



# Confident Christianity

Sharing the gospel  
in an age of tough questions

Solas

*at*

**Plymstock United  
Church**

**being human**  
*The Gender Debate*



a world in  
*CONFUSION*



# GENDER

*Historical: gender = sex*

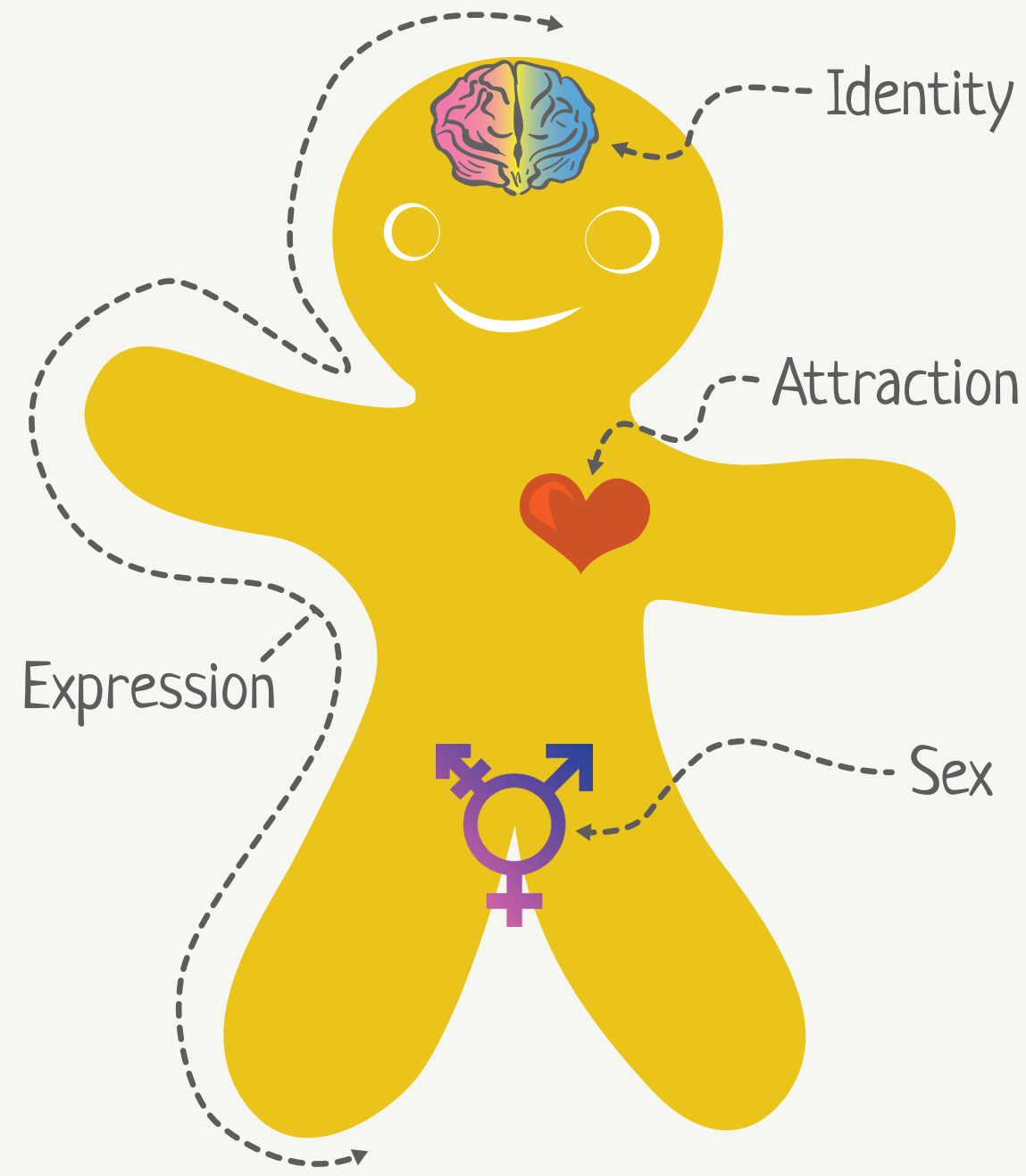


# GENDER

*“an unconscious performance, a social construct that we inherit and then repeatedly reenact”*



