

Queering the Bible with a Hermeneutic of Foolishness

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1. Introduction and situating myself within a tradition

2. The Scriptural basis for a hermeneutics of foolishness

3. A hermeneutics of foolishness...

- Looks to the places in the Christian gospel where worldly power and knowledge are put into constant crisis
- Reveals the fluidity, the temporality, and the ultimate absurdity of the categories human wisdom creates to order our society
- Does not look to the Bible for a template of human sexuality, but looks at how the scripture reveals ways in which the reign of God is ushered in through human relationships and situations which would be considered immoral, despicable, or 'queer' – either in their original historical context, or in our own.

4. A Queer Christianity....

- Is one in which we are all “called to be Queer”, to live as the ‘odd ones’, the ‘peculiar people’ – unafraid of being called foolish by the wisdom of our age.
- Does not seek to make the queer, “normal”, but rather questions the category of ‘normal’ all together and invites people into the challenge of creating new ways of relating and new possibilities for community
- Follows Jesus the Fool, who flexes the rules, challenges the boundaries of a group, and refutes the categories which define, separate, and oppress people (in Christ there is no longer Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male and female)
- Does not merely echo the values and virtues of decent people, but calls them and us to rethink from scratch many basic assumptions about God and matters ‘religious’.
- IS a threat to society in so far as society chooses death over life; cruelty, violence, and oppression over love, peace, and justice.

Questions for discussion:

How might approaching the Bible with a hermeneutics of foolishness change the way you read scripture, or the questions you ask of it?

Read *Matthew 25:1-13* and discuss what insights are revealed when you approach the text with a hermeneutics of foolishness.