



# Just Love: A Framework for Christian Sexual Ethics

By Margaret Farley

Download now

Read Online 

## Just Love: A Framework for Christian Sexual Ethics By Margaret Farley

This long-awaited book by one of American Christianity's foremost ethicists proposes a framework for sexual ethics whereby justice is the criterion for all loving, including love that is related to sexual activity and relationships. It begins with historical and cross-cultural explorations, then addresses the large questions of embodiment, gender, and sexuality, and finally delineates the justice framework for sexual ethics.

Though *Just Love's* particular focus is Christian sexual ethics, Farley's framework is broad enough to have relevance for multiple traditions. Also covered are specific issues in sexual ethics, including same-sex relationships, marriage and family, divorce and second marriage, celibacy, and sex and its negativities.

 [Download Just Love: A Framework for Christian Sexual Ethics ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Just Love: A Framework for Christian Sexual Ethi ...pdf](#)

# Just Love: A Framework for Christian Sexual Ethics

By Margaret Farley

## Just Love: A Framework for Christian Sexual Ethics By Margaret Farley

This long-awaited book by one of American Christianity's foremost ethicists proposes a framework for sexual ethics whereby justice is the criterion for all loving, including love that is related to sexual activity and relationships. It begins with historical and cross-cultural explorations, then addresses the large questions of embodiment, gender, and sexuality, and finally delineates the justice framework for sexual ethics.

Though *Just Love's* particular focus is Christian sexual ethics, Farley's framework is broad enough to have relevance for multiple traditions. Also covered are specific issues in sexual ethics, including same-sex relationships, marriage and family, divorce and second marriage, celibacy, and sex and its negativities.

## Just Love: A Framework for Christian Sexual Ethics By Margaret Farley Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #273874 in Books
- Published on: 2008-02-15
- Released on: 2008-02-15
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x .70" w x 6.00" l, 1.10 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 336 pages

 [Download Just Love: A Framework for Christian Sexual Ethics ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Just Love: A Framework for Christian Sexual Ethi ...pdf](#)

## Download and Read Free Online *Just Love: A Framework for Christian Sexual Ethics* By Margaret Farley

---

### Editorial Review

#### Review

'In a world of moral confusion and ethical compromise, the principles for which Margaret Farley stands have shone as a lodestar of hope. Or perhaps like a beacon, for her life and work guide us through the haze of uncertainty in which we nowadays perforce live, leading us always toward the good and the real.' - Sherwin Nuland, author of *How We Live and How We Die*.

<?xml:namespace prefix = o ns = "urn:schemas-microsoft-com:office:office" />

Reference & Research Book News/ August 2006

(mention)

'On a topic about which too many angry polemics are written, Farley's calm, commonsense style comes as a relief...This will be a wonderful book to use with students...In a society where sex is used to sell nearly everything...Margaret Farley has the guts and the clarity of mind to give as a third alternative to "narrowly constituted moral systems and rules" on the one hand and sexual chaos on the other.'

William C. Placher, *Christian Century*, October 17th 2006

(*The Christian Century*)

*Just Love* carries to a new level Farley's analysis of different world-views and cultural systems....As a theologian, Farley gives us a social ethic of sex that incorporates both the biblical "option for the poor" and the orientation of Catholic social thought to the universal common good. As a feminist, she reminds Catholics that their tradition should make its global option for women more consistent, more explicit and more effective, especially in the areas of sex, motherhood, marriage and family.' ~ Lisa Sowell Cahill, *America*, December 2006

(Lisa Sowle Cahill, J. Donald Monan Professor of Theology, Boston College)

'This is an excellent work by a leading Roman Catholic feminist and ethicist, written with flair, clarity, and absence of jargon. The many changing circumstances surrounding sexuality are well described. The influence of Foucault and Freud is critically introduced. The Christian traditions of thinking about sex, and their indebtedness to Graeco-Roman assumptions, are helpfully summarised.' (Adrian Thatcher, *Church Times*, February 2007 *Church Times*)

