

Creation and Embodied Theology

LOVE · SEX · BODY | GENESIS 1:27-28; 2:4-25; MATTHEW 19:4-6; 1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-13; EPHESIANS 5:31-32 | NOVEMBER 2/3, 2019 | PASTOR MATT ERICKSON

"So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.'" (Genesis 1:27-28)

Humanity and the Image of God (*imago Dei*)

The Theme of Goodness in Genesis 1

The Created Goodness of the Body

The Created Goodness of Sexuality

The Created Goodness of Singleness and Marriage

The Created Goodness of Love

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. As we continue the series, "Love – Sex – Body," this week we focus on the created goodness of love, sexuality, and our bodies. Before you begin this study, pray that God would speak to you and minister His grace and truth to you.
2. We begin in Genesis by reading the story of human creation in Genesis 1:26-31. What does this passage tell us about humanity's original creation in the image of God and our calling in relation to one another and creation?
3. Now read Genesis 2:4-25. This parallel account of human creation relates important aspects of humanity relevant for our discussion. First of all, what do you notice about the bodily relationship between Adam and Eve. What do you think this tell us about the human body, even about sexuality?
4. One of the greatest threats to early Christianity was a heresy known as Gnosticism, which emphasized the priority of the spiritual over the physical, and usually denigrated the body. In gnosticism, Christ was viewed as the giver of special knowledge (*gnosis*) that liberates humanity from the fleshly realm and into the spiritual realm with God. How do you think the creation account in Genesis 2 counteracts this false view?
5. How do you think this view impacts someone's understanding of love, sexuality, and the body?
6. Returning to Genesis 2:4-25, how would you say this passage speaks about human relationships and love? (You may even want to read echoes of this in Jesus' teaching in Matthew 19:4-6.)
7. Sometimes, the church exalts marriage, leaving singles feeling like second-class citizens, and almost describing marriage as the pinnacle of human existence. Have you ever seen or experienced this? How could we honor singleness as an equal path in life?
8. How do Genesis 1 & 2 inform our understanding of the unique wholeness we have with God as individuals, whether single or married? How does this passage shape our understanding of marriage?
9. In his message, Pastor Matt described four different aspects of sexuality:
 - *gender sexuality* – being a person who is either male or female
 - *social sexuality* – the way I live out my unique identity as male or female in relation to the world and others
 - *erotic sexuality* – the passionate desire and longing for completion in another person
 - *genital sexuality* – the physical actions related to sexual activityWhy should a developed theology of embodied sexuality take account of all of these aspects of sexuality?

See Reverse for more Discussion Questions -->