

# THE Gift OF SEXUALITY

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“He who tells the story dictates the culture,” Dr. David Walsh once noted. Unfortunately, over the years, the Church has failed to share God’s truths about sex and sexuality. Because of this, the only stories many people hear are from the media and the culture, stories that are skewed and untrue.

## God’s perspective

God gave the Church the Great Commission in Matt. 28:19–20a. Though the Church carries out the directive to “make disciples of all nations, baptizing them,” it often misses the second directive: “teaching them to observe all things I have commanded you.” The “teaching ... all things” includes the very thing He created within each of us: the gift of sexuality.

God created male and female, sexual human beings. Sex is not something dirty but was originally created as something wonderful (Ps. 139:14). Upon creating man and women and the rest of creation, God observed that “it (was) good,” including the gift of sex.

He not only created woman for companionship with man but also that together they might “be fruitful and increase in number” (Gen. 1:28). This would not happen if God had not created man and woman as sexual human beings. “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.” Through the very act of coming together physically, they reflect the divine mystery between a man and woman and experience a grand but minuscule glimpse of the “image of God” (Gen. 1:27). The Hebrew word for man and woman coming together is *yada* (Gen. 4:1), a word meaning “to be made known” or “to be or to become known, to be revealed.” *Yada* sex, as God intended, is to be fully sensuous: receiving, entering, knowing, fully being known. Through the very act of sexual intercourse, a Christian husband and wife reflect God’s image in a sinful world and Christ’s relationship with the Church.

Contrary to the story told by the world through the media and others within the public square, the Christian Church is privileged to tell the real story about God’s plan for man. Hosea writes, “My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge” (Hosea 4:6). Many people die spiritually, emotionally and physically due to sexual

misinformation or lack of information. We stand ashamed as we think of the small amount of time we spend telling the story from God’s perspective. How sad, especially considering God’s many words on His gifts of sex and sexuality!

## The counterfeit

C. S. Lewis wrote:

*We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us. Like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a sea. We are far too easily pleased.*

Both God’s Word and natural law itself testify to the idea that our various physical and psychological capacities are intended for particular purposes; however, as Lewis says, “We are far too easily pleased” with counterfeits and substitutes, like pornography, homosexuality and cohabitation.

Pornography is a substitute for real intimacy, a poor substitute for what God intended: a meaningful, loving relationship between a husband and a wife. No homosexual relationship can fully offer the completeness and essence of “becom(ing) one flesh” (Gen. 2:24). Cohabitation falls short of the “until death do us part” relationship that includes grace, promise and intimacy.

## Help!

“But for the grace of God,” anyone can be caught in the trap of “being far too easily pleased” with the counterfeit. To that person and to us, the Good News is, “For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him” (John 3:17). He came to save us, not condemn us! And He came to restore.

Many homosexuals are convinced that they are the way they are because God made them that way. No matter the evidence, there is a bigger question: What kind of God does one actually believe he has? Does one believe the promises of God or not? Is the Word that says, “All things are possible with God” correct or not (Matt. 19:26)? Is our God limited in what He can do? Does God set standards for us that He doesn’t enable us to reach with the power of the Holy Spirit?

Our Savior Lutheran Church in Arcadia, Calif., decided twelve years ago to address the issues of sex and sexuality from God’s perspective in a weekend conference. They invited key speakers on abstinence



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and other sexual issues. Their first attempt was met with opposition, even from some of the district churches. Now each year the event is filled to capacity with over a thousand participants.

Jesus said, “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full” (John 10:10). This includes life in all its fullness regarding one’s sexuality and the gift of sex. God designed male and female to be in relationship. What these relationships are to look like is clearly stated in Scripture.

## Speaking the truth in love

One truth we know most assuredly is that we all sin and are saved only through Jesus’ life, death and resurrection. It is as true for the person who sins by gossiping as it is for the person addicted to pornography. “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins” (1 John 1:9). Sin is sin and all sin damns, but thanks be to God who forgives *all* sin. “Who will rescue ... thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Rom. 7:24–25).

God’s gifts of forgiveness and grace, however, do not mean that we fail to speak the truths about sin, our own and the sins of others. Many people think that because God loves everyone, every sin should be covered with a mantle of charity and that to talk about any sin, including sexual sin, is too judgmental. Silence over sin does not help the sinner. God’s word is clear: “Speak the truth in love” (Eph. 4:15).

To do that, (1) See yourself; (2) See Jesus. A wise counselor told me, “Unless you see yourself in the person you’re counseling, you will never be an effective counselor.” We are capable of any sin! Seeing yourself in the other person helps you empathize with him. We also need to see Jesus in that person and remember, “Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me” (Matt. 25:40).

“He who tells the story, dictates the culture.” As the Church, we are privileged and commissioned to tell God’s story about male and female, sex and sexuality, marriage and family, thus, allowing God’s Word to guide and dictate culture!

