

Sex As God Intended It To Be

Rich Nathan

August 27-28, 2005

Living Sanely In An Insane World Series

Genesis 2:23-25

This fall I am starting a new series titled “Living Sanely in an Insane World.” What I intend to do is tackle four subjects over the next four months, one a month, regarding living sanely. This month I am going to talk about sexual sanity in an insane world. In October I will be talking about sane parenting in an insane world. In November, we will be talking about sane money management; and then, following Christmas, I will be talking about sane work in an insane world. So I will be tackling the subjects of sex, parenting, money and work over the next four months or so.

Today I want to lay a basic foundation for this month’s series on sexual sanity in an insane world. Now, some of you parents may decide that this particular topic is not appropriate for a child that you’ve brought into the auditorium. Feel free to take your child to Children’s Ministry. I absolutely want to honor your perspective regarding appropriateness for your children.

Let me share a little bit of my own history. I first heard about sex the way most boys in America learn about sex – from my really well informed 8-year old friends. As you can imagine, as 8-year olds we were full of wisdom and insight as we swapped lots and lots of completely inaccurate information, which mostly revolved around the idea that every time a person had sex they automatically had a baby. This led to lots of fun as we harassed the one Irish Catholic boy on our street whose parents obviously did the deed seven times. Now, we really had almost no clue regarding what one did to have sex, except we knew that it was a forbidden realm that and therefore we were interested.

As I got older, I continued to glean lots of valuable information from friends on street corners and locker rooms. And, of course, there were the magazines that my dad or someone else’s dad left around the house that my friends and I would page through. As an American teenager, I went through the compulsory Sex Ed class with the gym teacher and I learned about how “Sammy Sperm” meets “Elizabeth Egg.”

This poor gym teacher, he had to stand up in front of a class of completely jaded New York teenage boys. We used to make him spell and define various sexual terms that we claimed not to understand. And this, of course, was followed up by a series of detailed questions that he was peppered with from the boys. And then we would watch him squirm.

In the teen years, at least in my New York high school, I began to engage in the very common, almost expected sexual activity of teenagers whose parents were not at home, or whose parents didn't want to know or who were too naïve to investigate what was going on.

Nowhere in my upbringing did anyone introduce in a meaningful way, a way that would connect with me, what God's intention was for sex. God's views were not at all a relevant concern for me as I was growing up.

Now, does my story sound familiar to any of you? Are there points of overlap with anyone you know? Let me ask each of you a question. How did your views of sex get established? What kind of formation and foundation did you receive to build your lives on?

For those of you who say: My formation came from loving, frank, safe conversations with my mom or dad, who helped me to understand sex in the context of Christian marriage; my mom and dad helped me to navigate the culture. You have much to be grateful for. More power to you! But whatever your formation and information sources, good, bad, or indifferent, would anyone here dispute the claim that we live in a sexually insane culture?

We just got an advertisement for a weight loss program called "The Abs Diet." Abs, as you know, are the most important attribute of any human being. If you walk into Barnes and Noble and examine the racks of books, you will discover that far more important than honesty, hard work, thrift, or humility, the most important part of we human beings is our abs: "Yes, I know you told me she is an amazing Christian. She is nurturing, loving, pretty, intelligent, an accomplished scientist. But what about her abdominal muscles? You haven't told me anything about her abs. What are they like?"

So, we got this advertisement for the Abs Diet. What do you think the advertisement said? Did it teach you how to stop drinking so much beer, or to put down the baked potato and pick up the broccoli? Of course not! The Abs Diet has two pages titled:

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- Super Charge Your Sex Life: The Shocking Truth About Food and Sex – The Abs Diet helps!
 - "Eat for better sex!" Make sure you get plenty of zinc. It is linked to your sex drive. Oysters, turkey and beans are good sources.
 - "Get satisfaction!" Forget what you need, get what you want. The secret to off the charts sizzle is yours when you mail your reply today for the Abs Diet.
 - "The More the Merrier!" When it comes to sex, the more often you have it, the better your health will be. Learn exactly why.

Then there are other quotes that I can't read in public. We live in a sexually insane culture.