'Farley is best known for her largeness of spirit and for the demanding intelligence she brings to her teaching and writing. Her new book exudes those qualities...Farley's manner is academic but not obscure, and once readers grow comfortable with it, they will reap the benefits of wisdom gleaned from decades of teaching and scholarship...I consider *Just Love* an important resource and spur for further collaboration among Christians and others on the knotty issues of sexual ethics. Throughout her book, Farley evinces the sort of intellectual modesty that comes from great learning and an open mind....*Just Love* does not provide all the

answers concerning sexual ethics. But it does lay out a serious and solid framework for thinking about them."

(Luke Timothy Johnson, *Commonweal*)

"The double entendre of the title, is only the start of an excellent book. Margaret Farley examines the meaning of human sexuality and how this meaning can be incorporated into what she terms "a moral view of human and Christian life." Eschewing simple answers to what can be murky questions, and withholding judgment based in either a strictly deontological approach or a relativized culturally conditioned ethic on sexual issues, Farley sets out to establish adequate criteria to judge the goodness or rightness of the human sexual interaction. While she neither denies or dismisses the insights of western culture, including the teaching and tradition of the Catholic Church, she embraces the healthy anthropology of that tradition that assumes human beings can continue to learn more about themselves and their sexuality. Insights can be found in many areas, including the conclusions of alternative sexual ethical frameworks proposed by contemporary thinkers. New knowledge may press beyond past conclusions, resulting in the development of new normative positions. The author does not promise answers, but rather proposes a framework from which answers can be derived. The marvel of the book is that she has managed in just 300 pages to cover so much ground and do it so well.

"...Farley's work, the patina of her practical wisdom and passionate caring gives heart to what is a highly scholarly work. The author's colleagues, students and other readers—dare I say "devotees"—will not be disappointed in *Just Love*. Farley has, in her usual fashion, covered the topic with impeccable scholarship, practical wisdom and a compassion and acceptance for the existential reality of human beings in a sexual world. The book, while clearly not an ideal beach book, will keep the reader interested to the end."

(*Catholic Books Review*)

Farley's book can be recommended for scholar and novice alike. The work is eminently readable, despite the profundity of its subject matter. It is extensively documented, with clarifying and often lengthy footnotes, which the average person may simply ignore...nearly 300 works are cited in the explanatory notes."

(Bondings)

"This book offers both the comprehensive presentation of the voices that have shaped the present state of the question and a constructive proposal that argues that these voices require a consistent and comprehensive account of justice as the foundation for sexual ethics ... This is why classics are - and should be - read broadly by those within and outside of a field of study, by experts and the general reader. This is why Farley's *Just Love* is, at the least, a contemporary classic in Christian sexual ethics." - Timothy F. Sedgwick, Anglican Theological Seminary, May 2007

"Farley's eagerly anticipated book delivers exactly what it ambitiously promises: a framework for Christian sexual ethics.... Consistent with her earlier works, such as *Personal Commitments* (1986) and "An Ethics for Same-Sex Relations" (in *A Challenge to Love* [1983]). Through them all she is developing tools by which we can thoroughly and thoughtfully evaluate practices within their particular situations and cultural contexts, rather than laying out permanent norms (which she believes often function as taboos, short-circuiting moral reflection). New here is her careful demonstration of means for employing diverse contemporary, global, and cumulative Western thinking on sexuality. For the benefit of students and informed general readers F. efficiently surveys the important primary and secondary sources but she also performs a subtle service for specialists.... Her broad norms and caveats are clear and convincing; copious footnotes guide the reader to all the major sources and controversies in the Western history and ethics of sexuality, and to many global ones. The book is highly recommended for scholars in the field and for graduate students as an introduction to ethical method generally."- Cristina L. H. Traina, *Theological Studies*

(*Theological Studies*)