# The Genderbread Person v4 by its pronounced METROsexual.com



⊘ means a lack of what's on the right side

Gender Identity

- ⊘ → Woman-ness
- ⊘ → Man-ness

Gender Expression

- ⊘ → Femininity
- ⊘ → Masculinity

Anatomical Sex

- ⊘ → Female-ness
- ⊘ → Male-ness

Identity ≠ Expression ≠ Sex  
Gender ≠ Sexual Orientation

Sex Assigned At Birth  
 Female  Intersex  Male

Sexually Attracted to... and/or (a/o)

- ⊘ → Women a/o Feminine a/o Female People
- ⊘ → Men a/o Masculine a/o Male People

Romantically Attracted to...

- ⊘ → Women a/o Feminine a/o Female People
- ⊘ → Men a/o Masculine a/o Male People

“Because gender is no longer anchored in bodily realities, it has become a postmodern juggernaut, impossible to capture, impossible to name. Unlike sex, gender can be continually altered and redeployed, and we are witnessing in real time the wild proliferation of its meaning.”

**Abigail Favale - ‘The Genesis of Gender’**

a world in  
*CONFUSION*





**HOW DID WE GET HERE?**



**HOW DID WE GET HERE?**

*Matter doesn't matter.*



HOW DID WE GET HERE?

*Autonomy rules.*



“The culture of modern individualism has become the moral wallpaper of the modern world.”

**Jonathan Grant - ‘Divine Sex’**

**HOW DID WE GET HERE?**

*Authenticity rules.*



**WHERE ARE WE NOW?**

*A rapidly changing landscape*



9 <sup>1</sup>Because of his strength I will give heed unto thee; For God is my high tower.

10 My God with his lovingkindness will meet me: God will let me see my desire upon mine enemies.

11 Slay them not, lest my people forget: Scatter them by thy power, and bring them down, O Lord our shield.

12 For the sin of their mouth, and the words of their lips, Let them even be taken in their pride, And for cursing and lying which they speak.

13 Consume them in wrath, consume them, so that they shall be no more: And let them know that God ruleth in Jacob, Unto the ends of the earth.

14 And at evening let them return, let them howl like a dog, And go round about the city.

15 They shall wander up and down for food, And tarry all night if they be not satisfied.

16 But I will sing of thy strength; Yea, I will sing aloud of thy lovingkindness in the morning: For thou hast been my high tower, And a refuge in the day of my distress.

17 Unto thee, O my strength, will I sing praises: For God is my high tower, the God of my mercy.

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For the Chief Musician; set to Shushan Eduth. Michtam of David, to teach; when he strove with Aram-naharaim and with Aramzobab, and Joab returned, and smote of blood in the Valley of Salt twelve thousand.

60 O God, thou hast cast us off, thou hast broken us down; Thou hast been angry; oh restore us again.

<sup>1</sup> Acc. to Sept. and Vulg., My strength  
<sup>2</sup> Or, them that be in wait for me  
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2 Thou hast made the land to tremble; thou hast rent it: Heal the breaches thereof; for it shaketh.

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4 Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, That it may be displayed because of the truth. <sup>1</sup>Sē'lāh

5 That thy beloved may be delivered. Save with thy right hand, and answer us.

6 God hath spoken in his holiness: I will exult; I will divide Shē'chem, and mete out the valley of Sic'cōth.

7 Gīl'e-ād is mine, and Mā-nās'sēh is mine; E'phra'im also is the defence of my head; Jū'dāh is my sceptre.

8 Mō'ab is my washpot; Upon E'dōm will I cast my shoe: Phi-lis'ti-ā, shout thou because of me.

9 Who will bring me into the strong city? Who hath led me unto E'dōm?

10 Hast not thou, O God, cast us off? And thou goest not forth, O God, with our hosts.

11 Give us help against the adversary; For vain is the help of man.

12 Through God we shall do valiantly; For he it is that will tread down our adversaries.

Confidence in God's Protection.

