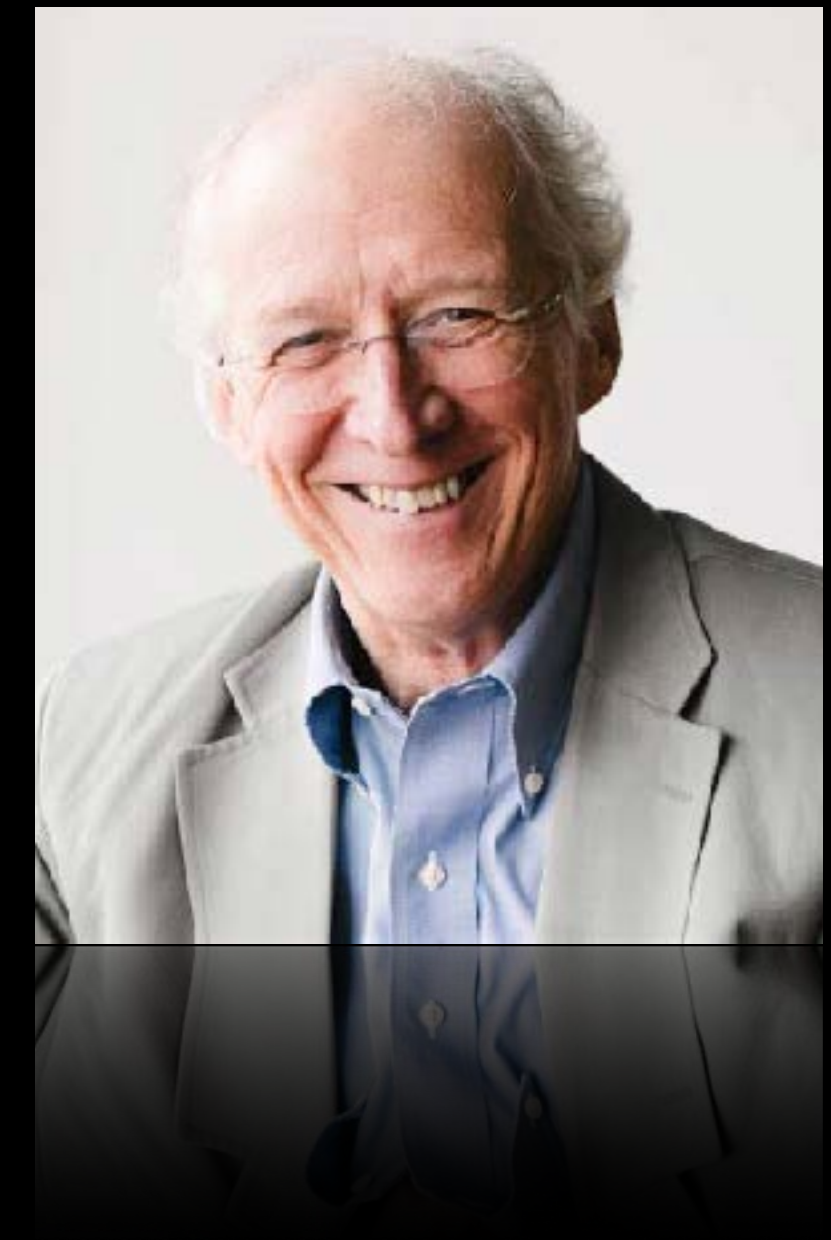
# What is sexuality for?

- Shared pleasure
- Uniting a couple together
- Having children
- To make God more knowable



“The ultimate reason (not the only one) why we are sexual is to make God more deeply knowable. The language and imagery of sexuality are the most graphic and powerful that the Bible uses to describe the relationship between God and his people—both positively (when we are faithful) and negatively (when we are not).”

