

God, Men & Sexuality

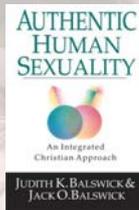
#2 Sexuality, Men & Women

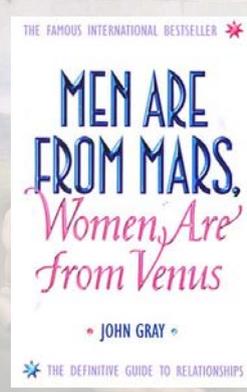
Peter Janetzki - Counsellor/Educator
 Dip.T., Grad. Dip.Soc.Sc., M.Soc.Sc.(Counselling),
 CCAA (Clin), PACFA Reg



6 Biblical Principles That Lead to Authentic Sexuality

1. Human sexuality is established in the differentiation between male and female and in the unity established between them.
2. Sexuality is a good gift meant to draw persons to deeper levels of knowing self, others and God.
4. Sexuality and spirituality are intricately connected. - Sex is a metaphor for the mystical union that exists between Christ and His Church.





Is this the real guide book?



Genesis 1 & 2

1. That Genesis is about God
2. God's Pattern for Relationship
3. God's Design for Sexuality & Gender



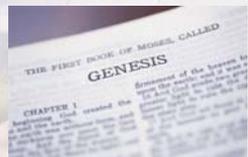

God

Elohim - It is a frequently used term and the most comprehensive of the El combinations. It is a plural of majesty. It is a revelation of the infinite nature of God. In the creation narrative, we read: "Then Elohim said, 'Let us make man in our image.'" (Gen1:26) This name suggests that there is a mystery to the Creator-God which humankind cannot fully fathom. God is absolute, infinite Lord over creation and history. (Holman Bible Dictionary)

Gen 1 - 32 times in 31 verses



The Bible is all About Relationship



From the beginning to end the Bible itself is a story about marriage. It begins in the Book of Genesis with the marriage of Adam and Eve, and it ends in the Book of Revelation with the "wedding of the Lamb"—the marriage of Christ and His Church.

(Nest 2000 p.18)



Genesis 2: 15-25 (NIV)

The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

The LORD God said, "It is **not good for the man to be alone**. I will make a helper suitable for him."



Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field.

But for Adam no **suitable helper** was found. So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh.



Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman', for she was taken out of man."

For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.



Theology of Relationships

1. Before the fall all was perfect yet it was "not good for man to be alone" (Genesis 2:18, 20)
2. So God took a part of man and created a counterpart for him. A person who would complement him. Man did not need a woman to fulfil him as God was the fulfilment of man. Why a counterpart?
3. Maybe to give man a deeper and greater understanding /appreciation of God – God is relationship.



Helpmate

Soncino Translation:

Genesis 2:18. 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a help meet for him.'

Soncino Commentary:

it is not good From this verse the Rabbis deduce that marriage is a Divine institution, a holy estate in which alone man lives his true and complete life. Celibacy is contrary to nature.

a help. A wife is not a man's shadow or subordinate, but his other self, his 'helper', in a sense which no other creature on earth can be.

meet for him. To match him. the Hebrew term *K'negdo* may mean either 'at his side', i.e. fit to associate with; or, 'as over against him', i.e. corresponding to him.

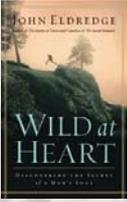


Good Wife's Guide' from Housekeeping Monthly 1955

What about the Traditional argument of creation order?

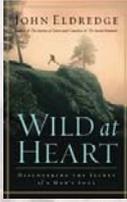
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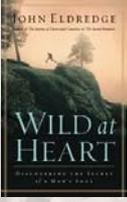
There's a reason why man is captivated by a woman. Eve is the crown of creation. If you follow the Genesis narrative carefully, you'll see that each new stage of creation is better than the one before.

