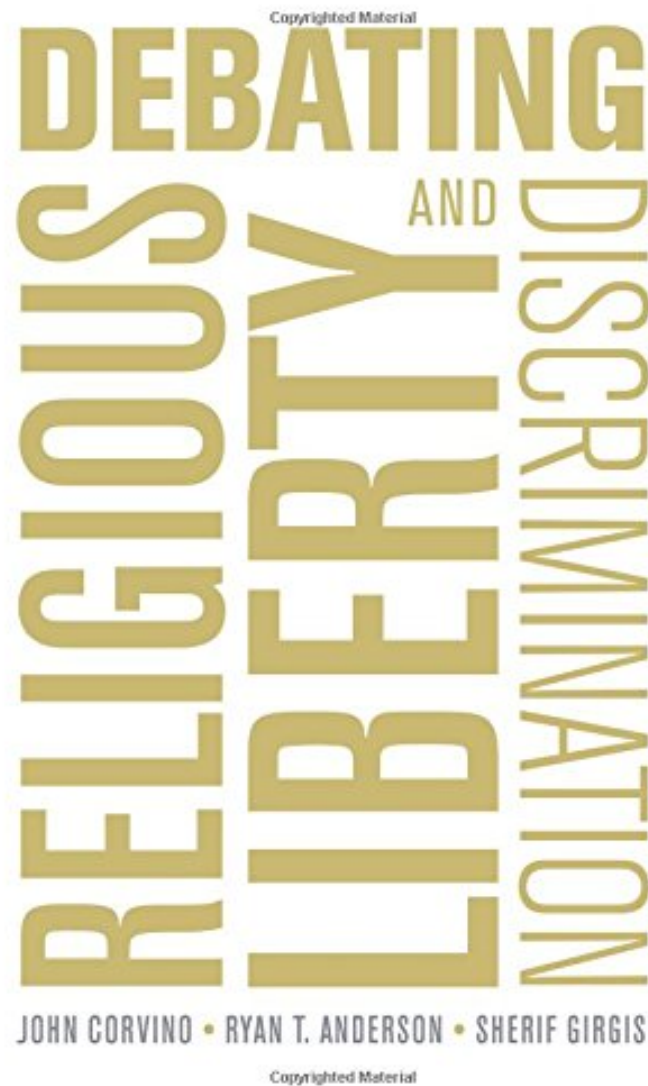


## Debating Religious Liberty and Discrimination

*John Corvino, Ryan T. Anderson, Sherif Girgis*  
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**John Corvino, Ryan T. Anderson, Sherif Girgis : Debating Religious Liberty and Discrimination** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Debating Religious Liberty and Discrimination:

19 of 19 people found the following review helpful. Giving Hope to a Same Sex Attracted Catholic ChristianBy CatholicBoyRichardThe idea that two traditional Catholic Christians and an LGBT activist could collaborate to share on this topic gives me hope. I have been on both sides of the issue. Though I fully accept what my Church teaches my

heart aches for the pain of the actively LGBT people I know and care about when it comes to discrimination and bigotry, especially hiding itself behind religion. That is not what is happening here. All parties concerned are caring and lively. I have had personal contact with each of them and my respect remains, as does theirs for me. That is what Dr Russell Moore (of Southern Baptist fame) in his ringing endorsement is also saying needs to happen. That is what occurs in this amazing context. I may even order some extra copies for loved ones on either side who think I have jumped off the deep end by referring to myself as SSA (same sex attracted) instead of fully identifying as "gay," and why I would willingly choose celibacy instead of hunting incessantly for a partner or spouse of either gender. I even had one well-meaning person at work recently tell me "don't sell yourself short" when it comes to meeting and loving someone. I can tell people I haven't done so, but I am not naive enough to think they believe me fully or understand. Now though, after over a decade back in the Church some are starting to at least realize I am deadly serious about it. They, both friends and sometimes family, fear I am "missing out" on life by making such a choice and I get it., They also believe that God could not possibly expect that of me or others in my situation. I beg to differ however, and often to loving but deaf ears. To this pilgrim, Christ and the Holy Eucharist, which He gave to the Church this very day 2000 years ago on the first Holy (Maundy) Thursday is worth every night I sleep alone in my beautiful queen sized bed. He is my life, and He is enough to give me the purpose and fulfillment that I need to get up each morning. Enough about me though. This book takes it one step further in that it demonstrates why the social ramifications of movements such as "marriage equality" and simultaneous breakdown of the one man/woman family unit have to be a major and even essential part of the narrative rather than someone's personal disgust or anger at what they perceive as either discrimination by religious bigots (and sometimes rightly so) or on the other hand a mischaracterization of the "pursuit of happiness" which we all have a right to. Both views have merit, both have dangers if taken too far, and ideally they do not need to contradict each other. There is a balance, and often we only gain it by viewing, with genuine respect, those with opposite perspectives. The authors here accomplish this with unbridled clarity mixed with authentic kindness. This is the discussion which is most needed now, I believe, and the very one which brought me back to Rome in the first place. To say I recommend it is nearly anti-climactic. I believe it is the best treatment of mutual understanding on the topic out there today thus far. Get it. Get it. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great service. Product delivered as described. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars. Great summary of the legal precedents and challenges in USA.

