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True to tradition and true to the present moment: Re-reading Paul through Luther for a re-vitalised theology of being human.

This paper summarizes the argument of my thesis, which considers the engagement with contemporary critical thought aside the interpretation of scripture and tradition in recent theological arguments about homosexuality as sinful. It argues that when theologies engage the thought and conditions of the present environment from a position of anxiety, and when they interpret scripture and tradition reductively, they render a limiting and false picture not only of homosexuals, but of what it means to be human living in the present world. The thesis undertakes a re-reading of several Pauline insights from Romans and 1 Corinthians about the community of faith, the exercise of love and the limits of human knowledge. This reading is guided by Martin Luther’s hermeneutic and draws on the thought of several contemporary theologians, philosophers and historians. It shows that a theology that reads scripture and tradition as both historically-situated and de-temporalised, and in light of contemporary critical thought, produces a realistic vision of what it means to be human in a post-secular environment.

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