





Creation of Adam
1510
Fresco, 280 x 570 cm
Cappella Sistina, Vatican

HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH
...vintage Christianity for the next generation...

NEW FALL MESSAGE SERIES!

Creation of Eve
1509-10
Fresco, 170 x 260 cm
Cappella Sistina, Vatican



"In the beginning, God created them male and female..." (Genesis 1:27)

WHY?

A six week look at what God was up to in creating us as we are

- September 16th, 2007 -- "The Battle of the sexes! How did we get here?"
- September 23rd, 2007 -- "What does it mean to be a real man?"
- September 30th, 2007 -- "Is there more to being a woman than being 'hot'?"
- October 7th, 2007 -- "Sex. God created it. God likes it. Why then do we have such issues?"
- October 14th, 2007 -- "Singleness, Dating and Marriage: Is there a way to live in harmony with the other sex?"
- October 21st, 2007 -- "OK! Enough beating around the bush!! What about men and women in church leadership?"



*Sexuality the
way God
created it!*

The Proposed Message title:

*Sex: God Created it. God Likes it. So, why
do we have such issues?*



The Proposed Message title:

WEEK 1~Sex: God Created it. God Likes it.

WEEK 2 ~ So, why do we have such issues?



This week:

*Sex: God Created it.
God Called it Very Good!*



Next week:

Sex: If it is so good, then why are there such issues in enjoying it God's way?





Sex. God created it. God called it very good.



Sex. God created it. God called it very good.

1. Sex is Good



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1. Sex is Good

Genesis 1:26-28

²⁶Then 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.” ²⁷So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”



Sex. God created it. God called it very good.

1. Sex is Good

Genesis 2:18, 22-25

¹⁸The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”

²²Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. ²³The 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.” ²⁴For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. ²⁵The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.



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1. Sex is Good

"Sex in itself cannot be moral or immoral any more than gravitation or nutrition. The sexual behavior of human beings can. And like their economic, or political, or agricultural, or parental or filial behavior, it is sometimes good and sometimes bad. And the sexual act, when lawful-which means chiefly when consistent with good faith and charity-can, like all other merely natural acts ("whether we eat or drink etc.," as the apostle says), be done to the glory of God, and will then be holy. And like other natural acts it is sometimes so done, and sometimes not."

~ C.S. Lewis, *The Malcolm Letters*



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2. Sex is about intimacy and is deeply personal



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Genesis 4:1, KJV

¹And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD.



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3. Sex is to be enjoyed without shame



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Exodus 20:14

“You shall not commit adultery.



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Leviticus 18:6-12

⁶“No one is to approach any close relative to have sexual relations. I am the LORD. ⁷“Do not dishonor your father by having sexual relations with your mother. She is your mother; do not have relations with her. ⁸“Do not have sexual relations with your father’s wife; that would dishonor your father. ⁹“Do not have sexual relations with your sister, either your father’s daughter or your mother’s daughter, whether she was born in the same home or elsewhere. ¹⁰“Do not have sexual relations with your son’s daughter or your daughter’s daughter; that would dishonor you. ¹¹“Do not have sexual relations with the daughter of your father’s wife, born to your father; she is your sister. ¹²“Do not have sexual relations with your father’s sister; she is your father’s close relative.



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5. Sexual behavior has been twisted, torn but sex itself is not ruined by the fall



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Ephesians 5:3

³But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.



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1 Thessalonians 4:3

³It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality.



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5. Sexual behavior has been twisted, torn but sex itself is not ruined by the fall

Hebrews 13:4

⁴Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.



There are a few experiences in this life that seem to me to have been undiminished by that first sin in the Garden of Eden. Lobster with melted butter comes to mind. So does chocolate. But at the top of the list is having sex with my wife. When I am making love to Carolyn, it's difficult for me to imagine that Adam and Eve, prior to the Fall, ever had a better time than we can have right here in the

twenty-first century. Maybe they did have a better time; I'm not sure. But I *am* sure that sex itself, in the context of marriage, is not sinful. Because sex outside of marriage is so clearly sinful, it's easy to imagine that the purity of sex within marriage must also have been tarnished — at least a little — by the Fall. But it hasn't. Not in the slightest. Man in his sinfulness may distort it, but in the context of marriage, sex itself remains an unblemished, untainted gift from God. When we are told that “the marriage bed,” an obvious reference to sexuality, is to be “undefiled” (Hebrews 13:4), we're reminded that sex in marriage is intended by God to be a pure and good thing. Even though it's intensely physical, it is not the least bit unspiritual.

~ C. J. Mahaney, *Sex, Romance and the Glory of God: What Every Christian Husband Needs to Know*,
p. 14-15



Sex. God created it. God called it very good.

