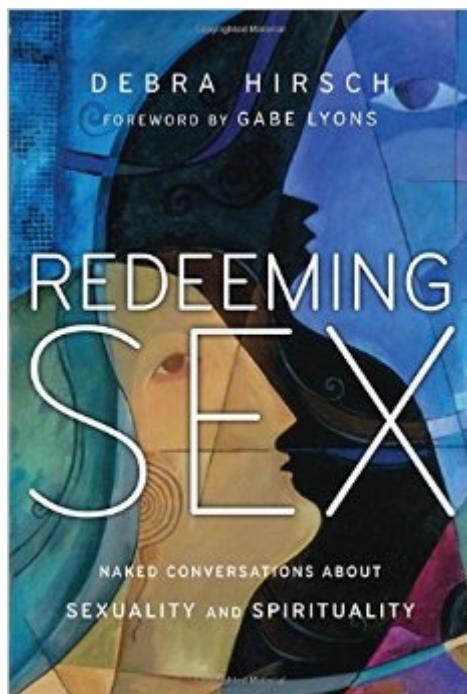


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# Redeeming Sex: Naked Conversations About Sexuality And Spirituality (Forge Partnership Books)



## Synopsis

Missio Alliance Essential Reading List of 2015 2015 Readers' Choice Award Winner One of Seedbed's 10 Notable Books from 2015 Nothing has exposed the gap between the church and the broader society quite like the cultural argument over sexuality. Relationships, identities, orientations and even seemingly straightforward concepts such as gender have cut battle lines between the church and the world. In the fog of war and the cloud of conflict, it's increasingly hard to see our way clearly. There is hope, however. Debra Hirsch has seen it firsthand in meaningful lifelong relationships with LGBT friends and neighbors, in Christian fellowships and in movements that have held a concern for people created in God's image and a high view of the Bible's teaching on sexuality in constructive tension. When you consider the world from the perspective of God's kingdom mission, it turns out the smoke clears and a redemptive imagination takes root. Discover a holistic, biblical vision of sex and gender that honors God and offers good news to the world.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Since I first met Deb and Alan Hirsch, and heard Deb speak on this topic, back in January of 2007, I've been waiting for her to write this book. It was well worth the wait. This book is one of those that everyone must read. Then everyone must process it with someone else. Perhaps with one person, perhaps in a small group. Each of us have experienced books that cause us to shift. This is one of them. But be prepared for it to not be what you were expecting â " whatever it is that you're expecting. I think Deb has highlighted a basic human problem. It is a problem with integrity â " with

the proper integration of spirituality and sexuality. And because we have functioned within this particular disintegration for so very long, we have come to normalize it. We don't know we're blind because we think this is the way it is supposed to be. Hirsch is someone who is comfortable talking about things most people aren't. She is like a fresh wind on a smoggy day. Deb has a way of taking normal things and hosing off the shame that has been applied. She sneaks past the watchful dragons of society — especially church society — and turns on the lights, chasing away specters of ignorance too long masquerading as truth. Deb has essentially asked us to pick up our relational tool belts and start intentionally using what the late psychiatrist, M. Scott Peck, called discipline's tools, to help us learn to receive God's love, return God's love, and share God's love with one another. She is calling us to the tasks of discipleship as we live in the Way of Jesus. The tool that allows us to delay gratification has too often been misused — like using a wrench as a hammer. Even worse, when it comes to sexuality, it has too often been a matter of denying gratification.

Okay. It's not much of a secret that men like sex and like to think about it. Well, maybe that last part isn't as true. Men like to fantasize about sex. They like to dream about sex. They especially like to have sex. Not many of them enjoy really thinking about sex. I try to be different, although I certainly enjoy all the other activities, and so when I saw Hirsch's book on sexuality, I decided to pick it up. Not only that, it's often good to get a woman's perspective on sex. Not only that, but it's good to get the view of a Christian woman on sex. Hirsch's book details how she came to Jesus and she came from a lifestyle that had practically done everything sexual that you can imagine, and then some. Today, she says she has a more traditional stance, but when she became a Christian, she had a lot of questions about what the church had to say about sex. That shouldn't be a shock since so many of us today have the same questions, both inside and outside of the church. Thankfully, Hirsch found a church that while they consisted largely of senior citizens while she and her friends were young rebel types, they loved her with the love of Jesus and the pastor made sure to get them to Jesus first and then let Him be the guiding light in their sexual issues. So right at the start, I'd like to point out a problem we have in our churches. How often do we talk about sex? I mean really, how often in church do you hear talk about sex? It's hardly ever. We barely say a thing and when we do, we tend to speak in euphemisms and if it's some forbidden dirty topic. How often does sex meanwhile show up in the Bible? Abundantly. How much does it show up in the popular culture? Try to turn on the television and not see it! How often are we talking about it in politics?

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and the Commerce of Sex (Worlds of Desire: The Chicago Series on Sexuality, Gender, and Culture)

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