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<sup>2</sup> Or, languish  
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Lead me to the rock that is higher than I.

3 For thou hast been a refuge for me, A strong tower from the enemy.

4 I will dwell in thy tabernacle for ever: I will take refuge in the covert of thy wings. <sup>1</sup>Sē'lāh

5 For thou, O God, hast heard my vows: Thou hast given me the heritage of those that fear thy name.

6 Thou wilt prolong the king's life; His years shall be as many generations.

7 He shall abide before God for ever: Oh prepare lovingkindness and truth, that they may preserve him.

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God's word speaks CLEARLY

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Lead me to the rock that is higher than I.  
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# Genesis 1:26-28

## God made us male & female



“It sounds very freeing to say, ‘You can become who you want to be’. But our *actual* identity, in that way of thinking, is completely invented, and therefore fluid, and therefore profoundly unstable... **It is no wonder that our culture suffers from an identity crisis.**”

**Vaughan Roberts - Transgender**

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# Genesis 1:26-28

## God made us male & female

“A woman is the kind of human being whose body is organised around the **potential** to gestate new life.”

**Abigail Favale - ‘The Genesis of Gender’**

# Genesis 2:19-25

## The body reveals the person

634  
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PSALMS 60.2—62.6  
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**“The body isn’t just something that clothes  
the self, but is itself the self.”**

**Alistair Roberts**

**“The truth is: we are our bodies, and our bodies are ourselves.”**

**Helen Joyce - Trans**

# Genesis 3

## Broken bodies in a sin-scarred world

634  
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3 How long will ye set upon a man, That ye may slay him, all of you, Like a leaning wall, like a tottering fence?  
4 They only consult to thrust him down from his dignity; They delight in lies; They bless with their mouth, but they curse inwardly. <sup>1</sup>Sē'lāh  
5 My soul, wait thou in silence for God only: For my expectation is from him.  
6 He only is my rock and my salvation:  
<sup>7</sup>Or, a rock that is too high for me  
<sup>8</sup>Heb. tent  
<sup>9</sup>Or, given a heritage unto those &c.  
<sup>10</sup>Heb. is silent unto God  
<sup>11</sup>Or, as otherwise read, Ye shall be slain &c.  
<sup>12</sup>Heb. be thou silent unto God

9 <sup>1</sup>Because of his strength I will give heed unto thee; For God is my high tower.  
 10 My God with his lovingkindness will meet me: God will let me see *my desire* upon mine enemies.  
 11 Slay them not, lest my people forget: Scatter them by thy power, and bring them down, O Lord our shield.  
 12 For the sin of their mouth, and the words of their lips, Let them even be taken in their pride, And for cursing and lying which they speak.  
 13 Consume them in wrath, consume them, so that they shall be no more: And let them know that God ruleth in Jacob, Unto the ends of the earth.  
 14 And at evening let them return, let them howl like a dog, And go round about the city.  
 15 They shall wander up and down for food, And tarry all night if they be not satisfied.  
 16 But I will sing of thy strength; Yea, I will sing aloud of thy lovingkindness in the morning: For thou hast been my high tower, And a refuge in the day of my distress.  
 17 Unto thee, O my strength, will I sing praises: For God is my high tower, the God of my mercy.

Lament over Defeat in Battle, and Prayer for Help.

For the Chief Musician; set to Shushan Eduth. Michtam of David, to teach; when he strove with Aram-naharaim and with Aramzobab, and Joab returned, and smote of blood in the Valley of Salt twelve thousand.