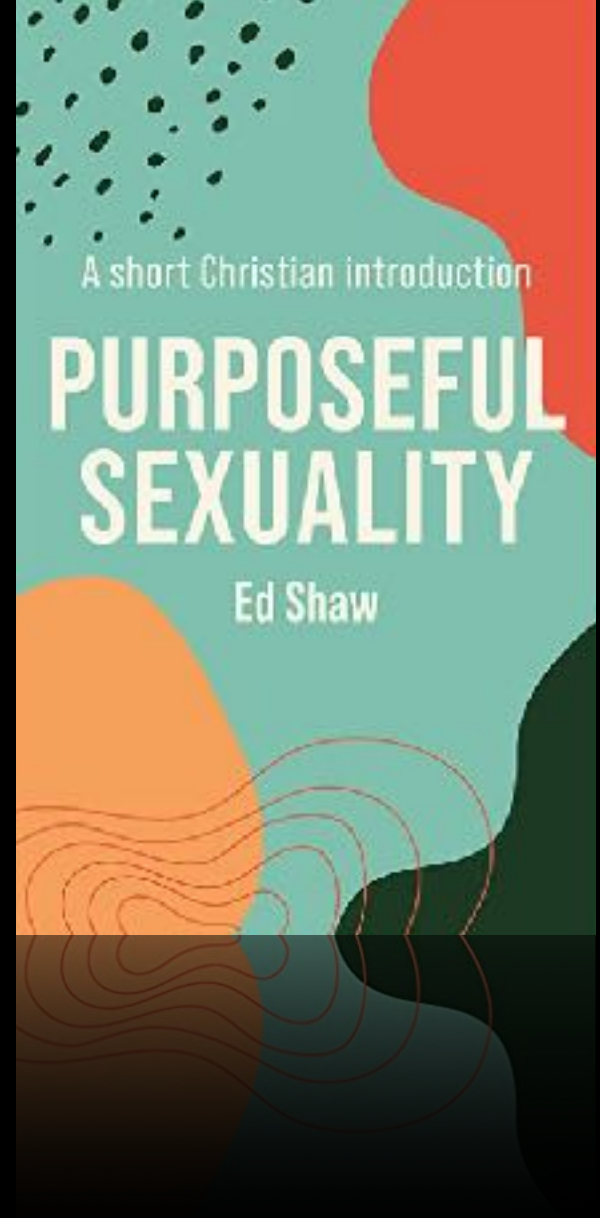
John Piper





“Why do I have such powerfully passionate sexual feelings? To make my life miserable because I can’t express them in a marriage to someone of the opposite sex? No! They exist to make my life more joyful, as they help me begin to appreciate God’s love for me. Why has God made you as a sexual being? To torture you slowly as you struggle to express your sexuality in the right way? No! You have a sexuality so he can best communicate to you the full intensity of his love for you, so that you can better appreciate how much he can’t take his eyes off you.”

Ed Shaw





“The kind of equality which implies that the equals are interchangeable (like counters or identical machines) is, among humans, a legal fiction. It may be useful legal fiction. But in church we turn our back on fictions. One of the ends for which sex was created was to symbolize to us the hidden things of God. One of the functions of human marriage is to express the nature of the union between Christ and the Church. We have no authority to take the living and seminal figures which God has painted on the canvas of our nature and shift them about as if they were mere geometrical figures.”



C. S. Lewis



Sexuality is not about *us* defining our identity, but it's about God showing his love for us. And that's a big story that all are invited to.



