
charming! And our bed is verdant.

He: 2:2 Like a lily among thorns is my darling among the young women.

She: ³ Like an apple tree among the trees of the forest is my beloved among the young men. I delight to sit in his shade, and his fruit is sweet to my taste. ⁴ Let him lead me to the banquet hall, and let his banner over me be love. ⁵ Strengthen me with raisins, refresh me with apples, for I am faint with love. ⁶ His left arm is under my head, and his right arm embraces me.

The wonder of God's story illustrated by marital sex

"...and the two became one flesh."

Eros redeemed!

Gen. 3:15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

God's eros (passionate love) for His people illustrated

Hosea 2:14 "Therefore I am now going to allure her; I will lead her into the wilderness and speak tenderly to her. ¹⁵ There I will give her back her vineyards, and will make the Valley of Achor a door of hope. There she will respond as in the days of her youth, as in the day she came up out of Egypt. ¹⁶ "In that day," declares the LORD, "you will call me 'my husband'; ... ¹⁹ I will betroth you to me forever; I will betroth you in righteousness and justice, in love and compassion. ²⁰ I will betroth you in faithfulness, and you will acknowledge the LORD."

Key: Page 1: are; goal; illustration.

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Marriage Sexuality

Sexuality—part 6

Grace and Truth – part 18

August 20, 2023

The design of sex for marriage

Marriage is a covenant between one man and one woman for life, with the potential to bring new life.

Genesis 1:27 So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

We a _____ gendered, down into the very core of our being.

Genesis 1:28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

Genesis 2:22 Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. ²³ 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."

²⁴ That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh. ²⁵ Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

"One flesh" is both the g _____ of marriage and an I _____ of marriage.

Marital roles illustrated by sex

Ephesians 5:22 Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

*Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, **love your wives just as Christ loved the church** and **gave himself up for her**²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.²⁸ In this same way, **husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies**. He who loves his wife loves himself.²⁹ After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they **feed** and **care** for their body, just as Christ does the church.*

*Eph. 5:30 ...for we are members of his body.³¹ “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and **be united to his wife**, and **the two will become one flesh**.”³² This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.³³ However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.*

The wonder of agape and eros love

“Agape” –

“Eros” –

Proverbs 30:18 There are three things that are too amazing for me, four that I do not understand:¹⁹ the way of an eagle in the sky, the way of a snake on a rock, the way of a ship on the high seas, and the way of a man with a young woman.

The wonder of marital sex (other-centered eros)

Song of Songs 1:2 She: Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth—for your love is more delightful than wine.³ Pleasing is the fragrance of your perfumes; your name is like perfume poured out. No wonder the young women love you!⁴ Take me away with you—let us hurry! Let the king bring me into his chambers.

Friends: We rejoice and delight in you; we will praise your love more than wine.

She: How right they are to adore you!⁵ Dark am I, yet lovely, daughters of Jerusalem, dark like the tents of Kedar, like the tent curtains of Solomon.⁶ Do not stare at me because I am dark, because I am darkened by the sun. My mother’s sons were angry with me and made me take care of the vineyards; my own vineyard I had to neglect.⁷ Tell me, you whom I love, where you graze your flock and where you rest your sheep at midday. Why should I be like a veiled woman beside the flocks of your friends?

Friends:⁸ If you do not know, most beautiful of women, follow the tracks of the sheep and graze your young goats by the tents of the shepherds.

He:⁹ I liken you, my darling, to a mare among Pharaoh’s chariot horses.¹⁰ Your cheeks are beautiful with earrings, your neck with strings of jewels.¹¹ We will make you earrings of gold, studded with silver.

She:¹² While the king was at his table, my perfume spread its fragrance.¹³ My beloved is to me a sachet of myrrh resting between my breasts.¹⁴ My beloved is to me a cluster of henna blossoms from the vineyards of En Gedi.

He:¹⁵ How beautiful you are, my darling! Oh, how beautiful! Your eyes are doves.

She:¹⁶ How handsome you are, my beloved! Oh, how