60 O God, thou hast cast us off, thou hast broken us down; Thou hast been angry; oh restore us again.

<sup>1</sup> Acc. to Sept. and Vulg., My strength  
<sup>2</sup> Or, them that be in wait for me  
<sup>3</sup> Or, Make them wander to and fro  
<sup>4</sup> That is, The lily of testimony

2 Thou hast made the land to tremble; thou hast rent it: Heal the breaches thereof; for it shaketh.  
 3 Thou hast showed thy people hard things: Thou hast made us to drink the wine of staggering.  
 4 Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, That it may be displayed because of the truth. *Sē'lāh*  
 5 That thy beloved may be delivered. Save with thy right hand, and answer us.  
 6 God hath spoken in his holiness: I will exult; I will divide Shē'chem, and mete out the valley of Sic'cōth.  
 7 Gīl'e-ād is mine, and Mā-nās'sēh is mine; E'phra'im also is the defence of my head; Jū'dāh is my sceptre.  
 8 Mō'āb is my washpot; Upon E'dōm will I cast my shoe: Phi-lis'ti-ā, shout thou because of me.  
 9 Who will bring me into the strong city? Who hath led me unto E'dōm? Hast not thou, O God, cast us off? And thou goest not forth, O God, with our hosts.  
 11 Give us help against the adversary; For vain is the help of man.  
 12 Through God we shall do valiantly; For he it is that will tread down our adversaries.

Confidence in God's Protection.

For the Chief Musician; on a stringed instrument. A Psalm of David.

61 Hear my cry, O God; Attend unto my prayer. 2 From the end of the earth will I call unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed:

<sup>1</sup> Another reading is, me  
<sup>2</sup> Or, languish  
<sup>3</sup> Or, Unto  
<sup>4</sup> Or, Who will lead me &c.  
<sup>5</sup> Or, With not thou, O God, who hast cast us off, and goest . . . hosts?  
<sup>6</sup> Heb. salvation  
<sup>7</sup> Or, fainteth

Lead me to the rock that is higher than I.  
 3 For thou hast been a refuge for me, A strong tower from the enemy.  
 4 I will dwell in thy tabernacle for ever: I will take refuge in the covert of thy wings. *Sē'lāh*  
 5 For thou, O God, hast heard my vows: Thou hast given me the heritage of those that fear thy name.  
 6 Thou wilt prolong the king's life; His years shall be as many generations.  
 7 He shall abide before God for ever: Oh prepare lovingkindness and truth, that they may preserve him.  
 8 So will I sing praise unto thy name for ever, That I may daily perform my vows.

God alone a Refuge from Treachery and Oppression.

For the Chief Musician; after the manner of Jeduthun. A Psalm of David.

62 My soul waiteth in silence for God only: From him cometh my salvation.  
 2 He only is my rock and my salvation: He is my high tower; I shall not be greatly moved.  
 3 How long will ye set upon a man, That ye may slay him, all of you, Like a leaning wall, like a tottering fence?  
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<sup>1</sup> Or, a rock that is too high for me  
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<sup>4</sup> Heb. is silent unto God  
<sup>5</sup> Or, as otherwise read, Ye shall be slain &c.  
<sup>6</sup> Heb. be thou silent unto God

John 1:14  
God becomes (gendered) flesh



“For those who feel alienated from their sex, who feel like they can’t get warm in their bodies, no matter how many layers they put on, Jesus offers hope. Not the hope of a differently sexed body, but the hope of a new reality that no longer feels like labour pains.”

**Rebecca McLaughlin - The Secular Creed**

“We must critique the framework, in the appropriate time and place, while embracing those who are caught up in that framework, no matter how they look or sound.”

