

## **Gay Girl, Good God**

**By: Jackie Hill Perry**

Jackie Hill Perry writes of her journey from abandonment, abuse, gender confusion, and lesbianism to wholeness in Jesus Christ. Although the book is autobiographical, she also writes candidly and fervently of her beliefs in a good God whose love pursued her. Ultimately, the hero in the story is God. She writes, "...the gospel is all about God. It is God who created us. God who we all sinned against. It is God who loved us. It is Christ who saves us and it is Christ that gives us eternal life."

Jackie grew up knowing about Jesus and understanding that homosexual behaviour was not God's plan. Yet, from as far back as she could remember, she was attracted to women. After being told by her father that he wouldn't be bothered if he never saw her again and being abused by a teenage boy as a young child, she saw men as a threat, unable to trust them. She was involved in several lesbian relationships, taking on the 'male' role in each, even dressing in a masculine fashion. But, one night she had an encounter with God which forever changed the trajectory of her life. She recognized that only God could bring fulfillment to her life, and his call was one of repentance and restoration. So began the slow process of becoming a disciple of Jesus.

Although Jackie found healing from her many hurts and was finally able to trust the man who eventually became her husband, she does not see marriage as the end goal for all Christians who experience same-sex attraction. She writes, "In fact, when a same-sex attracted Christian pursues heterosexuality as the goal instead of Christ, they will ultimately find themselves merely replacing one idol for the other." After all, the gospel is all about God. The last three chapters are meant to be a resource where Jackie explains her views on same-sex attraction and identity, endurance, and what she terms 'the heterosexual gospel'.

Jackie is a poet, and her style of writing includes lots of word pictures and metaphors. However, sometimes the meaning becomes obscured because of the flowery language and excessive descriptions. Despite that, her honesty and heart for God, and her deep grasp of the theology of creation, fall, redemption, and sanctification make this book worth reading. Her story is both gripping and filled with hope. Living for Jesus is not always easy, but Jackie makes it clear that Jesus brings life and hope which cannot be found elsewhere.