

# Sex and Romance in the New Millennium

Genesis 2:18-25

## I. Introduction.

### A. The Past Half-Century.

1. In 1972 *Joy of Sex* was published.
  - a. Sold 12 million copies.
  - b. Alex Comfort (author) advocated free sex, opposed “prudery” of traditional mores.
2. The peaceful 50's.
  - a. Not heaven on earth, but...
  - b. Generally stable families.
3. The sexual revolution.
  - a. All this changed in the 60's and 70's.
  - b. Free love – picture of nudes at Woodstock.
4. Results of the sexual revolution.
  - a. Divorce skyrocketed.
  - b. Single parent families increased.
  - c. Abortions exploded.
  - d. STD's reached near-epidemic proportions.
  - e. AIDS

### B. The Present.

1. Who won the sexual revolution?
  - a. Not the kids. – they reaped the bitter fruit of broken families.
  - b. We all have lost.
2. The return of romance.
  - a. Popular author: Jane Austen.
  - b. Movies of Shakespeare plays.
  - c. Enthusiasm for ballroom dancing.
  - d. Wendy Shalit review.

Let's be real. The sexual revolution, goes the argument, has been a curse for women. Before girls had the power, their modest ways set the rules of the game: to pursue meant to woo, and to bed meant to wed. Sexual modesty fostered not only a more civil society but also a sexier world. A glimpse of a knee, the graze of a shoulder sent shivers. Delicious! But now women are encouraged to be like men, and what a mess it is. The refined has been replaced by the vulgar, and sex has become just the thing you do on the third date. Is it surprising that girls lack self-esteem, that sexual harassment abounds, that men act like boys and women ultimately sit home alone? If only we could go back...

But her book has touched a nerve in a society overdosed on sex and emerging from a most immodest year of sexual scandal...Shalit defends, at times compellingly, shame, privacy, gallantry and sexual reticence, if not virginity until marriage. Without these, she says, women have lost power, consigned to "dreary hookups" or sexual violence. "We want our 'feminine mystique' back," she writes, "and with it male honor."... "Modesty is misunderstood as repression, prudery and evil. But it's about your right to limits without being accused of hang-ups." Holding back, she adds, "is about the erotic, not the neurotic, waiting for the right person to try."

3. Recognition of the importance of families.
  - a. Covenant marriage laws.
  - b. Secular leaders are no longer saying divorce is good for the children.

C. The Future: let's check the Bible.

## II. The Origin of Sex. Gen. 2:18-25

- A. It is not good for man to be alone.
  1. Contrast all the "goods" in chapter 1.
- B. A helper corresponding to man.
  1. Not the same.
  2. Not an animal.
  3. Not superior.
  4. Not inferior.
  5. A match to a pair.

When God began to make woman, His stated intention was to make a helper "suitable" for him. The word *כַּנְגִידוֹ* comes from *נָגַד* which means "what is conspicuous or in front"<sup>1</sup>. With the preposition *כִּ* it means "according to what is in front of=corresponding to"<sup>2</sup> The NIV and NASB translate it "suitable", the RSV "fit", and the NKJ "comparable". All these are reasonable translations, the NKJ perhaps being the closest to the Hebrew. In any case, the woman is created, not as identical, nor as much different from the man, but as the *match to a pair*. Clearly any attempt to cast woman as inferior to man is ruled out, as is any suggestion that she should be identical to him. Thus whatever role she plays will be different, but equivalent in value to the man's.

6. A helper in ruling the earth. (Gen. 1:26-28)

*Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue*

---

<sup>1</sup> Francis Brown, *The New Brown-Driver-Briggs-Gesenius Hebrew and English Lexicon* (Peabody, Massachusetts: Hendrickson Publishers, 1979) p. 617.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

*it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

- a. A Queen for the King.
- b. Not a servant.

7. *Then* God made two of one; *now* He makes one of two.
8. This is the basis of sexual attraction.

C. Adam's joy.

1. Love sonnet.
2. Shows intimacy.
3. Both sex and romance are implied.
  - a. Fun.
  - b. Beautiful.
  - c. Satisfying.
4. Sex is God's idea – C. S. Lewis.

D. Summary

1. Man is not an animal.
  - a. Copulation merely to reproduce or to satisfy a primal urge is beastly and dehumanizing.
2. Sex and romance are part of being human.
3. Sex and romance are created by God.

