

Sex Is Sacred: Not A Plaything For Pleasure

Genesis 1:26 [NIV] *“Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, ...’”*

Humans are created in the image of the Creator God.

Genesis 2:7 [NIV] *“the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.”*

Humans are composed of the same elements as found in the earth with an added spirit element which makes them different to all other creatures.

Job 32:8 [NIV] *“But it is the spirit in a man, the breath of the Almighty, that gives him understanding.”*

It is the spirit element in us that gives us intellect.

1 Corinthians 2:11 [NIV] *“For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man’s spirit within him? In the same way no-one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.”*

This spirit allows us humans to think, plan and build many things using what we find on earth.

Genesis 2:18 [NIV] *“The LORD God said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.’”*

Adam the original created human being was **by himself incomplete**, not as God intended humans to become.

Genesis 2:21-25 [NIV] *“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.”*

It was through this physical, intimate relationship of marriage that humans were to become completed, as the Creator God intended.

On what do I base this statement that Adam and Eve were not complete, not the finished product that God intended humans to become?

Genesis 1:26 [NIV] *“Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our **image**, in our **likeness**, ...’”*

God desired humans to be in His image and likeness.

Genesis 1:27 [NIV] *“So God created man in his own **image**, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”*

Note at this original creation **only** the “*image*” of God was created.

The Hebrew word translated “*image*” means “*a shadow or resemblance*” **not** the real thing.

The Hebrew word translated “likeness” refers to “character” [literally “two for one”, a son having the same character as the father.]

Such a “likeness” can only be formed by a very intimate, long time relationship.

The intimate relationship of marriage was to be the ideal environment for this “likeness” to God the Father to be formed.

Revelation 19:7-9 [NIV] *“Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.” (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.)”*

The end goal that God the Father has is to create a wife [the saints, that is the Christian church] for His Son [the Lamb – Jesus Christ].

John 1:29 [NIV] *“The next day John saw Jesus coming towards him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”*

Jesus Christ the One who died for all humanity.

Note that the bride had prepared herself for this marriage to the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

How was this to be done?

Through experiencing the intimate relationship of a physical marriage that included a loving sexual relationship between the husband and the wife.

Ephesians 5:21-29 [NIV] *“Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Saviour. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.”*

The physical marriage is likened to the ultimate spiritual marriage of Jesus Christ and the church.

Ephesians 5:31-33 [NIV] *“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” This is a profound mystery, but I am talking about Christ and the church.”*

The intimate sexual act of a husband and wife becoming one flesh is an important part of this physical training environment that prepares humans, both male and female, to become the spiritual bride of Jesus Christ.

John 14:15-20 [NIV] *“If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you for ever, the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me any more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realise that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.”*

The spiritual “oneness” with the Son of God can be experienced now by **the active indwelling of the Holy Spirit in us** and the fruits of that union producing the very character of God in us.

Galatians 5:22-25 [NIV] *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to*

*Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. **Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.***

This is the “*likeness*” of God being created in humans, by a spiritual union with Jesus Christ through our intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit.

Sex, the physical counterpart of this spiritual union, is sacred, not a plaything for pleasure, and created for the marriage between a man and a woman only.