# Conclusions

- Christians cannot duck these difficult issues



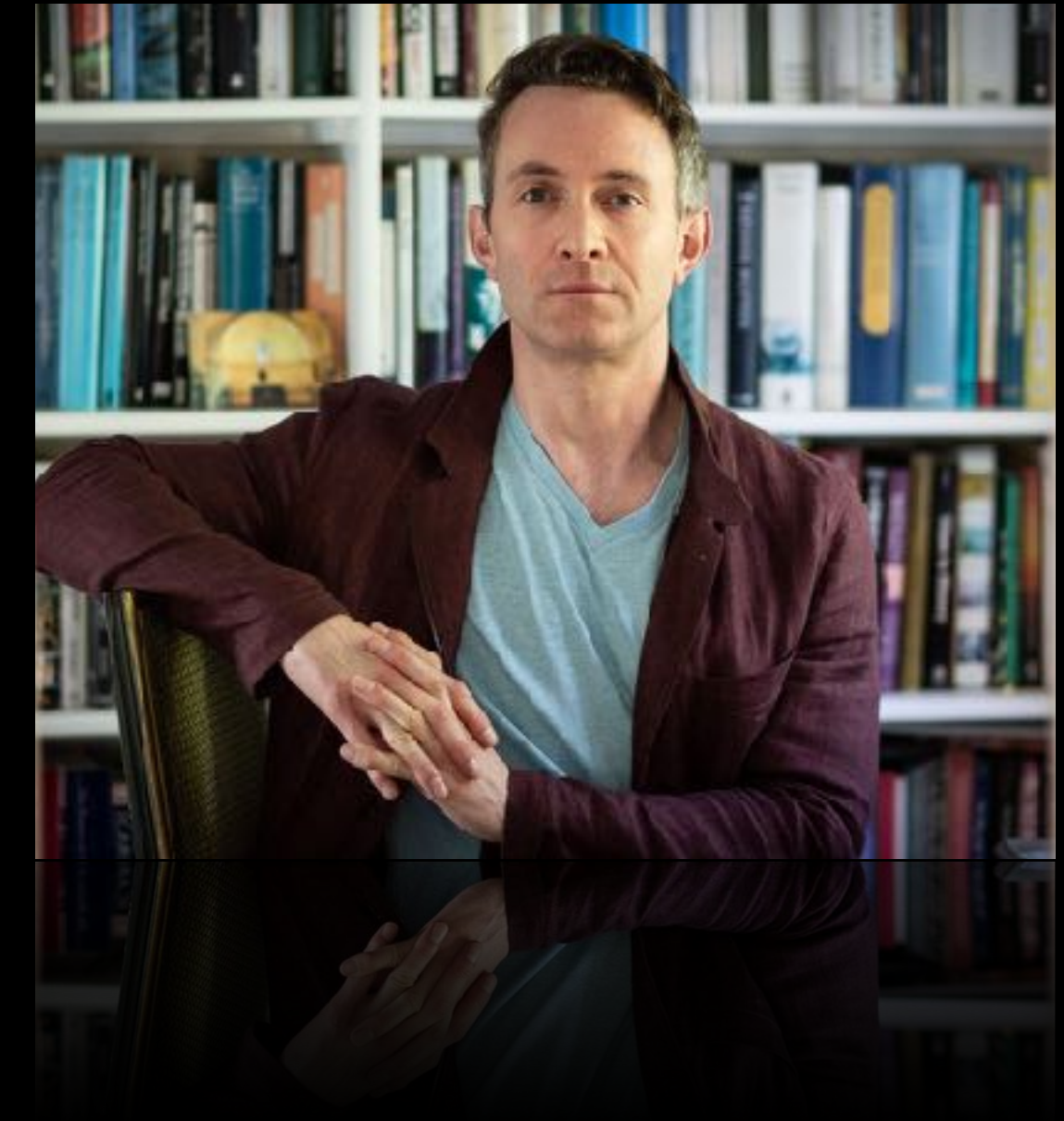
# Conclusions

- Christians cannot duck these difficult issues
- Our culture has forgotten the virtue of forgiveness



“As one of the consequences of the death of God, [the famous atheist] Friedrich Nietzsche foresaw that people could find themselves stuck in cycles of Christian theology with no way out. Specifically that people would inherit the concepts of guilt, sin, and shame but would be without the means of redemption which the Christian religion also offered.”

Douglas Murray





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- Christians cannot duck these difficult issues
- Our culture has forgotten the virtue of forgiveness
- Showing compassion



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- Christians cannot duck these difficult issues
- Our culture has forgotten the virtue of forgiveness
- Showing compassion
- Point people to those living a better story




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# Stories



**Andrew**  
'Jesus gives me a solid, stable identity and I know that, whatever happens, he



**Tracey**  
'Walking into church on a Sunday is a bit like coming home. It's like walking into a family living room.'



**Jeanette**  
'Churches that have supported me well are those that say, "this is who you are, be part of us".'

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# Conclusions

- Christians cannot duck these difficult issues
- Our culture has forgotten the virtue of forgiveness
- Showing compassion
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# Conclusions

- Christians cannot duck these difficult issues
- Our culture has forgotten the virtue of forgiveness
- Showing compassion
- Point people to those living a better story
- Ensure our churches are places of welcome and healing

THE UNEXPECTED STORY OF A *GAY ACTIVIST*  
DISCOVERING **JESUS**

**A WAR**  
*OF* **LOVES**



**DAVID  
BENNETT**

FOREWORD BY  
**N.T. WRIGHT**



“Carry each other’s burdens,  
and in this way you will fulfil  
the law of Christ.”

