

Donna Freitas' *Sex & the Soul* (Section 4)

Freitas identifies two types of students “when it comes to sex and the soul”:

The Godly “see religion and sex as inseparable, at least on a theoretical level.” These students believe sex is for marriage and strive to restrict it to these confines. Sex is never a personal decision, but one with implications for the community. These students are typically found at religious colleges.

The Secular “split sex and religion into two entirely separate spheres.” Their religious beliefs have nothing to do with their sex lives. “Sex is personal, not communal.” “Sex is *supposed* to be casual in today’s day and age. And if religion says otherwise, well then, religion is outdated and unrealistic.” These students are typically found at spiritual colleges.

Some evangelical students view dating as dangerous. Dating couples are tempted to cross sexual boundaries. Dating also may distract people from God. “The depth and intensity of this stress and anxiety around sex, sin and shame among students are hard to overstate.”

Gay/lesbian/bisexual students at evangelical colleges also connect their religious and sexual identities “but in a way that is more fraught and even more frightening to them than for their heterosexual peers.”

Catholic students find their church’s teachings irrelevant, but don’t know much about them. They may be estranged from Catholicism because it “seems to have nothing relevant to say about dating and romance.”