

“For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

I praise you, for I am
fearfully and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are your works;
that I know very well.”

Gender and Sexuality

Beauty and Brokenness in God's Image-Bearers

Gender and Sexuality: Where the Conversion Had Gone

Relationships

Attraction and Orientation

Biological Reality

Identity and Fulfillment

Social Constructs

Singleness and Celibacy

Masculinity and Femininity

Marriage and Faithfulness

Gender Roles

Friendship and Intimacy

Power Structures

Procreation and Family

Biological
Realities

Social
Constructs



Sexual Actions/Decisions

An Exercise in Theological Reflection

Primary Texts

- Genesis 1-3
 - Romans 1
 - I Corinthians 6; 7; 11
 - Galatians 3
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- Ephesians 5

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was **formless and void**, and **darkness** was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the **waters**...

And God saw that the light was good; and God **separated the light** from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it **separate the waters** from the waters." So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed after their kind, and trees bearing fruit with seed in them, after their kind; and God saw that it was good...

...God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.”

Then God said, “Let Us make mankind in **Our image**, according to **Our likeness**; and let them **rule** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” God created mankind in His own image, in the image of God He created him; **male and female** He created them. God **blessed** them; and God said to them, “**Be fruitful and multiply**, and **fill** the earth, and **subdue** it; and **rule** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

Then the Lord God **formed man from the dust** of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the **breath of life**...

...Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the **garden** of Eden to **cultivate** it and **keep** it...

...Then the Lord God said, “It is **not good** for the man to be **alone**; I will make him **a helper suitable for him**...”

...The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was **not found a helper as his partner**. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he **took one of his ribs** and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he **made into a woman** and **brought her to the man**...

Then the man said,
“This at last is **bone of my bones**
and **flesh of my flesh**;
this one shall be **called Woman**,
for **out of Man** this one was taken.”

Therefore a man **leaves** his father and his mother and **clings** to his wife,
and they become **one flesh**. And the man and his wife were both **naked**,
and were **not ashamed**.

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the **eyes of both were opened**, and they **knew that they were naked**; and they sewed fig leaves together and **made loincloths** for themselves.

They heard the sound of the Lord **God walking in the garden** at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife **hid themselves** from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden...

...He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was **afraid**, because I was **naked**; and I **hid myself**."

To the woman he said, “I will greatly **increase your pangs in childbearing**; in pain you shall bring forth children, yet **your desire** shall be for your husband, and he shall **rule over** you.”

And to the man he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ **cursed is the ground** because of you; in **toil** you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the **sweat** of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; **you are dust, and to dust you shall return...**”

The man named his wife Eve, because she was the **mother of all living**. And the Lord **God made garments of skins** for the man and for his wife, and **clothed** them.

The Breakdown of Human Intimacy



Ever since the creation of the world his eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things he has made. So they are without excuse; for though they knew God, they **did not honor him as God** or give **thanks** to him, but they **became futile in their thinking**, and their **senseless** minds were **darkened**. Claiming to be wise, they **became fools**; and they **exchanged the glory** of the immortal God for images resembling a mortal human being or birds or four-footed animals or reptiles.

Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the degrading of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

For this reason God gave them up to degrading passions. Their women exchanged natural intercourse for unnatural, and in the same way also the men, giving up natural intercourse with women, were consumed with passion for one another. Men committed shameless acts with men and received in their own persons the due penalty for their error.

However that may be, let each of you **lead the life that the Lord has assigned**, to which God **called** you. This is my **rule** in all the churches. Was anyone at the time of his call already **circumcised**? Let him not seek to remove the marks of circumcision. Was anyone at the time of his call uncircumcised? Let him not seek circumcision. Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing; but obeying the commandments of God is everything. **Let each of you remain in the condition in which you were called.**

Were you a **slave** when called? Do not be concerned about it. Even if you can gain your freedom, **make use of your present condition** now more than ever. For whoever was called in the Lord as a slave is a freed person belonging to the Lord, just as whoever was free when called is a slave of Christ. You were bought with a price; do not become slaves of human masters. **In whatever condition you were called, brothers and sisters, there remain with God...**

...I mean, brothers and sisters, **the appointed time has grown short**; from now on, let even those who have wives be **as though they had none**, and those who mourn **as though they were not mourning**, and those who rejoice **as though** they were not rejoicing, and those who buy **as though** they had no possessions, and those who deal with the world **as though** they had no dealings with it. **For the present form of this world is passing away.**

As many of you as were baptized into Christ have **clothed yourselves with Christ**. There is no longer **Jew or Greek**, there is no longer **slave or free**, there is **no longer male and female**; for all of you are **one** in Christ Jesus.

(see I Corinthians 11.1-16 for the importance of gender distinctions)

Do you not know that **wrongdoers** will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived! **Fornicators**, idolaters, **adulterers**, **male prostitutes**, **sodomites**, thieves, the greedy, drunkards, revilers, robbers—none of these will **inherit the kingdom** of God. And this is what some of you used to be. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

Broken/Beautiful People to Be Loved