

EROS WITHOUT SHAME

CRAIG REES

Naked
&
UNASHAMED

The Canaanites believed ritual sex, even group sex, brought one closer to certain gods. They were promiscuous.



After the Canaanites, came the Corinthians.
They worshipped their Gods by way of temple
prostitutes.



Then came the Greeks with their platonic line of thought. They believed people to be dual natured – the spiritual and the physical. The physical was the evil side.



Tertullian (AD155-220)

- Sex was evil.
- It is better for the whole human race to be extinct than to have sex.
- Eve was the devil's gateway.



Origen (AD 185-254)

- Castrated himself to avoid sex.



Gregory of Nysa (AD335-394)

- Adam and Eve were created without sexual desire.
- If the fall would not have happened the human race would have reproduced by another means.



Chrysotom (AD 347-407)

- Adam and Eve never had sex in the Garden.
- Sex was evil and sinful.
- Eve became pregnant in Eden by eating certain plants.



Jerome (AD 347-420)

- Threw himself into thorn bushes to experience pain when he began to desire a woman sexually.
- Believed that a husband was guilty of adultery if he engaged in intercourse with his wife.



Augustine (AD354-430)

- Promiscuous until his conversion but then said sex was only for procreation.
- Sex was not for pleasure even while trying to procreate.
- If you enjoyed it, *that* made it sinful.



Thomas Aquinas (AD1225-1274)

- Sex is only permissible for procreation.
- Sex for passion is a 'venial sin.'



“Solomon’s Song of Songs.”

Songs 1:1

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“He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines, and his wives led him astray.”

1 Kings 11:3

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“In view of his idolatrous, polygamous relationships that led his heart away from the Lord and away from sexual purity and marital intimacy, he sets himself up as the foil in this Song ... and thus he writes this greatest of his songs in a distant “self-deprecating tone” to say to his first readers and to us, “Listen, on this matter of marriage, do as I say, not as I did.””

Douglas Sean O’Donnell



Guidepost 1: This is a Song.

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**Guidepost 2: This is a Song about human love
within the context of marriage.**

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Guidepost 3: The Song is connected to other parts of the Bible because it is found in the Bible.



“The 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.”²⁴ That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.²⁵ Adam and his wife were **both naked, and they felt no shame.**”

Genesis 2:23-25



“May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. ¹⁹ A loving doe, a graceful deer—may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be intoxicated with her love.”

Proverbs 5:18-19





Eros without shame is not **shameless eros**.

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“The book of Proverbs can be called ‘a book for boys.’ The word ‘son’ is used over forty times; the word ‘daughter’ is never used. “My son, stay away from that kind of girl, and don’t marry this kind of girl. But marry and save yourself for that girl—Proverbs 31:10–31.” That’s how the book ends, quite intentionally, for Proverbs is a book for boys. The Song of Songs is a book for girls. And its message to girls is, ‘patience then passion’ or ‘uncompromised purity now; unquenchable passion



then.’... In Proverbs the young lad is told to take a cold shower. In ... Songs the young lassie is told to take a cold shower. However, also in ... Songs the married couples ... —the newlyweds and not so newlyweds—are told to take a warm shower ... together. I mean it. God’s Word means it. The shower part is optional; the passion part is not.”

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What are we asking?

- 1) Be here every week – join us online if you miss.
- 2) Be in community.
- 3) Through the fall, commit to:
 - a) Dialogue daily
 - b) Date weekly
 - c) Depart quarterly

