



509 North Main
Maryville, MO
64468-1610
Phone: (660) 582.5281
Fax: (660) 582.2411

Citizen's Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials

Date: September 22, 2023

Book: *Born Again This Way*, by Rachel Gilson

Excerpt of patron comments: "The book starts as sounding supportive of gay Christians but it is not. It reels in the reader thinking it is affirming, but I feel that this book will discourage people from following God. It will make gay Christians feel unwelcome at church.

Did you read the entire book? No

What do you believe is the theme of this book? Convincing gay people that the only way to be Christian and gay is to NOT be gay.

Excerpt of library response: [The author] mostly describes the trajectory of her own sexual feelings and experiences, but also interprets those experiences through the *Gospels of John* and *Matthew* and the writings of *Paul* and *James*. The book makes brief references to some evangelism movements of the 1990s, and current trends in early 21st century Western culture. This is a topic not widely covered in nonfiction publishing or in our collection, but Maryville Public Library does contain other books related to this subject that you may want to examine:

- *Does Jesus Really Love Me? A Gay Christian's Pilgrimage in Search of God in America*, by Jeff Chu (2013) Call Number: 970.086
- *Building A Bridge: How the Catholic Church and the LGBT Community Can Enter Into a Relationship of Respect, Compassion, and Sensitivity* by Fr. James Martin, (2017) Call Number 282.086
- *Accidental Saints: Finding God in All the Wrong People*, by Nadia Bolz-Weber (2015) Call number 248.1 Bol
- *The Pride Guide*, by Jo Langford, (2018) Call number 306.76 Lan

MPL is committed to maintaining a collection that represents the diversity of viewpoints and interests of our taxpaying public. In relation to the rest of our collection, Gilson's book represents a rare perspective in both Christian publishing and the LGBTQ community that meets enough of our criteria of currency, credibility, relevancy, and demand to remain in our collection for as long as that is the case. A copy of our MPL's Collection Development Policy is available for a little more detail on our selection and deselection criteria.