I was recently flying on a plane. Sitting next to me was a woman reading an article in a women's magazine which carried the headline: "Seven Ways To Carry On An Office Affair That Your Partner Will Not Learn About." She was reading this article promoting infidelity with the same level of shamelessness that one would have if you were reading Time Magazine, or the Economist. Just try to go through a grocery store check out line with a precocious 8-year old: "Mommy, what does cheating mean? What does...Honey, would you like some candy?"

Today I want to link together two words that rarely, if ever, come together in our minds, much less in the larger culture. The two words are "God and sex." We link together God and Church, God and Prayer, God and Natural Disasters, but God and sex?

Rabbi Shmuley Boteach, in his book titled, *Kosher Sex*, wrote: "Sex is as religious a subject as a discussion on belief in God. In fact, Judaism has always identified sex as the most holy of all human endeavors."

Well, that certainly was not part of the formation of my thinking about sex growing up. Over the years I have had to continually remind myself that God is very interested in my sex life and that he has definite plans for it. In this first talk from the series I am titling "Living Sanely in an Insane World," I want to talk about God's intention for sex. I've called today's talk, "Sex As God Intended It To Be." Let's pray.

Now, I am not going to talk with you in this series about the biology of sex. I'm not going to be giving you hints from the Abs Diet's claims on how to super charge your sex life. I have no problems with Christians getting accurate information about the physiology of sex, but that is not my job. We have some books in the bookstore that you can pick up, if you have a need for that kind of information.

What I want to do today is talk about sex as God intended it to be. What were God's purposes in giving us the gift of sex? In fact, I so want to underline in your mind the created goodness of sex, and that sex is a gift to us from God that I'm outlining this talk with the acronym G-R-A-C-E.

I will begin by saying that sex was designed by God to reveal God's grace and goodness. I am quite aware that our experience of sex in a fallen world is often everything but an expression of God's grace and goodness. I heard one poor woman say once, "I wish that sex was one gift that God would have kept to himself."

This wonderful gift, this gift of sex, has become one of the greatest sources of guilt, addiction and pain in our fallen world. So many folks wrestle before God with the lingering aftermath of guilt that has resulted from an affair, pornography, premarital sex, homosexuality, or sexual fantasy. So many people have found themselves trapped by the law of diminishing returns. You find yourself going back to a source of guilt and alienation from God over and over again. But you feel yourself powerless to fight the draw that is exercised by this particular sexual lure.

And, of course, many, many of you have experienced the pain and fear that is attached to sexual victimization. There are many of you who have been betrayed sexually. You have been used. You have been misused. You have been abused. There are many of you who have been victims of sexual aggression. You have been violated. You have been betrayed. You've been threatened by the sins of others. Sex is not linked up in your mind with gift, grace or goodness. Next week's message is going to be all about hope for the sexually broken and the following week I am going to talk about how we can finally feel forgiven and clean if we have chosen a path of sexual sin.

It is not only our own experience of sex in a fallen world that makes it hard for us to believe a message that suggests that sex is a gift of God, designed to reveal God's goodness and grace.

The church has historically contributed to our very negative view of sex. By the time of the Protestant Reformation in the 16th century, the basic Christian approach to sex was that one could not have sex even within marriage without sinning. Thomas Aquinas wrote: "Carnal copulation is not essential to marriage. In fact, marriage is more perfect when both parties observe abstinence by vow."

Roman Catholic theologians suggested abstinence on Thursday in memory of Christ's arrest. They suggested abstinence on Friday in memory of Christ's death, on Saturday in honor of the Virgin Mary, on Sunday in honor of Christ's resurrection, on Monday in memory of departed ancestors. Abstention was also supposed to be practiced on the many feast days throughout the year and during the 40-day period of Lent. One theologian calculated that there was only 44 days a year in which it was permissible for a husband and wife to make love, and even then it was tainted with sin.

A great revolution happened in the church's thinking about sex through the life and teaching of the reformer Martin Luther. Many of you are familiar, perhaps from a world history class, of Luther's posting of 95 Theses on the church door in Wittenberg that gave birth to the Protestant Reformation. But many of you are probably less familiar with this fact. Almost as revolutionary as Luther's posting of the 95 Theses was Luther's marriage to Katherine von Bora. Martin Luther had been an Augustinian monk desperately trying to be saved by God through many prayers, fasting and good works, when he discovered the great message of

justification through faith alone. By reexamining the Apostle Paul's letter to the Romans, Martin Luther discovered that a man or woman could be made right with God simply through exercising faith in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

But almost as revolutionary as Luther's teaching about justification was his marriage. It changed the world. You see, Luther was an Augustinian monk. He had taken vows of celibacy. But as he began to rethink what the medieval church taught, he also began rethinking the teaching that celibacy was a higher spiritual state than the married state. He began writing prolifically suggesting that marriage and marital sex was a gift given to the human race by God, and that one could make love to a spouse without sin. This was revolutionary.

