

Love and Sex: Some Basic Distinctions (Part 1)  
(Rev. Dr. John Bartol)

*“Christianity has glorified marriage more than any other religion; and it totally approves of the human body. Nearly all the greatest love poetry in the world has been produced by Christians... If anyone says that sex itself is bad, Christianity contradicted him at once.”*

C.S. Lewis.

Yes, sex is God’s invention. Some seem to think that it was the idea of a Hollywood promoter. However, the Bible says clearly, “God created man in his own image ... male and female He created them. And before sin ever entered human race, God blessed them and said, be fruitful and increase in number ... Everything God made was very good” (Genesis 1:27 – 28, 31).

Think how colorless, and one-dimensional this world would be if God had not created us male and female. Some animals simply split in half in order to reproduce, why not humans?

Yes, God had a delightful plan in mind when He said, “It is not good for man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him” (Genesis 2:18). Man, by himself was incomplete in terms of fulfillment and destiny. He longed for companionship with another like himself, yet different.

Only his Creator understood man’s need and the solution for his aloneness. He had created a woman – sized void in man, and emptiness no one else could fill. Try to imagine Adam’s reaction when he first met Eve-Wow! A beautiful rabbinical commentary on Genesis 2:21 – 22 reads, “the man is restless while he misses the rib that was taken out of his side, and the woman is restless until she gets under the arm from whence was.” Taken

Why am I a man? Why am I a woman? Theologian Otto Piper offers helpful insight: “Only through the sexual act in the context of ‘the one flesh henosis’ can a man, as husband, reveal to a woman the secret of her womanhood, and a woman, as wife, reveal to a man the secret of his manhood.” In this one-flesh union, we have a beautiful picture of how two persons, husband and wife, living in Paradise, and enjoying harmony with God and one another.

Next we read, “The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame” (Genesis 2:25). These words affirm the purity of sexual intimacy in marriage with no need for concealment, shame or fear. In their innocence they experienced an uninhibited enjoyment of physical intimacy and spiritual oneness, rarely found today.

A meeting of two bodies cannot of itself make it love, it can only express a love that already exists. Canadian psychiatrist J.E. Reunion explains how “Intimacy

flourishes in a bed of trust; it withers when trust is scanty; it dies when trust is betrayed." As marriage represents a sacred covenant, so sex is the seal of that covenant

"Our pleasures would have been much greater if we had remained in Paradise; following God's plan" C.S.Lewis