III. The Beginning of Woes.

- A. Sin entered the world. (Gen. 3)
- B. Sin is rebellion against God: refusal to believe His word. (vv. 1-6)
- C. Results of sin.
  1. Conflict between man and woman. (v. 12)
  2. Conflict with the earth. (vv. 17-19)
  3. Alienation from God. (vv. 23-24)
- D. Ultimate result of sin: death and destruction. (Gen. 6: 5, 11-13)

*Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually...The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. And God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth.*

IV. The Beginning of Restoration.

- A. Noah: a new world.
- B. Abraham: a new family.
- C. Moses: a new people.
  - 1. Ex. 20:14; also 21:7-11; 22:16-17.
- D. Jesus: a new universe.
  - 1. Expanded the law. (Mt. 5:27-32)

*“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. Furthermore it has been said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery.”*

- 2. Reconnected the law to it’s original intent. (Mt. 19:4-6)

*And He answered and said to them, “Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.”*

V. The Role of Rules.

- A. The necessity of rules.
  - 1. How would you like a painting made by randomly splashing colors on a canvas?
  - 2. How could you read if letters could mean anything?
  - 3. What happens if you do not follow the rules in programming?
- B. Rules are necessary for any society; the alternative is no society.
- C. Paul called the Law a tutor which kept God’s people on track until Christ came.
- D. If rules are good and necessary, why do we rebel against them?
  - 1. Sin in our hearts. (Rom. 7)
- E. Bad news: death for disobedience to God’s law.
  - 1. Hell is worse than STD’s, emotional scars, etc.

VI. The Knight in Shining Armor.

A. Jesus came to rescue us from our sin. (Luke 19:10)

*“for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”*

B. Jesus is our Bridegroom. (Mark 2:19-20)

*And Jesus said to them, “Can the friends of the bridegroom fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them they cannot fast. But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast in those days.”*

C. Jesus came to a wicked, ugly people, and loved us.

D. Jesus is the Hound of Heaven.

I FLED Him, down the nights and down the days;  
I fled Him, down the arches of the years;  
I fled Him, down the labyrinthine ways  
Of my own mind; and in the midst of tears  
I hid from him, and under running laughter.  
Up vistaed hopes I sped;  
And shot, precipitated  
Adown titanic glooms of chasméd fears  
From those strong feet that followed, followed after .  
But with unhurrying chase,  
And unperturbéd pace,  
Deliberate speed, majestic instancy,  
They beat — and a Voice beat  
More instant than the feet —  
"All things betray thee, who betrayest me."

Now of that long pursuit  
Comes at hand the bruit;  
That Voice is round me like a bursting sea:  
"And is thy Earth so marred,  
Shattered in shard on shard?  
Lo, all things fly thee, for thou fliest Me!  
Strange, piteous, futile thing,  
Wherefore should any set thee love apart?  
Seeing none but I makes much of naught"  
(He said),  
"And human love needs human meriting,  
How hast thou merited —  
Of all Man's clotted clay the dingiest clot?  
Alack! Thou knowest not  
How little worthy of any love thou art!  
Whom wilt thou find to love ignoble thee  
Save Me, save only Me?  
All which I took from thee I did but take,  
Not for thy harms,  
But just that thou might'st seek it in My arms,  
All which thy child's mistake  
Fancies as lost, I have stored for thee at home;

Rise, clasp My hand, and come."

Halts by me that footfall;  
Is my gloom, after all,  
Shade of His hand, outstretched caressingly?  
"Ah, fondest, blindest, weakest,  
I am He Whom thou seekest!  
Thou dravest love from thee, who dravest Me."

E. By His love we are being transformed into a beautiful bride. (Eph. 5:25-27)

*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.*

VII. Sex and Romance Renewed.

- A. Jesus calls us to follow Him – to imitate Him.
- B. As Christ came seeking a bride, so a man ought to seek a woman to love, someone to help him.
- C. As we longed for a Savior, so a woman ought to seek a man to love, to join for life.
- D. Sex and romance are wonderful in marriage.
- E. Outside of marriage, sex and romance always disappoint in the end.

VIII. The Future of Sex and Romance.

- A. American society.
  - 1. We can't really say.
  - 2. Probably a slight increase in abstinence and romance.
  - 3. Probably a slight decrease in divorce.
  - 4. Probably an increase in STD's; 1/3 of Africa may die of AIDS.
- B. You.
  - 1. Christ forgives any sins you may have committed, even sexual sins – if you believe in Him.
  - 2. Christ offers you a bright future.
  - 3. Christ expects your obedience to His commands.
  - 4. Obedience to Christ's commands brings joy and satisfaction.
- C. Christ.
  - 1. Christ is better than sex.
  - 2. Christ is better than romance.
  - 3. True love is found only in Christ.
  - 4. If you have Him, you can do without other loves.
- D. Conclusion.
  - 1. Hound of Heaven.

And human love needs human meriting,  
How hast thou merited —  
Of all Man's clotted clay the dingiest clot?  
Alack! Thou knowest not  
How little worthy of any love thou art!

-7-

Whom wilt thou find to love ignoble thee  
Save Me, save only Me?

2. No one will ever love you like Christ.
3. Don't despise His love. Love Him first all your life.

C. David Green  
Lehigh University  
October 25, 2000