

Trusting God With My Relationships, Part 2 The Gift of Sexuality

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God is asking us to trust him with our personal relationships and sex life. Easier said than done especially in our overheated society.

2Lou Reed once sang, “Our love is chemical.” But is human sexuality just animal instinct? Science tries to convince us that there is no mystery to it. We are organisms like any other animal. Sex is a natural expression of that animal nature. Is it?

Anyone who has fallen in love and experienced sexual desire knows that we’re dealing with more than a bio-chemical reaction. That we’re experiencing something both wondrous and mysterious here. Something different than what our pet dogs and cats experience when they’re in heat. Human sexuality seems to point to something more; something bigger and beyond; something that completes us. But this mystery has been lost in our sex-saturated society that reduces human sexuality to mere animal instinct.

You’d think that if our modern, sexed-up society was a sign of progress, it would have led to some basic improvements in human relationships—helped foster intimacy, increased respect between genders, created a more loving environment for children, relieved the ache of personal loneliness. It hasn’t it. If anything, things have gotten worse.

The church hasn’t seen offering much help either. Outside the church, people think of God as the great spoilsport of human sexuality, not its inventor. Even true believers find it hard to accept that traditional Christian morality offers the fullest, most satisfying life. So many churchgoers are ignoring the Bible and following the lead of the rest of society. Not a good situation.

Can we recover a view of sexuality and sex that corresponds to God's original design? I think so.

- I. **3a** Let's go back to the beginning and look at the Designer and what he designed.

3b26 *Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground. (Genesis 1:26)*

- A. **4a**(v.26) God's own image? What God is himself.

1. Utterly agape and entirely otherly
2. Love that exists in community
3. A "being-in-relationship"

4b "In God, in his very being, community has its origin." (John White, *Eros Redeemed*; IVP, 1993)

- B. (v.27) What does it mean to be created in God's image?

1. We're different than other living creatures (we're not mere animals)
2. His image is stamped in us
3. We're God-like but how?

527 *So God created man in his own image,. in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them (gen. 1:27)*

4. Thank you Karl Barth – our sexuality belongs to this image.
 - i. It's at the heart of our maleness and femaleness

- ii. Expressing something essential about God himself. What?

C. **6**We are communal beings, created in God's communal image.

1. Designed to be "beings-in-relationship"
2. God doesn't exist alone but "in relationship"; we humans are created for relationship with him and with other humans.
3. We are communal beings with the God-given capacity to love and be loved – to relate and connect appropriately man-to-man, female-to-female, male-to-female
4. Our sexuality empowers us to live this way
5. It's a gift not a curse; a brilliant piece of divine ingenuity that gives us the ability to connect and commit to each other and to live in community the way God does.

7(Sexuality) has to do with- perhaps more than anything else- our capacity for relationships, our desire for connectedness, our longing to be one with somebody, our yearning to transcend our separateness. – Letha Dawson Scanzoni

6. But rebellion against God screwed-up his image within mankind. Our sexuality doesn't work right.
7. What was meant to keep us otherly got turned inward and self-serving, obsessive.
8. Unplugged from its Designer, sex becomes a god.

II. **8**But remnants of the image remain, our Designer's fingerprints are still on us.

A. Romance and sex are “more than animal instincts and raging hormones”- divine sign posts or clues deep within us that signal that we were created for more than we are settling for.

B. **9**Romance becomes more

1. For a short time least, romance gives us the ability to see the best in one other person.
2. It's to become otherly – wonderfully lost in another
3. To ignore or forgive flaws
4. To bask in endless fascination
5. Express and experience unconditional love
6. Giving us a peek at the way it will be in heaven and how God sees us right now.

C. **10a**Sex becomes more (a strange passage)

10b29*After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church— 30for 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”¹ 32This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. (Eph. 5:29-32)*

1. This is a hint that there is more to sex than the physical
2. Sexual intimacy is a sacred pointer to something otherworldly and spiritual.

In one sense we are never more Godlike than in the act of sex. We make ourselves vulnerable. We risk. We give and receive in a simultaneous act. We feel a primordial delight, entering into the other in communion. Quite literally we make one flesh out of two different persons, experiencing for a brief time a unity like no other. Two independent beings open their inmost selves and experience not a loss but a gain. In some way – “a profound mystery” not even

Paul dared explore – this most human act reveals something of the nature of reality, God’s reality, in his relations with creation and perhaps within the Trinity itself. -Philip Yancey, *Rumors Of Another World*

3. Sex is a sacred mystery and should be treated as such
4. It sheds light on some of the taboos in the Bible
5. Not petty rules to spoil our fun but rather guidelines protecting something of great value.
6. We’ll take a look at these warnings against premarital sex and the covenant relationship of marriage in my next talk.

D. **8** Will you treat your sexuality as the precious gift that God intended it to be for you? When you experience desire will you follow it to its source in search of God’s original intent – leading you into loving relationships and loving community with our Creator in the middle?

1. You can start by returning to your Designer by plugging into Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord of your life
2. A relationship with Jesus Christ renews the design of the image of God within us
3. Relating to our Creator and to others (and ourselves) in the loving way God relates to us.

17 For if a man belongs to Christ, he is a new person. The old life is gone. New life has begun. (1Cor. 5:17, NLV)