6. Sex is an illustration of God's relationship to his people



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Ezekiel 16:4-10, 13-16, 32, 33, 35-37, 59-63

⁴On the day you were born your cord was not cut, nor were you washed with water to make you clean, nor were you rubbed with salt or wrapped in cloths.

⁵No-one looked on you with pity or had compassion enough to do any of these things for you. Rather, you were thrown out into the open field, for on the day you were born you were despised. ⁶“Then I passed by and saw you kicking about in your blood, and as you lay there in your blood I said to you, “Live!” ⁷I made you grow like a plant of the field. You grew up and developed and became the most beautiful of jewels. Your breasts were formed and your hair grew, you who were naked and bare.



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6. Sex is an illustration of God's relationship to his people

Ezekiel 16:4-10, 13-16, 32, 33, 35-37, 59-63

⁸“Later I passed by, and when I looked at you and saw that you were old enough for love, I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your nakedness. I gave you my solemn oath and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Sovereign LORD, and you became mine. ⁹“I bathed you with water and washed the blood from you and put ointments on you. ¹⁰I clothed you with an embroidered dress and put leather sandals on you. I dressed you in fine linen and covered you with costly garments. ¹³So you were adorned with gold and silver; your clothes were of fine linen and costly fabric and embroidered cloth. Your food was fine flour, honey and olive oil. You became very beautiful and rose to be a queen. ¹⁴And your fame spread among the nations on account of your beauty, because the splendor I had given you made your beauty perfect, declares the Sovereign LORD.



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¹⁵“But you trusted in your beauty and used your fame to become a prostitute. You lavished your favors on anyone who passed by and your beauty became his. ¹⁶You took some of your garments to make gaudy high places, where you carried on your prostitution. Such things should not happen, nor should they ever occur.



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³²“You adulterous wife! You prefer strangers to your own husband! ³³Every prostitute receives a fee, but you give gifts to all your lovers, bribing them to come to you from everywhere for your illicit favors. ³⁵“Therefore, you prostitute, hear the word of the LORD! ³⁶This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Because you poured out your wealth and exposed your nakedness in your promiscuity with your lovers, and because of all your detestable idols, and because you gave them your children's blood, ³⁷therefore I am going to gather all your lovers, with whom you found pleasure, those you loved as well as those you hated. I will gather them against you from all around and will strip you in front of them, and they will see all your nakedness.



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⁵⁹“This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will deal with you as you deserve, because you have despised my oath by breaking the covenant. ⁶⁰Yet I will remember the covenant I made with you in the days of your youth, and I will establish an everlasting covenant with you. ⁶¹Then you will remember your ways and be ashamed when you receive your sisters, both those who are older than you and those who are younger. I will give them to you as daughters, but not on the basis of my covenant with you. ⁶²So I will establish my covenant with you, and you will know that I am the LORD. ⁶³Then, when I make atonement for you for all you have done, you will remember and be ashamed and never again open your mouth because of your humiliation, declares the Sovereign LORD.”



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Ephesians 5:31-33

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.” ³²This is a profound mystery – but I am talking about Christ and the church.

³³However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.



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7. Sex is flat out fun



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7. Sex is flat out fun

Song of Solomon 1:12-17

¹²While the king was at his table, my perfume spread its fragrance. ¹³My lover is to me a sachet of myrrh resting between my breasts. ¹⁴My lover is to me a cluster of henna blossoms from the vineyards of En Gedi. ¹⁵How beautiful you are, my darling! Oh, how beautiful! Your eyes are doves. ¹⁶How handsome you are, my lover! Oh, how charming! And our bed is verdant. ¹⁷The beams of our house are cedars; our rafters are firs.



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8. Sexual purity is a special area to watch out and be diligent in



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1 Corinthians 6:12-20

¹²“Everything is permissible for me” – but not everything is beneficial. “Everything is permissible for me” – but I will not be mastered by anything. ¹³“Food for the stomach and the stomach for food” – but God will destroy them both. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also. ¹⁵Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never!



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1 Corinthians 6:12-20

¹⁶Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, “The two will become one flesh.” ¹⁷But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit. ¹⁸Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. ¹⁹Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.



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Matthew 5:27-30

²⁷“You have heard that it was said, ‘Do not commit adultery.’

²⁸But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.



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9. Sexual sin is NOT unforgiveable



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Romans 5:8

**But God demonstrates his own love for us in this:
While we were still sinners,
Christ died for us.**



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9. Sexual sin is NOT unforgiveable

1 John 1:8-9

⁸If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.





Will you 'be transformed by the renewing of
your mind' about sex?