Virtually everyone supports religious liberty, and virtually everyone opposes discrimination. But how do we handle the hard questions that arise when exercises of religious liberty seem to discriminate unjustly? How do we promote the common good while respecting conscience in a diverse society? This point-counterpoint book brings together leading voices in the culture wars to debate such questions: John Corvino, a longtime LGBT-rights advocate, opposite Ryan T. Anderson and Sherif Girgis, prominent young social conservatives. Many such questions have arisen in response to same-sex marriage: How should we treat county clerks who do not wish to authorize such marriages, for example; or bakers, florists, and photographers who do not wish to provide same-sex wedding services? But the conflicts extend well beyond the LGBT rights arena. How should we treat hospitals, schools, and adoption agencies that can't in conscience follow antidiscrimination laws, healthcare mandates, and other regulations? Should corporations ever get exemptions? Should public officials? Should we keep controversial laws like the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, or pass new ones like the First Amendment Defense Act? Should the law give religion and conscience special protection at all, and if so, why? What counts as discrimination, and when is it unjust? What kinds of material and dignitary harms should the law try to fight-and what is dignitary harm, anyway? Beyond the law, how should we treat religious beliefs and practices we find mistaken or even oppressive? Should we tolerate them or actively discourage them? In point-counterpoint format, Corvino, Anderson and Girgis explore these questions and more. Although their differences run deep, they tackle them with civility, clarity, and flair. Their debate is an essential contribution to contemporary discussions about why religious liberty matters and what respecting it requires.

"In our deeply divided nation, *Debating Religious Liberty and Discrimination* is a refreshing and hope-inspiring book. Provocative, clear, careful in argument, searching in coverage, it shows that people who strongly disagree can both find much common ground and also articulate their differences with respect and care, fostering a community of reason. It will be a wonderful book for undergraduate teaching, but it is also challenging for people well-versed in the subject, whether they agree or disagree." -- Martha C. Nussbaum, School of Law and Department of Philosophy, The University of Chicago "One of the most important debates in our time is that of religious liberty as it relates to controversies over sexuality and marriage. Sadly, usually most Americans don't have these debates at all, content to stay in our silos and never engage with those who disagree with us. This book is different. Ryan Anderson, Sherif Girgis, and John Corvino model how to hold strong (very strong) opinions while debating others with respect. This book will equip you, wherever you stand, on how the "other side" from you thinks. If American society follows the lead of this book, our culture wars won't end, but they just might be kinder and smarter. That's a good start." -- Russell

Moore, President, Ethics Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention "Debating Religious Liberty and Discrimination, is a direct challenge to our cultural moment, opting for careful analysis over clickbait, mutual understanding over demonization, and clearly demarcated disagreement over sweeping dismissal. The authors take the time to lay out their best arguments, then respond to the best arguments of their opponents. Whether or not the book ultimately causes readers to change their views is not the measure of its success. The authors provide a desperately needed model for engagement: they argue with, not at their opponent; they argue together...For a nation that seems more divided than ever, that's a great place to start." --Commonweal Magazine"...the U.S. remains a large country with citizens of many religions, diametrically opposed opinions, and lifestyles that will inevitably clash. Given that conflict is unavoidable, the authors agree that we ought to foster a culture in which we can seek common ground and conduct debate on the plane of ideas and policy, rather than descend into endless painful lawsuits or bitter social-media feuds with our ideological opponents. Corvino, Anderson, and Girgis illustrate in this compelling book that such a judicious debate can take place and can generate fruitful conversation, as well as delineate areas of authentic agreement and practical compromise. And, perhaps even better than that, they give us the tools we can use to find those agreements and compromises ourselves."--National "Debating Religious Liberty and Discrimination...raises the plausibility of living with greater diversity of thought on fundamental issues in civil society. Learning to tolerate religious disagreement has been a signal achievement of liberal societies, and if we can live together with mutually exclusive--but also reciprocally respectful--religious systems thriving in civil society, why can't we expand the scope of that tolerance to include other moral and social issues that divide us?" --LA of Books"... all three authors deserve praise for tackling this subject in this way. They disagree civilly and engage with one another substantively and thoughtfully. In an age when discussions of religious liberty often devolve into cheap political point-scoring, the fact that elevated debate occurred with both charity and clarity is perhaps the ultimate value of this book. May it be a model to disputants on this and other heated subjects, for years to come." --The Weekly Standard

About the Author  
John Corvino, Ph.D. is Professor and Chair of the Philosophy Department at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. He is the co-author (with Maggie Gallagher) of *Debating Same-Sex Marriage* (June 2012) and the author of *What's Wrong with Homosexuality?* (January 2013), both from Oxford University Press.  
Ryan T. Anderson, Ph.D., is William E. Simon Senior Research Fellow at The Heritage Foundation. He is author of *Truth Overruled: The Future of Marriage and Religious Freedom* (Regnery, 2015), co-author of *What Is Marriage? Man and Woman: A Defense* (Encounter, 2012) and co-editor of *A Liberalism Safe for Catholicism* (University of Notre Dame Press, 2017).  
Sherif Girgis, J.D., is a Ph.D. candidate in philosophy at Princeton and lead author (with Ryan T. Anderson and Robert P. George) of *What Is Marriage? Man and Woman: A Defense* (Encounter Books, 2012). He earned a law degree from Yale and a B.Phil. (M.Phil.) in philosophy from Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar.