

# **Love, Sexuality and Marriage**

# Why those three topics?

- **Why talk about love?**
  - It is the greatest virtue of all, yet is widely misused.
- **Why talk about sexuality?**
  - It is a very important human characteristic created by God as a tool of holy love, yet is greatly misused and poorly understood.
- **Why talk about marriage?**
  - It is the greatest relationship, and the plan of God for us, yet is very poorly prepared for.
- These three topics help us understand God's plan for us.
- This was demonstrated in the creation story.

# Genesis 1 and 2

- “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”** ...
- “And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and **breathed into his nostrils the breath of life**; and man became a living being.” ...
- **“And the Lord God said, “It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.”**  
...
- “And Adam said: **“This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh**; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man.” **Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”**

**I.**

# **The Christian View of Love**

# Love

- Love has become a very loosely and widely used word.
- Almost everyone uses the word, but with a totally different meaning.
- Under the same word “Love” you will be surprised to see very contradictory behaviors.
- Love was described by billions of people throughout ages, and cultures since the beginning of humanity.
- It is important to know what is the Christian and biblical definition and understanding of this great virtue.

# Meanings of “Love” in Greek

- Love was described in the Greek original translations of the bible and by the ancient Greek philosophers by 3 different words.
- Eros (ἔρως *érōs*): Passionate, romantic love.
- Philia (φιλία *philía*): Friendship love.
- Agapē (ἀγάπη *agápē*): self-sacrificing, giving love

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# Eros

- *Eros* (ἔρως *érōs*) is passionate love, with sensual desire and longing.
- The Modern Greek word "*erotas*" means "(romantic) love".
- Usually involves lustful or sexual desires.
- *Eros* can be interpreted as a love for someone whom you love more than the *philia* love of friendship.
- Although *eros* is initially felt for a person, with contemplation it becomes an appreciation of the beauty within that person.
- It is that kind of love that includes physical and mental attraction, hence usually used in romantic relationships.

# Philia

- *Philia* (φιιλία *philía*): Is the Friendship dispassionate virtuous love.
- It includes loyalty to friends, family, and community.
- Requires virtue, equality and familiarity.
- In ancient texts, *philia* denoted a general type of love, that includes mental enjoyment of being in company with loved ones.
- This is the only other word for "love" used in the ancient text of the New Testament besides *agape*, but even then it is used substantially less frequently.

# Storge

- This is affection Love and is defined as: fondness through familiarity, especially between family members or people who have otherwise found themselves together by chance.
- It is described as the most natural, emotive and widely diffused of all.

# Agape

- Agapē (ἀγάπη *agápē*): Self-sacrificing, giving love.
- It is the love **newly** described and set forth for us to follow by our lord Jesus Christ on the eve of his death for us on the cross. **“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another” (John13:34)**
- It is the love to both friends and enemies.  
**“Love your enemies”**

# Agape

- It was demonstrated to its fullest extent on the cross.

**For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.**

**(John 3:16)**

- It is wonderfully described in details by St Paul in (1 Corinthians 13.)

# Love as defined in Corinthians 13

Love suffers long *and* is kind;

love does not envy;

love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;

does not behave rudely,

does not seek its own,

is not provoked,

thinks no evil;

does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;

bears all things,

believes all things,

hopes all things,

endures all things.

Love never fails.

**II.**

**The Christian  
View of  
Sexuality**

# Sexuality

- Is sexuality good or bad?
- It is created by God *“The beneficent and merciful God”*  
(*Prayer of Thanksgiving*)

**“Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed *it was very good.*”** (*Gen 1: 31*)

- It is part of God’s image.

**“So God created man in His own image”** (*Gen 1: 27*)

- It is a blessing from God. **“Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply”**
- It is holy and sacred.
- All of our body parts are ordained by the holy oil (Mayroon).

# Why we don't talk about sexuality ?

Unfortunately, there is very little talk about sexuality in Christian families and churches.

Parents, and Sunday school teachers blush and find very few words when the time comes to talk to their children about sexuality.

## Why?

Because the general public and the media abuses the term "sex" and takes it far away from God's intentions for it.

The society surrounding us is extremely sexualized in almost every aspect in a very sinful way that makes it difficult to believe that this, in fact, is God's Holy creation and intention for us.

As a result the young people can speak secretly about the act of sex, try to dress 'sexy,' learn about ways to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, but...

have very little concept of God's intent of *sexuality*.