Galatians 6:2

Jesus said: “I have come that you  
may have life, and have it to the full.”

John 10:10

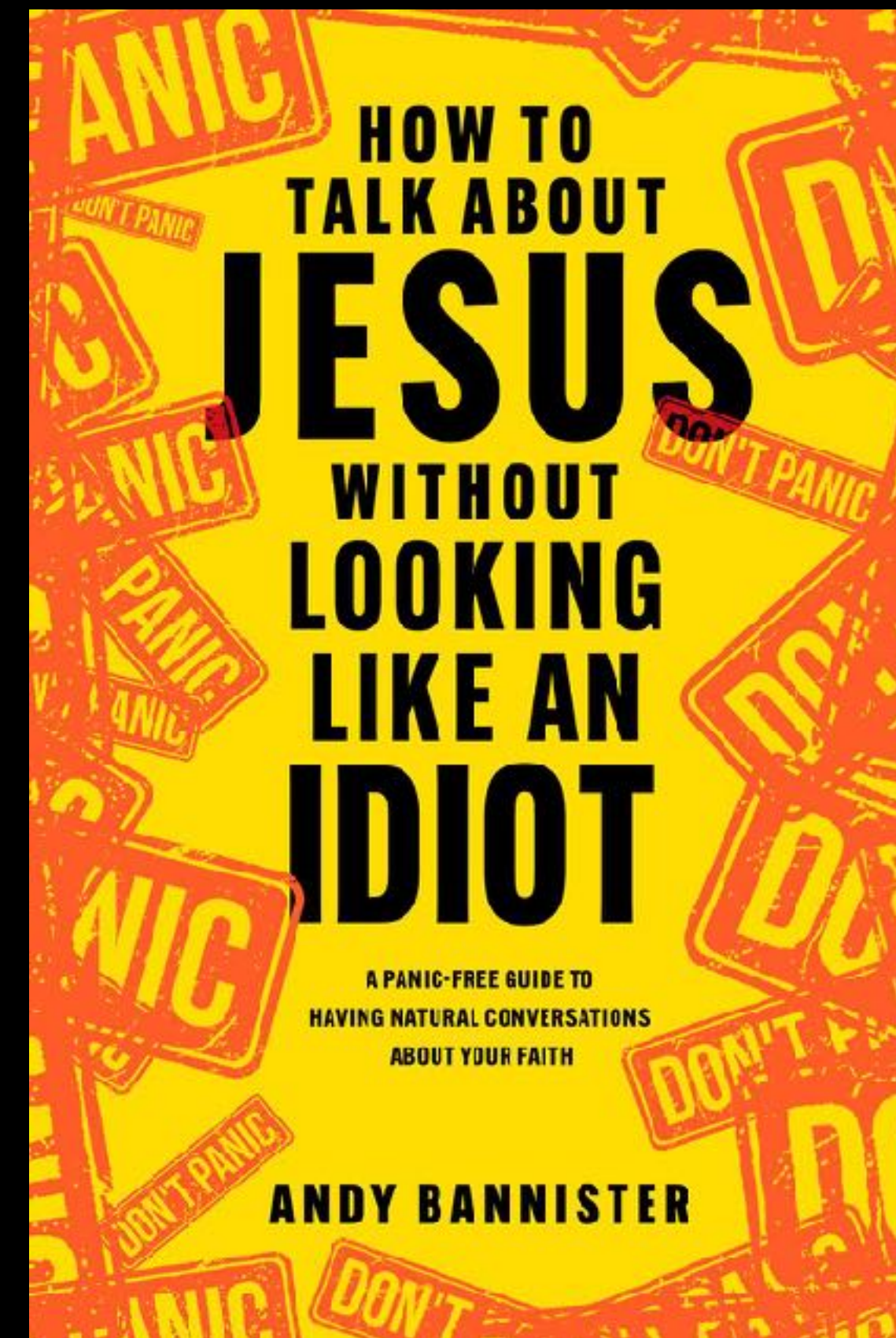
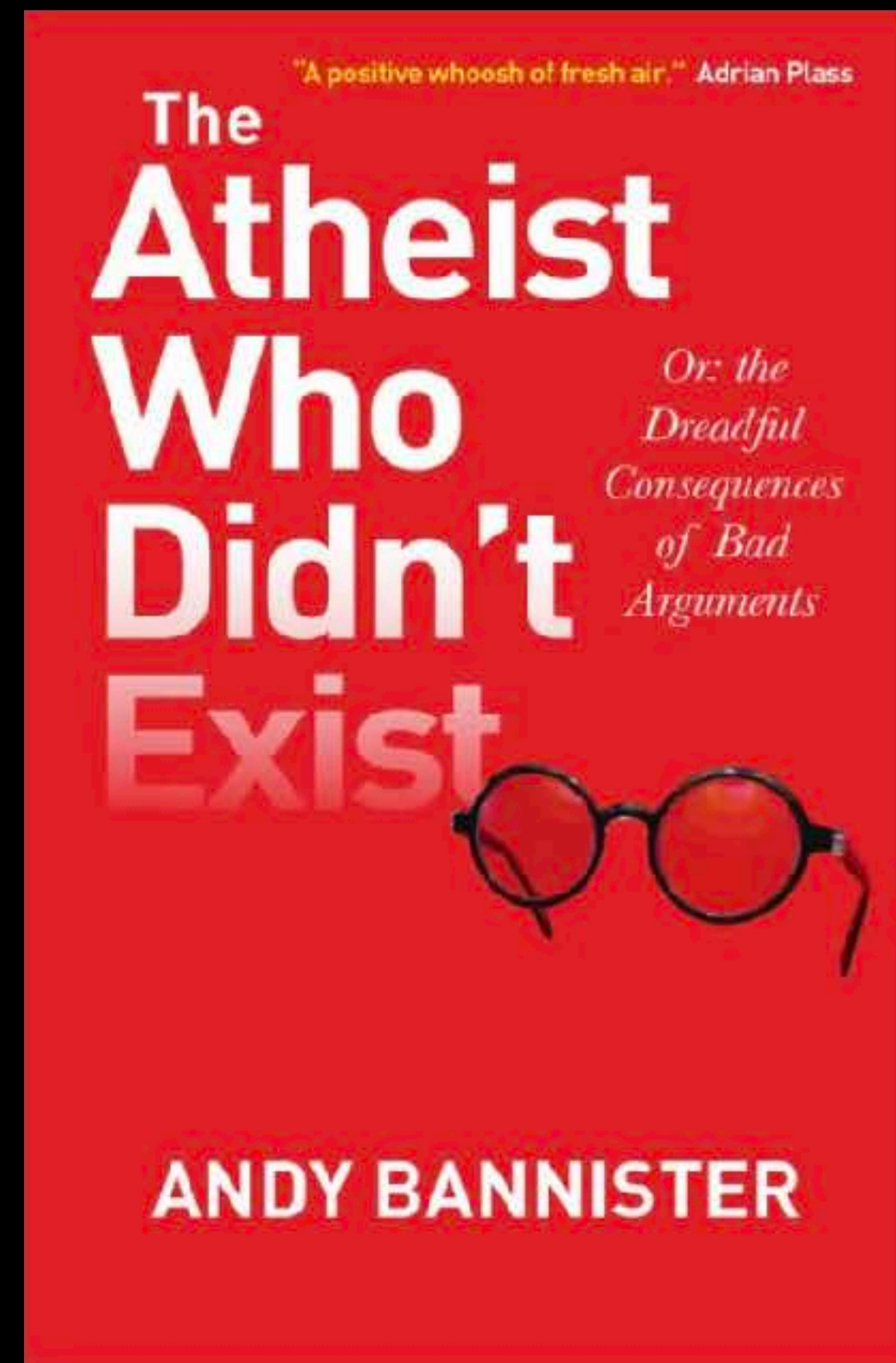