"What distinguishes a contribution and a classic in a field of study is the difference between works that further a conversation and works that reconstruct the conversation. This is why classics are (and should be) read broadly by those within and outside of a field of study, by "experts" and the "general reader." This is why Farley's *Just Love* is (at the least) a contemporary classic in Christian sexual ethics." - Anglican Theological Review

(*Anglican Theological Review*)

"This book is a gigantic contribution to the discourse and understanding of human sexuality. It is

monumental. It turns the entrenched dictates of the Vatican on their head...opens the subject of sex to rational discourse by Christian people, and acknowledges the direction from which the source of light comes—reason and science informed by just love open to all."

Richard Sipe

"*Just Love* responds eloquently to the quest for enduring meanings of embodiment, gender identity, and sexuality that might ground moral wisdom in the face of cultural diversity and a growing skepticism about the adequacy of normative frameworks in sexual ethics...Farley has written a text that is at once compassionate and wise, inclusive, and moving. She draws on poetry as well as philosophy, historical studies, scientific research, and the meanings of sexuality. Theologians and their advance students, pastoral guides, and adults searching for wisdom in relationships will all appreciate this book." —Rosemarie E.

Gorman, *Religious Studies Review*, Vol. 33, No. 2, April 2007

(Rosemarie E. Gorman)

Mention of title winning Grawemeyer Religion Award in *Earth Times*, December 2007

"This important book by Margaret A. Farley, professor emerita of Christian ethics at Yale Divinity School and member of the Sisters of Mary, won the prestigious Grawemeyer award, administered by the Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary...Young people, parents, and pastors are challenged to work together to help us all lead sexually responsible lives in the light of Farley's challenge to practice 'just love.'" —*The American Catholic* (Joseph Cunneen)

"This book is a serious primer for anyone who wants to think about sexual ethics in some depth. The scholarship is impeccable, and the footnotes not only give the broad sources but are often interesting in themselves." - *Catholic Herald*

"she intelligently examines the evidence surrounding the questions from a variety of perspectives ...The book is broad enough to be relevant and appeal to a wider audience than solely the Christian...The book is very readable."

*INTAMS ( Journal for the study of Marriage and Spirituality)*, vol.13/2, autumn 2007

(Anna Abraham)

"Margaret Farley's *Just Love* won the 2008 Louisville Grawemeyer Award in Religio...The award is well deserved for *Just Love*, which takes the powerful idea that justice is the criterion for morally good human love and applies it to sexual ethics in a style that is clear yet substantive, learned yet free of academic jargon" "Just Kove forwards a substantive framework for thinking about sexual ethics and handles concrete moral issues with sensitivity and compassion. This volume will become a standard in university ethics courses and should be welcomed as a resource for parish adult education groups"

1 July 2009

(Darlene Fozard Weaver *Theology*)

"This spring I taught a course to undergraduates at Macalester College on the topic "Religion, Gender, and Sexuality", in which Farley's book was a required text. In that context it proved to be an invaluable tool for two reasons. First, it provided my students with clear and readable summaries of much literature already covered but which is not as stylistically lucid as Farley's prose. Second, her book was a marvellous manual for teaching students what goes into the making of an ethical argument and how they might go about

constructing such a normative position on secular ethics for themselves. Since most of the secular literature we read was mainly of a descriptive or explanatory nature, while the religious and theological literature articulated those normative views on gender and sexuality that are problematic for this current generation of college students, Farley helped them to synthesize various contemporary viewpoints critical of the Christian tradition with a revised approach to ethical reflection. Her book validates the experiential and intellectual reasons persons have to be critical of the church's inherited sexual morality, at the same time that she clarifies why Christian faith itself provides a warrant for ethical revision on behalf of its distinctive vision of what human life may and should be when lived out of a love that just is. There is no better book on Christian sexual ethics. *Tolle, lege: take and read.*" —Paul E. Capetz, *Touchstone* (Paul E. Capetz)