**What's God's  
intent of  
sexuality?**

# God's intent of sexuality in marriage

It is God who designed sexuality and who gave it to us. It is a good gift and must be used as the Creator intends.

It is very important to understand that God created this valuable characteristic in us as a very strong tool of the "agape love".

It is used in its full and ripe extent **only** in the context of marriage for intimacy and procreation.

Each spouse in marriage **give** the other his/her emotions, commitment, responsibility, time, mind, soul then after all his/her body.

**"The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband *does*. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife *does*" (1 Corinthians 7:4).**

# Sexuality away from God's intention

- Sexualized society turns people into sexual objects.
- It corrupts the body which is the temple of God.
- It invites fornication and adultery.
- Fornication: Illicit sexual intercourse.
- Adultery: Sexual intercourse by a married person with someone else other than spouse.
- They are both condemned by God in many biblical verses such as:

# God condemns both adultery and fornication

- **Gal . 5: 19** Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness.
- **Eph. 5:3** But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints
- **Col. 3:5** Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry
- **Heb. 13:4:**Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.
- **Also check: 1 Cor. 6, Rom. 1: 24, Rom 6: 12 & 2 Cor. 12: 21.**

# God's intent of sexuality other than in marriage!!

- A question often arises: why does God create sexuality in us way before marriage?
- As early as in the womb, sex hormones stamp the human brain with a male/female gender that dictates the child – gender thinking and behavior.
- At puberty, activation of these hormones start a process of physical, mental, emotional, social and spiritual developments that prepare the adolescent for independent adult life.
- These changes matures the person allowing him/her to use sexuality in a more general way at first to choose his/her life long soul-mate before he/she can use the same qualities to use it in a very private way in marriage (The sexual act).

# Sexuality above & beyond the sexual act

- The value of Sexuality, however, is much more beyond simply the act of sex.
- Freud used the term “libido” to describe the *sexual energy* throughout childhood developmental stages.
- Sexuality is a ‘love energy’ that is given to us as a gift from God to be used as a tool to achieve goals in life such as relating, creating and procreating.

*Hence, sexuality could be defined as follows:*

- ***It is that spiritual, mental and physical integral aspect of each person related to his or her ability to relate, create, and mate.***
- Therefore, the desire for and the choice to practice the sexual act is *only a portion* of the sexuality of a person.

**III.**

**Christian View  
of Marriage**

# Biblical Definition of Marriage

*“For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”*

*Genesis 2,*

*Matthew 19,*

*Mark 10,*

*Ephessians 5*

# Characteristics of Christian Marriage



# A three member relationship.

- God is a fundamental member of Christian marriage.
- God is the founder of the relationship.
- God is the cohesive force (love) between the spouses.
- God is the intermediate member between the spouses.
- “Spouses can not have a successful Christian Marriage unless each initially get married to Christ.”

## 2. Unity.

- Unity between the three members:
- 1. Unity between husband and wife.
- “And Adam said: **“This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man.” Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”** (Genesis 2)
- 2. Unity of each of them with GOD.

For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. *“For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”* (Ephesians 5)

That is why we read this chapter as well as John 1 that states **“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us”** in the holy matrimony liturgy

# Christian View of Marriage described by St John Chrystosom

- “God restored in Cana what was broken in Eden”
- *“ Marriage like monasticism, is a sign of God’s kingdom, because it begins to restore the unity of mankind , which was broken by sin. Thus marriage is a great mystery in itself, the unity of redeemed mankind in Christ”*

# 3. Agape Love

- Giving Love. (Genesis 1 and 2)
- Sacrificing Love. ( Ephessians 5)
- Defined in details in Corinthians 13.

## 4. Being a Church Mystery

**“This is a great mystery” (Ephesians 5: 32)**

A. Why is Matrimony a Mystery?

B. Why is it a great Mystery ?

# A. Why is Matrimony a Mystery?

- Mystery of unity with God.
- The two unite into one.
- Through uniting with God.
- GOD is LOVE.
- They unite by LOVE ( GOD ) into one.
- They live with God in a state similar to Adam's and Eve's relationship with God.

## **B. Why is it a great Mystery ?**

- God wants us to practice this amazing experience of scarifying love.
- When we taste this experience, we will taste God Himself, because.....

**GOD is LOVE**