First, all is formless, empty and dark. God begins to fashion the raw materials, like an artist working with a rough sketch or a lump of clay. Light and dark, land and sea, earth and sky—it's beginning to take shape. With a word, the whole floral kingdom adorns the earth..

... Can you hear the crescendo starting to swell, like a great symphony building and surging higher and higher?

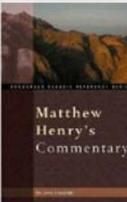
Then comes Adam, the triumph of God's handiwork. It is not to any member of the animal kingdom that God says, "You are my very own image, the icon of my likeness." Adam bears the likeness of God in his fierce, wild, and passionate heart.

And yet, there is one more finishing touch. There is Eve. Creation comes to its high point, its climax with her. She is God's finishing touch. And all Adam can say is, "Now".

Eve embodies the beauty and the mystery and the tender vulnerability of God. As poet William Blake said, "The naked woman's body is a portion of eternity too great for the eye of man".

(Eldredge 2001: 36)

Yet man being made last of the creatures, as the best and most excellent of all, Eve's being made after Adam, and out of him, puts an honour upon that sex, as the glory of the man, (1Co:11:7). If man is the head, she is the crown, a crown to her husband, the crown of the visible creation. The man was dust refined, but the woman was dust double-refined, one removed further from the earth.

Matthew Henry's Commentary




They were Naked (Gen 1:24 & 2:25)

'arowm'; nude, either partially or totally:--naked

Purity & Innocence




The serpent was crafty (Gen 3:1)

'aruwum'; pass. part. of H6191; cunning (usually in a bad sense):--crafty, prudent.

Shame
(fear & hiding)





Relationship After the Fall (Gen 3:7-9)

Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

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What's happened here? Before they ate the fruit they were both naked and felt no shame. Now their experience of nakedness changed. Why?

God, who is Truth, cannot tell a lie. He said that if they eat from the tree they would die. Now, they didn't immediately fall over dead, but they did die spiritually.

It was the Spirit that was given to them as the calling and the power to love. When the Spirit "died" in our first parents, so did their ready ability to love in the image of God as male and female. Absent the Spirit, sexual desire became inverted, self-seeking.

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Adam and Eve no longer clearly saw in each other's body the revelation of God's plan of love. They saw the other's body more as a thing to use for their own selfish desires. In this way the experience of nakedness in the presence of the other—and in the presence of God—became an experience of fear, alienation, shame: "I was afraid. Because I was naked; and I hid myself" (Gen 3:10).

Their shame was connected not so much with the body itself but with the lust now in their hearts. For they still knew that since they were created as persons for their own sakes, they were never meant to be looked upon as things for another person's use [Abuse]. So they covered their bodies to protect their own dignity from the other's lustful "look"

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West 2000, p.24



The Serpent's Craftiness is Deception (Gen 3:13)

Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

'nasha': a prim. root; to lead astray, i.e. (mentally) to delude, or (morally) to seduce:--beguile, deceive

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Outside the of Eden (Gen 3:16-19)

To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you."

To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' 'Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field.

By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."

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Pre-Fall		Post-Fall
Counterpart	→	Completer / Fulfiller
Innocence	→	Fear
Purity	→	Shame
Partnership	→	Power
♂ Dominion	→	Domination
♀ Sociability	→	Social Enmeshment
Transparency	→	Pretence
Authentic Intimacy	→	Relation Neediness

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Deficit Approach - Genesis 3

$$\frac{1}{2} * \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{4}$$

Potential Approach - Genesis 2

$$1 \times 1 = 1^2$$


God's design of human sexuality in Eden is:



- Counterpart
- Authentic Intimacy
- Transparency
- Innocence
- Purity
- Partnership
- ♂ **Dominion**
- ♀ **Sociability**





Reflection

1. What has stood out most from this session for me?
2. What are my thoughts about the pre-fall & post-fall understanding of relationships & sexuality?
3. In what ways do I experience transparency or pretence in my relationships and sexuality?



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