**Abigail Favale - ‘The Genesis of Gender’**

**our call to be**  
*COURAGEOUS &*  
*COMPASSIONATE*



# Critique the Ideology



# Critique the Ideology

Engage



# Critique the Ideology

Engage  
Talk



# Critique the Ideology

Engage  
Talk  
Campaign



**(Deeply) Love  
the Individual**







# Confident Christianity

Sharing the gospel  
in an age of tough questions

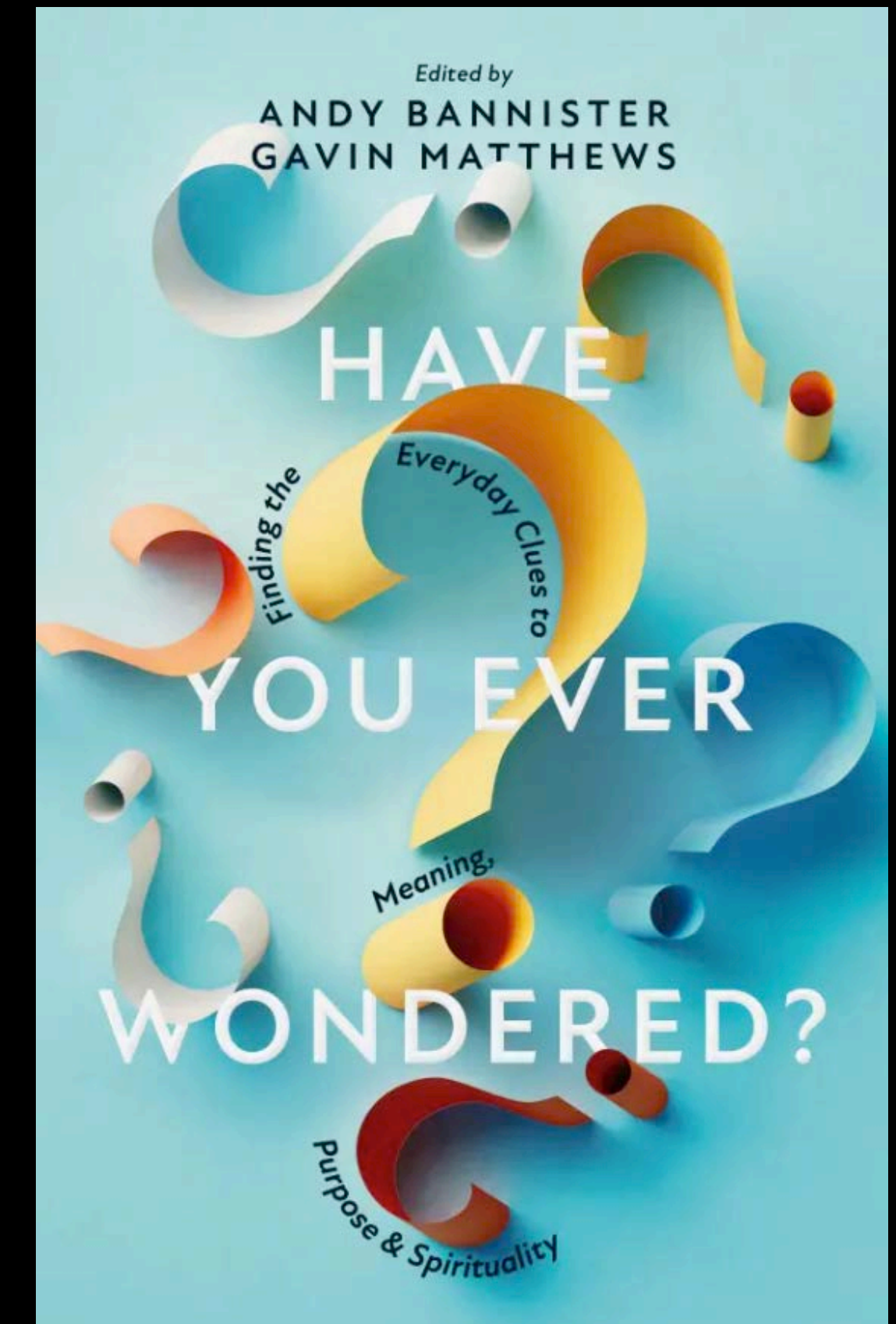
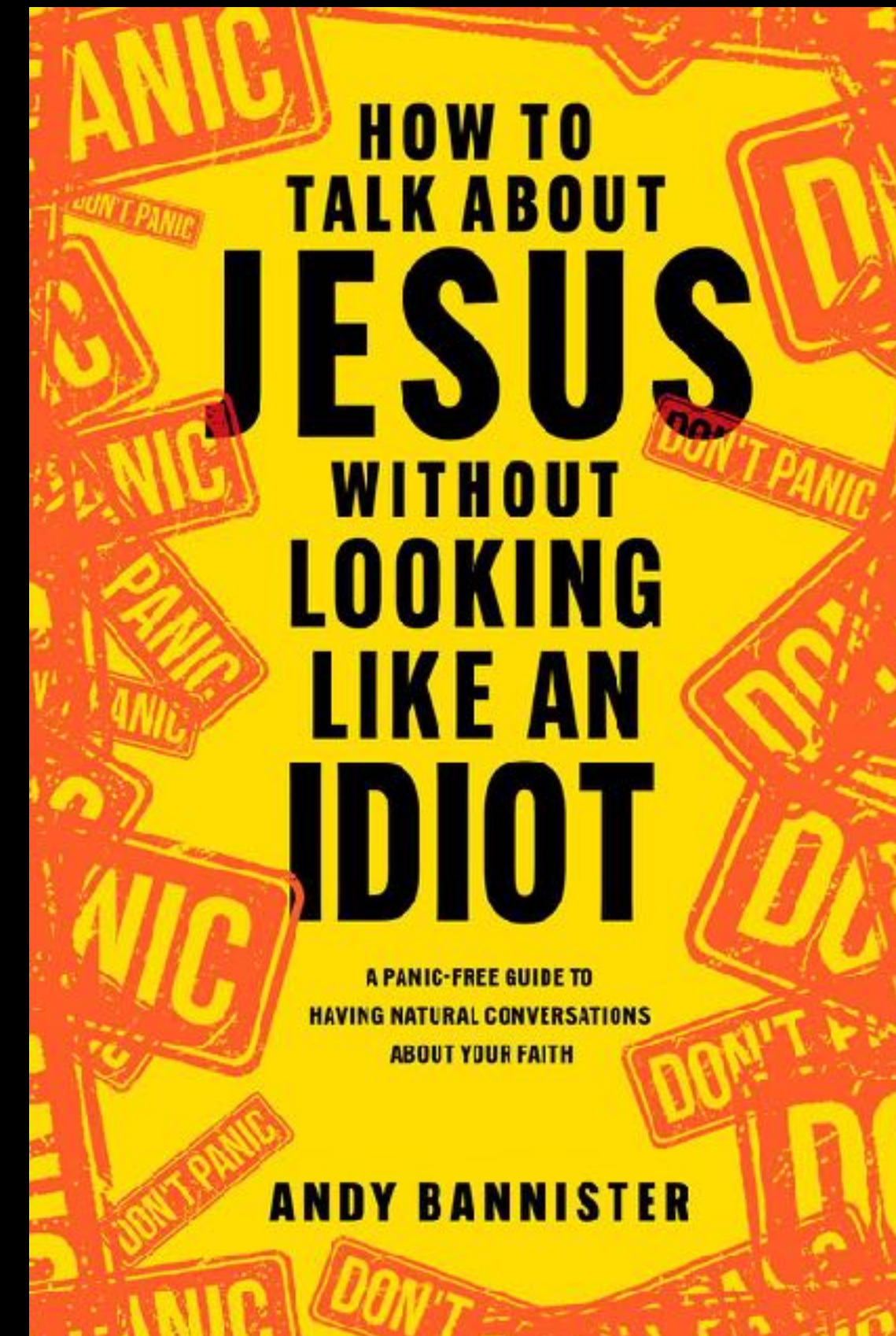