Twelve nuns got a hold of Luther's writings. They wanted his help to escape from a convent. They realized that they had been forced into involuntary celibacy and they wanted to marry. In Luther's day, it was a capital offense to assist nuns to leave the convent but Luther and a follower of his hatched a plan. This follower of Luther used to deliver herring to the convent in big barrels. One evening, after all the herring had been dumped out of these wooden barrels, twelve nuns climbed into the herring barrels and Luther's follower carted them out through the convent gates on the back of his wagon. The revolution was on!

Martin Luther ended up marrying one of those nuns, Katherine von Bora. They had six children. Four of them lived to adulthood. Martin and Katherine had a very happy home life. They really could dish it out to each other. Katherine was not only able to take a joke, but she could feed it right back. One day Luther was suffering from one of his many depressions. Nothing Katherine or his friends said could snap him out of it. So she dressed up in a black dress, wore a black veil, and made her way through the house. She was leaving the house when Luther looked up from his bed and said, "Are you attending a funeral?"

She said, "yes."

He said, "Whose funeral?"

She said, "God's. Obviously, with the way you are acting, God must be dead and so I'm going to grieve his death."

That snapped Martin Luther right out of his depression. And as a revolutionary teaching that hit the church with all the force of a hurricane, we're still trying to process this idea that marital sex is a gift from God and that it is good.

Ben Patterson writes, "Sex is good because the God who created sex is good. God made it. So it must be good. He said so. He made it good because he made it out of nothing. To say God made it all out of nothing is to say that he made it without outside limitations. Because when you make something out of

nothing, the only limitations are those in your own mind. No one brought the raw material of creation, dropped it into his lap and said, 'Now, see what you can do with this stuff.' God wasn't a sculptor bound by the limitations of marble or clay, or a painter restricted by water colors. What we see in this lovely world is not the best that God could do with some inferior material. It was made from the very best of materials – the thoughts and desires of a loving God. His only limitations were in his mind."

Think about that. When God made sex, the only limitations were those in his infinitely wise and loving mind.

Sex was also designed by God for reproduction. This is called the procreative purpose of marriage. Having created human beings as male and female, we read in Genesis 1:28 these words:

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Ge 1:28 God 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."

One of the moral issues squarely presented to Christians is the appropriateness of the use of contraception, and specifically the appropriateness of the use of artificial contraception. Now, the Christian church is divided on this issue. Roman Catholic theologians teach that the only kind of contraception that is appropriate is Natural Family Planning, in which intercourse is restricted to certain infertile periods.

Roman Catholics teach that there is an unbreakable union between the various purposes for marital sex and the procreative or reproductive meaning of marital sex. In other words, it is immoral to separate the reproductive purpose of sex from the other purposes of sex such as relationship or pleasure. Pope Paul VI said in 1968 that this separation would encourage fornication and adultery and reduce the status of women to objects. He was absolutely right in his prediction that contraception has encouraged sexual promiscuity. It also has led in many instances to a devaluation of sex and a devaluation of children.

The Protestant church, on the other hand, has reexamined the historic position of the church in opposition to contraception and has endorsed the use of artificial contraception. And I am personally, as a pastor, grateful for the reexamination of Roman Catholic teaching. I think it was long overdue and I believe in many instances it is not only morally permissible to use contraception, but morally mandated; particularly in cases where having a child will injure a woman's physical or psychological health or in other situations where it is impossible to receive another child as a sign of God's blessings.

Karl Barth, the great Protestant theologian of this century, rightfully pointed out that Genesis 1:28, this statement that reads:

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Ge 1:28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.

It is not primarily to be read as a command, but it is a blessing: "God blessed them and said..." But there are many situations in which having a child would not be a blessing – situations of calling, situations of poverty, situations where there is an hereditary genetic disorder. It is not, in other words, essential that a couple have as many children as is biologically possible. Human beings have other God-given responsibilities to missions, to work and to care for the earth.