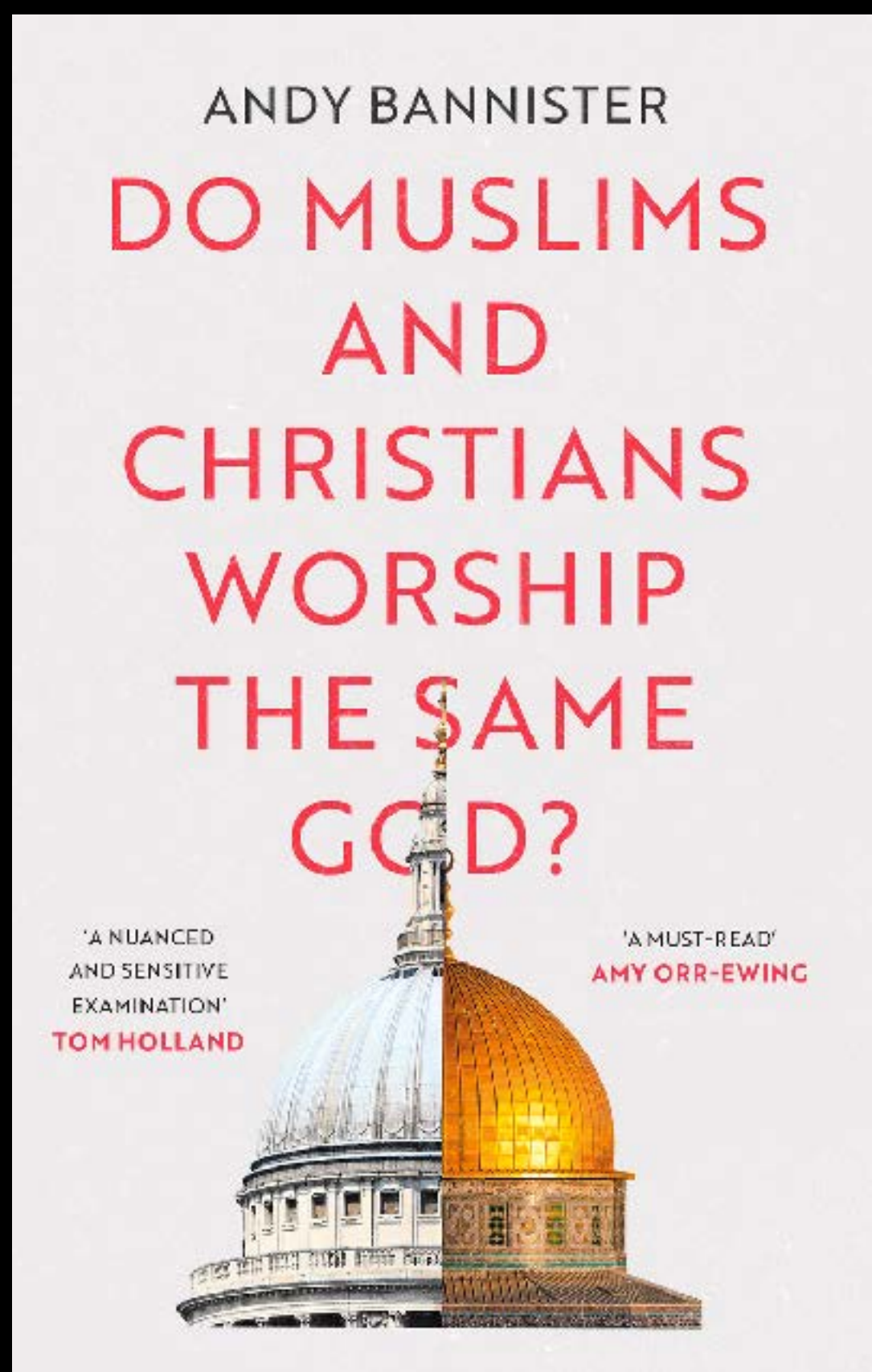




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