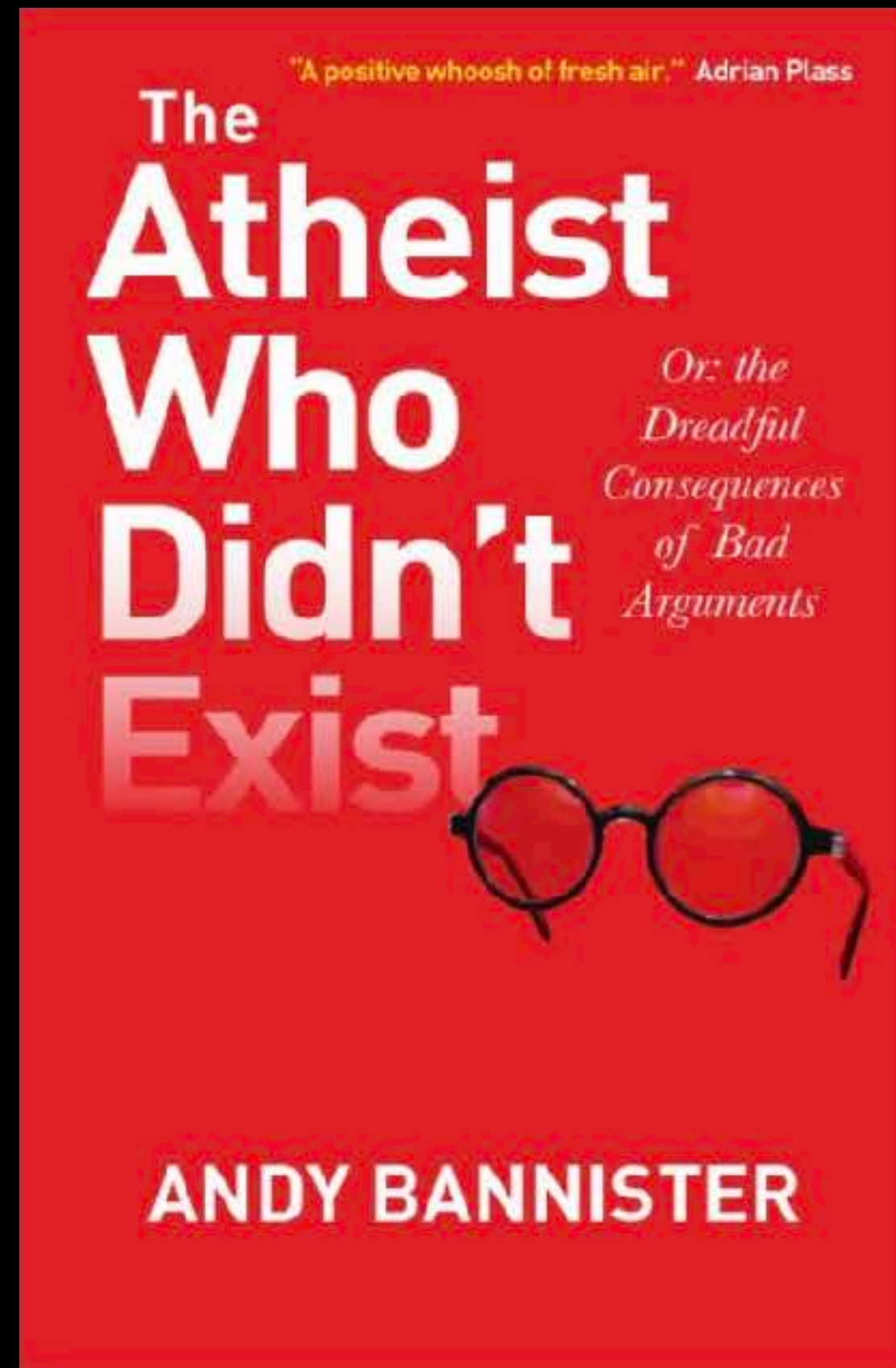
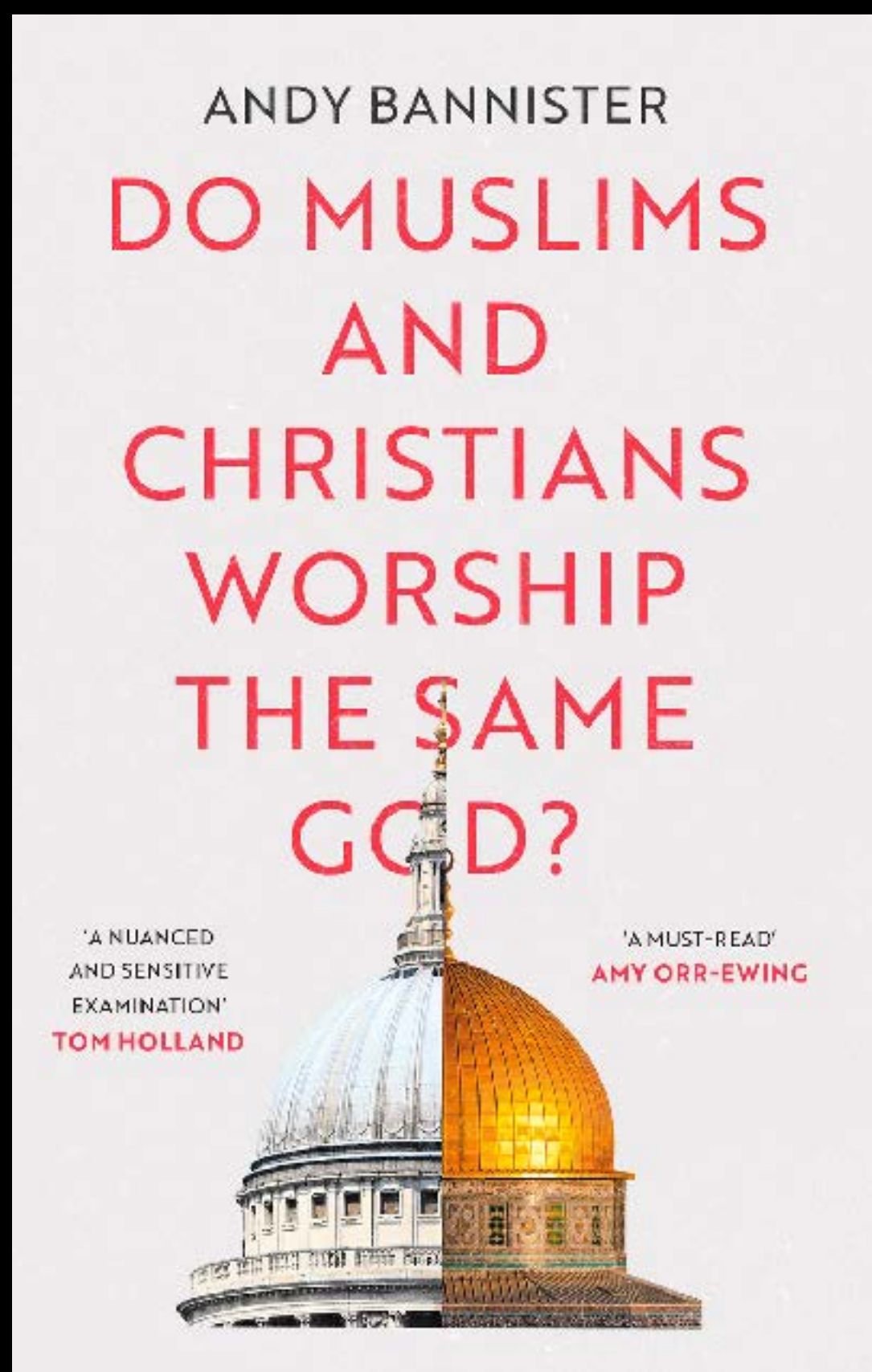
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