Some people say, "But isn't it clear throughout the scripture that children are a blessing from God." Psalm 128:3-4 says:

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Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house. Your sons will be like olive shoots around your table. Thus is the man blessed who fears the Lord.

Karl Barth responded and said, "You see nothing in the New Testament regarding the Old Testament focus on the necessity of children to be blessed." You see in the Old Testament it is very clear that the Jewish people's joy was entirely wrapped up in the capacity of a couple to have children. For a woman to be childless was to be rendered absolutely useless. So the matriarch Sarah grieves her inability to have children, so does Rebekah and so do Rachel and Hannah.

But for the Christian, our joy is not wrapped up in our ability to bear children. For the Christian, our joy is wrapped up in the birth of THE child, Jesus Christ. It was when THE child Jesus Christ was born that the angels shouted: "Joy to the world! The Lord has come!"

Of course, an infertile couple may legitimately grieve their incapacity to bear children. And there are those who are not childless against their desires, but they are childless by circumstance because they are past the childbearing years. There are those who are childless by choice because they feel a calling from God for something else. It is important, of course, to weigh the choice to be childless before God. Are you childless because of a God-given calling? Or is it a matter of fear or selfishness or succumbing to the anti-child prejudice in the western world? I would say to all who are childless that you can find joy in the birth of THE child Jesus Christ.

Beyond this, for all who are childless here today, as married couples you need to seek together some other common work in which your shared life can be turned outward towards the world and be fruitful. Married couples, listen to me. If your shared life and your shared love do not result in children, then you need to seek a way before God for your marriage to turn outward in fruitfulness towards the world. What can you do together to express your love and shared life in an outward way?

The third purpose of sex is that sex was designed by God to offer another human being complete acceptance and oneness. Let's go back to the world's first marriage in Genesis 2:20-25

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Ge 2:20 ...But for Adam no suitable helper was found.

Ge 2:21 So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh.

Ge 2:22 Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

Ge 2:23 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."

Ge 2:24 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

Ge 2:25 The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

Here God is acting like a father in a wedding. In a sense he is walking his daughter down the aisle and presenting her to Adam. We read this in verse 22.

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Ge 2:22 Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

This text gives us a main purpose for the sexual relationship. Let me begin with the last verse in verse 25,

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Ge 2:25 The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

You know, we live in a culture that sells shame. Every ad, every magazine cover, every commercial communicates to you the message: "Don't you feel ashamed of yourself because..." and then you can fill in the blank:

- You are losing your hair.

- You have horrid age spots on your hands.
- Don't you feel inadequate without this SUV?
- You call that a lawn? That's nothing other than a patch of weeds. A real man would have a lawn that looked like one of the greens in the Master's Golf Tournament.

We live in a culture that sells shame. In Gen. 2 we read these intriguing words that according to God's design, the man and his wife were both naked and felt no shame. Have you ever asked yourself why these two people, on a first meeting, could see one another naked and not be ashamed? If someone walks in on you while you are in the dressing room, most people immediately cover up. There is at least a hint of embarrassment. "Oh, I'm sorry, I didn't know you were in there." Was the issue for both the man and the woman that they had not looked in the mirror? Or that they had no comparative standard? They weren't faced with magazine covers and pictures of airbrushed models and movie stars, who have paid hundreds of thousands of dollars for cosmetic surgery.

Were they unashamed because, of course, Adam and Eve had perfect bodies? After all, they weren't fallen, so there weren't any bulges or sags, or wrinkles.

Tim Alan Gardner, in a wonderful little book called *Sacred Sex* makes this intriguing suggestion. He says, "Their lack of shame was due to something else: it was due to their complete and total acceptance of each other, without reservation." What Adam did not say was: Gee, God, thanks, but I would have preferred a brunette with a smaller waist. She didn't say, "Thanks, God, for Adam, but I would have preferred Brad Pitt." He accepted his wife as God's magnificent creation and the fulfillment of his need, the end of his aloneness. Eve received that gift with total enthusiastic acceptance and she returned it.