"In 2008, Margaret Farley received the Grawemeyer Award in Religion for her achievement in *Just Love*. This prize, which places *Just Love* in the company of works such as Marilynne Robinson's *Gilead* and Jurgen Moltmann's *The Coming of God*, indicates the respect the book commands...*Just Love* represents both a contribution to the developing literature of relational ethics and a 'creative reconstruction' of the natural law tradition, broadly conceived...Reflecting on the natural realities of human nature and experience, she outlines a universally applicable justice ethic and undertakes to identify common ground upon which *all* persons of good will can reason together about moral perplexities relating to our interactions as embodied, gendered, sexual beings...This book, then, consolidates and systematizes the central themes and intentions of Margaret Farley's truly remarkable career."

-D.M. Yeager, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, Sept. 2009

Reference & Research Book News/ August 2006  
(Sanford Lakoff)

*Just Love* carries to a new level Farley's analysis of different world-views and cultural systems....As a theologian, Farley gives us a social ethic of sex that incorporates both the biblical "option for the poor" and the orientation of Catholic social thought to the universal common good. As a feminist, she reminds Catholics that their tradition should make its global option for women more consistent, more explicit and more effective, especially in the areas of sex, motherhood, marriage and family.' ~ Lisa Sowell Cahill, *America*, December 2006  
(Sanford Lakoff)

"Farley is best known for her largeness of spirit and for the demanding intelligence she brings to her teaching and writing. Her new book exudes those qualities...Farley's manner is academic but not obscure, and once readers grow comfortable with it, they will reap the benefits of wisdom gleaned from decades of teaching and scholarship...I consider *Just Love* an important resource and spur for further collaboration among Christians and others on the knotty issues of sexual ethics. Throughout her book, Farley evinces the sort of intellectual modesty that comes from great learning and an open mind....*Just Love* does not provide all the answers concerning sexual ethics. But it does lay out a serious and solid framework for thinking about them."  
(Sanford Lakoff *Commonweal*)

"The double entendre of the title, *is only the start of an excellent book. Margaret Farley examines the meaning of human sexuality and how this meaning can be incorporated into what she terms "a moral view of human and Christian life." Eschewing simple answers to what can be murky questions, and withholding judgment based in either a strictly deontological approach or a relativized culturally conditioned ethic on sexual issues, Farley sets out to establish adequate criteria to judge the goodness or rightness of the human sexual interaction. While she neither denies or dismisses the insights of western culture, including the teaching and tradition of the Catholic Church, she embraces the healthy anthropology of that tradition that assumes human beings can continue to learn more about themselves and their sexuality. Insights can be found in many areas, including the conclusions of alternative sexual ethical frameworks*

proposed by contemporary thinkers. New knowledge may press beyond past conclusions, resulting in the development of new normative positions. The author does not promise answers, but rather proposes a framework from which answers can be derived. The marvel of the book is that she has managed in just 300 pages to cover so much ground and do it so well.

"...Farley's work, the patina of her practical wisdom and passionate caring gives heart to what is a highly scholarly work. The author's colleagues, students and other readers—dare I say "devotees"—will not be disappointed in *Just Love*. Farley has, in her usual fashion, covered the topic with impeccable scholarship, practical wisdom and a compassion and acceptance for the existential reality of human beings in a sexual world. The book, while clearly not an ideal beach book, will keep the reader interested to the end."

(Sanford Lakoff)

Just Love

is a thoughtful reexamination of 'justice in loving' within the sexual sphere, including lesbian/gay relationships. Subtitled *A Framework for Christian Sexual Ethics*, the new work offers a fundamental but updated set of ethical principles, based on well articulated norms of justice.

