

Book Bans: Are Christians Forcing Their Ideology on an Unbelieving World? Shepherds 360 Conference

What is going on?

- I) Inappropriate Books are being given to children in schools and public libraries. These books include affirmations of LGBT lifestyles, encouragements to transition to the other gender and experiment sexually, and contain graphic descriptions and illustrations of sex.
- II) Parents who are concerned are slandered and bullied and called **radical book banners**.

The truth about “Book Bans”

Top “Banned” Books in America:

| # | Title | Challenged For | # of challenges |
|---|---|---|-----------------|
| 1 | Gender Queer: A Memoir | LGBTQIA+ content, claimed to be sexually explicit | 151 |
| 2 | All Boys Aren’t Blue | LGBTQIA+ content, claimed to be sexually explicit | 86 |
| 3 | The Bluest Eye | Depiction of sexual abuse, EDI content, claimed to be sexually explicit | 73 |
| 4 | Flamer | LGBTQIA+ content, claimed to be sexually explicit | 62 |
| 5 | Looking for Alaska | LGBTQIA+ content, claimed to be sexually explicit | 55 |
| 6 | The Perks of Being a Wallflower | Depiction of sexual abuse, LGBTQIA+ content, drug use, profanity, claimed to be sexually explicit | 55 |
| 7 | Lawn Boy | LGBTQIA+ content, claimed to be sexually explicit | 54 |
| 8 | The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian | Profanity, claimed to be sexually explicit | 52 |
| 9 | Out of Darkness | Depictions of abuse, claimed to be sexually explicit | 50 |

PEN America’s criteria for if a book is “banned”

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| Book was temporarily removed from library shelves, but later returned to those shelves | Banned |
| Book was removed from a school library but still assigned in class | Banned |
| Book was removed from assigned curricula but is still available in the library | Banned |
| Book is unavailable in the middle school library but is available in the high school library | Banned |
| Book was objected to, regardless of if it was in a school’s library to begin with | Banned |

How should we respond?

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| A Christian response to this is to call evil ‘evil’ and to call good ‘good.’ |
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Isaiah 5:20: “Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!”

Proverbs 17:15: “He who justifies the wicked, and he who condemns the just, Both of them alike are an abomination to the LORD.”

Mark 9:42: “But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea.”

What we should do:

1. Monitor what your kids are reading, and what they are being exposed to.
2. Get involved at a local level, school boards need godly members with a Christian worldview.
3. Tell the Truth, these books are not appropriate, nothing is being banned, and parents are not evil.