Let me ask you a question: Have you ever felt complete and total acceptance from another person? Have you ever been in the presence of someone who accepted you so completely that you didn't have to cover up any more – they see you, warts and all, flaws and all, and they still love and accept you?

You know, our culture is rushing to take off its clothes believing somehow that we can go back to the garden. Why are you ashamed of the body, people say? It is more and more of an aim to wear as little as possible. But being naked and unashamed does not simply mean that you wear as little as possible. Being naked and unashamed says something about your soul. I can bear my thoughts, I can bear my heart, I can show my wife who I really am and in this loving relationship of lifelong commitment, I can find acceptance.

See, the problem with America right now is not that people rush to get naked on the first date. The problem is that people are not naked enough. At least, they don't know what nakedness means. It goes beyond taking your clothes off. It

means being in a safe relationship with someone who can look into your soul, your diary, your checkbook, and your computer, and still accept you.

This acceptance is played out in a sexual relationship of intertwined bodies that pictures oneness. Again, the sexual relationship doesn't exhaust the meaning of oneness. We invite one another not only into one another's bodies, but into each other's minds and hearts and spirits. That's why sex outside of lifelong fidelity and commitment misses the point, so does pornography and solo sex. It denies oneness and acceptance. The culture keeps saying that sex is just a bodily thing. Oneness is just a connection of chest to bust. And we Christians say, "Oh, that is just a part of it. But you don't know what sex is. You don't know God's design for sex unless you've experienced it in the context of being thoroughly fully known – not only bodily, but in soul and spirit being thoroughly known and still totally accepted."

"You know me, Marlene. You know my faults, my weaknesses, my flaws, my mistakes, my sins, and yet, miraculously, you still love me. WOW!"

Do you think that is healing?

"You know me, Rich. You know my fears, my insecurities. You could really hurt me if you wanted to because you know every chink in my armor. And yet, I'm safe with you because you use your power of knowing me in an entirely safe way. You accept me and celebrate me."

Do you think that is healing for my wife, Marlene?

Do you understand God's design? It is acceptance and it is Christ-likeness. God designed sex as he did his other gifts – to produce in us Christ-likeness. God wants us to look like his Son Jesus. That is what the apostle Paul says in Romans 8:29,

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Ro 8:29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

He wants to conform us to a likeness of his Son. He wants us to be imitators of Christ.

Now, there is a negative edge to this. Martin Luther stressed that being married prevented immorality. In his day in the monasteries and churches, monks and priests who had sworn vows of celibacy were notoriously immoral. They were involved in both heterosexual and homosexual sex on a regular basis. Luther said getting married would clean that up.

The apostle Paul makes a similar statement in 1 Cor. 7:9.

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^{1Co 7:9} But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

I don't think we can read Paul's statement in a simplistic way. Many singles believe that their sexual healing will instantaneously occur on their wedding day. The simple availability of marital sex will cure them of problems of lust and sexual brokenness. But nothing can be further from the truth. If you talked with ten married men, or ten married women, and you said: "Did all of your sexual difficulties go away when you got married?" Ten out of ten would say: "Absolutely not." If issues regarding pornography are not healed before you get married, then the availability of marital sex won't put an end to pornographic addictions. Married men and women struggle with lust. Married men and women struggle with fantasy. Married men and women struggle with pornography and the aftermath of sexual abuse.

Marriage is not in any way the cure all for the deeper healing work of Jesus Christ on the Christian soul.

How, then, is sex designed to produce Christ-likeness in a couple? The apostle Paul says in 1 Cor. 13:4-5 these words:

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^{1Co 13:4} Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

^{1Co 13:5} It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

^{1Co 13:6} Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

Have you ever substituted the word "sex" for the word "love?"

- Sex is patient
- Sex is kind
- Sex is not self-seeking
- In marital sex we keep no record of wrongs.
- Sex does not delight in evil, but rejoices with the truth.
- With marital sex, we always protect, always trust, always hope, always persevere.

The measure of the quality of one's sex life is not how gymnastic you can be – whether you've learned the latest moves. It is:

- Am I becoming more patient with my mate?
- Will I learn to be kind?
- Am I self-seeking in my approach to sex?