Farley's book can be recommended for scholar and novice alike. The work is eminently readable, despite the profundity of its subject matter. It is extensively documented, with clarifying and often lengthy footnotes, which the average person may simply ignore...nearly 300 works are cited in the explanatory notes." (Sanford Lakoff)

"This book offers both the comprehensive presentation of the voices that have shaped the present state of the question and a constructive proposal that argues that these voices require a consistent and comprehensive account of justice as the foundation for sexual ethics ... This is why classics are - and should be - read broadly by those within and outside of a field of study, by experts and the general reader. This is why Farley's *Just Love* is, at the least, a contemporary classic in Christian sexual ethics." - Timothy F. Sedgwick, Anglican Theological Seminary, May 2007

"Farley's eagerly anticipated book delivers exactly what it ambitiously promises: a framework for Christian sexual ethics.... Consistent with her earlier works, such as *Personal Commitments* (1986) and "An Ethics for Same-Sex Relations" (in *A Challenge to Love* [1983]). Through them all she is developing tools by which we can thoroughly and thoughtfully evaluate practices within their particular situations and cultural contexts, rather than laying out permanent norms (which she believes often function as taboos, short-circuiting moral reflection). New here is her careful demonstration of means for employing diverse contemporary, global, and cumulative Western thinking on sexuality. For the benefit of students and informed general readers F. efficiently surveys the important primary and secondary sources but she also performs a subtle service for specialists.... Her broad norms and caveats are clear and convincing; copious footnotes guide the reader to all the major sources and controversies in the Western history and ethics of sexuality, and to many global ones. The book is highly recommended for scholars in the field and for graduate students as an introduction to ethical method generally."- Cristina L. H. Traina, *Theological Studies*

(Sanford Lakoff)

"*Just Love* responds eloquently to the quest for enduring meanings of embodiment, gender identity, and sexuality that might ground moral wisdom in the face of cultural diversity and a growing skepticism about the adequacy of normative frameworks in sexual ethics...Farley has written a text that is at once compassionate and wise, inclusive, and moving. She draws on poetry as well as philosophy, historical studies, scientific research, and the meanings of sexuality. Theologians and their advance students, pastoral guides, and adults searching for wisdom in relationships will all appreciate this book." —Rosemarie E.

Gorman, *Religious Studies Review*, Vol. 33, No. 2, April 2007

(Sanford Lakoff)

"This important book by Margaret A. Farley, professor emerita of Christian ethics at Yale Divinity School and member of the Sisters of Mary, won the prestigious Grawemeyer award, administered by the Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary... Young people, parents, and pastors are challenged to work together to help us all lead sexually responsible lives in the light of Farley's challenge to practice 'just love.'" —*The American Catholic* (Sanford Lakoff)

"she intelligently examines the evidence surrounding the questions from a variety of perspectives ...The book is broad enough to be relevant and appeal to a wider audience than solely the Christian...The book is very readable."

*INTAMS ( Journal for the study of Marriage and Spirituality)*, vol.13/2, autumn 2007  
(Sanford Lakoff)

"Margaret Farley's *Just Love* won the 2008 Louisville Grawemeyer Award in Religio...The award is well deserved for *Just Love*, which takes the powerful idea that justice is the criterion for morally good human love and applies it to sexual ethics in a style that is clear yet substantive, learned yet free of academic jargon" "Just Kove forwards a substantive framework for thinking about sexual ethics and handles concrete moral issues with sensivity and compassion. This volume will become a standard in university ethics courses and should be welcomed as a resource for parish adult education groups"

1 July 2009

(Sanford Lakoff *Theology*)

"This spring I taught a course to undergraduates at Macalester College on the topic "Religion, Gender, and Sexuality", in which Farley's book was a required text. In that context it proved to be an invaluable tool for two reasons. First, it provided my students with clear and readable summaries of much literature already covered but which is not as stylistically lucid as Farley's prose. Second, her book was a marvellous manual for teaching students what goes into the making of an ethical argument and how they might go about constructing such a normative position on secular ethics for themselves. Since most of the secular literature we read was mainly of a descriptive or explanatory nature, while the religious and theological literature articulated those normative views on gender and sexuality that are problematic for this current generation of college students, Farley helped them to synthesize various contemporary viewpoints critical of the Christian tradition with a revised approach to ethical reflection. Her book validates the experiential and intellectual reasons persons have to be critical of the church's inherited sexual morality, at the same time that she clarifies why Christian faith itself provides a warrant for ethical revision on behalf of its distinctive vision of what human life may and should be when lived out of a love that just is. There is no better book on Christian sexual ethics. *Tolle, lege: take and read.*" —Paul E. Capetz, *Touchstone* (Sanford Lakoff)