Let me add this point with a challenge to married men and women. Do you realize that one of the tasks that God has given you for which you will be judged is whether your wife or husband has improved as a result of your marriage, or whether they've gone backward? To the extent that it lies within your control, obviously people have free choices, have you improved upon the gift of a wife or a husband that God has given you by virtue of your acceptance of her or your acceptance of him, your patience and kindness and other-centeredness. Is your wife or husband more secure, more alive, more Christ-like under your stewardship? Has this gift of a spouse been improved by you?

An unsettling question, isn't it? As I thought about this, I thought: "WOW! That is an unsettling inquiry."

Finally, sex was designed by God for our enjoyment. Ben Patterson, who I quoted before from a fantastic book titled *Sex and the Supremacy of Christ*, (by the way, the books I'm recommending in this series are available in our bookstore), writes: "There are three great opening verses for books in the Bible. The first is found in Gen. 1:1 – "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." Another is found in John 1:1 – "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God." But the third great opening verse in the Bible is found in Song of Songs. Listen to the New Living Translation:

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Kiss me again and again for your love is sweeter than wine.

Aren't those great opening words? "Kiss me again and again for your love is sweeter than wine." Literally, the Hebrew is "Smother me with kisses."

Why did God design sex? He designed it for our enjoyment and pleasure. God calls Ezekiel's wife "the delight of your eyes."

SLIDE – Ezekiel 24:16

Eze 24:16 "Son of man, with one blow I am about to take away from you the delight of your eyes. Yet do not lament or weep or shed any tears.

God created sex to be pleasurable. In fact, if there is a pleasure in this world, it is the result of God – not the devil. In CS Lewis' *Screwtape Letters*, the devil, Screwtape, tries to explain to his nephew Wormwood what he finds most appalling about God. What he finds most appalling is that God really wants to make people happy. He says:

He makes no secret of it. At his right hand are "pleasures forevermore..." He is vulgar, Wormwood. He has a bourgeois mind. He has filled the world full of pleasures.

The devil's grand strategy, of course, is to twist it, to get us to misuse it.

Never forget, Screwtape says, that when we are dealing with any pleasure in its healthy, normal, and satisfying form, we are, in a sense, on the Enemy's [God's] ground. I know we have won many a soul through pleasure. All the same, pleasure is his invention, not ours. He made the pleasures: all our research so far has not enabled us to produce one. All we can do is encourage the humans to take the pleasures which our Enemy has produced, at times, or in ways, or in degrees which he has forbidden. Hence, we always try to work away from the natural condition of any pleasure to that which is least natural, least redolent of its Maker, and least pleasurable.

We need to confess together that we in our brokenness have often missed God's purpose for sex. It is a gift. It is a grace. Sex is designed to communicate God's goodness to us. The only appropriate response to a gift is gratitude.

Here is what I would like to leave you with by way of a challenge. Have you said to God, "Thank you for this gift of sex?" Married or single, misused, abused, confused – have you said to God, "Heavenly Father, I want to learn to receive this gift with great gratitude." Let's pray.

Sex As God Intended It To Be

Rich Nathan

August 27-28, 2005

Living Sanely In An Insane World Series

Genesis 2:23-25

I. A Sexually Insane World

II. God's Purposes For The Gift Of Sex

G. Sex Was Designed By God To Reveal God's Grace And Goodness.

"And God Saw All That He Had Made, And It Was Very Good." (Gen. 1:31)

R. Sex Was Designed By God For The Reproduction Of The Human Race.

"God Blessed Them And Said To Them, 'Be Fruitful And Increase In Number; Fill The Earth And Subdue It.'" (Gen. 1:28)

A. Sex Was Designed By God For Us To Offer Another Human Being Complete Acceptance And Oneness

"For This Reason A Man Will Leave His Father And Mother And Be United To His Wife, And They Will Become One Flesh. The Man And His Wife Were Both Naked, And They Felt No Shame."
(Gen. 2:24-25)

C. Sex Was Designed By God To Produce In Us Christ-Likeness.

"Love Is Patient, Love Is Kind. It Does Not Envy, It Does Not Boast, It Is Not Proud. It Is Not Rude, It Is Not Self-Seeking, It Is Not Easily Angered, It Keeps No Record Of Wrongs." (1 Cor. 13:4-5)

E. Sex Was Designed By God To Offer Human Beings Enjoyment And Pleasure.

"Smother Me With The Kisses Of Your Mouth." (Song Of Songs 1:2)