#### About the Author

Margaret A. Farley holds the Gilbert L. Stark Chair in Christian Ethics and Professor Emerita at Yale University Divinity School. She was awarded the 2007 St Elizabeth Setan Medal and 2008 Grawemeyer award. She is also apast president of the Society of Christian Ethics and the Catholic Theological Society of America.

## Users Review

### From reader reviews:

#### Rhonda Robitaille:

The book *Just Love: A Framework for Christian Sexual Ethics* make you feel enjoy for your spare time. You should use to make your capable more increase. Book can to be your best friend when you getting pressure or having big problem along with your subject. If you can make examining a book *Just Love: A Framework for Christian Sexual Ethics* for being your habit, you can get much more advantages, like add your own capable, increase your knowledge about some or all subjects. You are able to know everything if you like start and read a e-book *Just Love: A Framework for Christian Sexual Ethics*. Kinds of book are a lot of. It means that, science publication or encyclopedia or other people. So , how do you think about this e-book?



**Byron Jorgensen:**

Spent a free time and energy to be fun activity to perform! A lot of people spent their sparetime with their family, or their own friends. Usually they performing activity like watching television, likely to beach, or picnic inside park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Do you want to something different to fill your own free time/ holiday? May be reading a book might be option to fill your free time/ holiday. The first thing you will ask may be what kinds of publication that you should read. If you want to try out look for book, may be the reserve untitled Just Love: A Framework for Christian Sexual Ethics can be very good book to read. May be it might be best activity to you.

**Richard Martinez:**

In this particular era which is the greater man or woman or who has ability in doing something more are more special than other. Do you want to become one of it? It is just simple solution to have that. What you must do is just spending your time almost no but quite enough to get a look at some books. On the list of books in the top listing in your reading list is definitely Just Love: A Framework for Christian Sexual Ethics. This book that is certainly qualified as The Hungry Hillside can get you closer in becoming precious person. By looking right up and review this e-book you can get many advantages.

**Mark York:**

You can find this Just Love: A Framework for Christian Sexual Ethics by look at the bookstore or Mall. Simply viewing or reviewing it might to be your solve challenge if you get difficulties for the knowledge. Kinds of this e-book are various. Not only by simply written or printed but additionally can you enjoy this book by simply e-book. In the modern era such as now, you just looking from your mobile phone and searching what your problem. Right now, choose your personal ways to get more information about your reserve. It is most important to arrange you to ultimately make your knowledge are still change. Let's try to choose proper ways for you.

**Download and Read Online Just Love: A Framework for Christian Sexual Ethics By Margaret Farley #XNBVQFJAEMR**

## **Read Just Love: A Framework for Christian Sexual Ethics By Margaret Farley for online ebook**

Just Love: A Framework for Christian Sexual Ethics By Margaret Farley Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Just Love: A Framework for Christian Sexual Ethics By Margaret Farley books to read online.

### **Online Just Love: A Framework for Christian Sexual Ethics By Margaret Farley ebook PDF download**

**Just Love: A Framework for Christian Sexual Ethics By Margaret Farley Doc**

**Just Love: A Framework for Christian Sexual Ethics By Margaret Farley Mobipocket**

**Just Love: A Framework for Christian Sexual Ethics By Margaret Farley EPub**

**XNBVQFJAEMR: Just Love: A Framework for Christian Sexual Ethics By Margaret Farley**