

# Reclamation News

Reclamation News

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## Prayer Requests

For the families and friends attending our Renewed Hope group as they learn how to love those caught up in homosexuality without compromising their values.



For those attending the Exodus Conferences; that all will have safe travel and receive what God has in store for them.



For our seminar, Reflecting the Truth in Love; that those attending would receive what God has planned for them, and that the speakers would be blessed as they share from their hearts.

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## Sex and Gender - A Biblical Perspective

Part 1 of 2

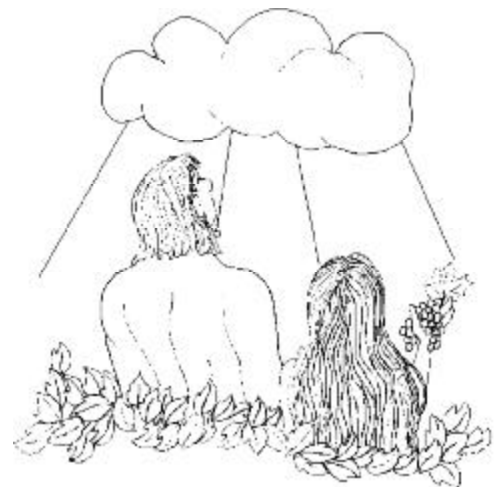
To some, sexuality and spirituality seem poles apart. Many of us see sexuality as “the monster within” that raises its ugly head to indulge in inordinate emotional enmeshment or in genital acts. Or for others, sexuality may have been paired with seduction and obsessive love. In this section I’d like to develop a Biblical understanding of sex and gender.

Mario Bergner explains the difference between sex and gender like this: sex is *biological* maleness or biological femaleness – men are males biologically and women are females biologically. He defines *gender* as *movements* within the soul of the masculine or the feminine. (*More on this later*).

The Bible teaches that our hearts long for love and meaning. Like Adam and Eve, we were designed to have our heart-needs for relationship and impact fulfilled in dependent living with God. Because we have a sin nature that refuses to submit to God, we develop deep convictions on how to cope with the disappointments and pain of living in a fallen world with fallen people. We then set a course toward what we believe will get our longings met and avoid pain and disillusion. All of our behaviors (no matter how bizarre) and ways we relate (no matter how painful) is rational when you understand the basis for them. The result of living out of independence from God is we experience negative emotions that serve as the idiot lights on the dash board that something is wrong.

With this basic understanding of sin’s effects on the image of God within us, let’s take a look at a Biblical understanding of gender and sexual brokenness. The starting point for any scriptural discussion of sex is the first two chapters of Genesis. Even Jesus and Paul referred to these two chapters of the Bible in some of their teaching about sex (Matthew 19:3-9, 1 Corinthians 6:15-18, Ephesians 5:22-33).

Genesis 1:26-28 says, “And God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, in our likeness’... So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” These three verses establish



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## Coming Events

July 11 - 16 Pastoral Care Ministries will have their annual Healing Prayer seminar in Wheaton, IL



July 13 We will start the 10 week Returning Sons, a **program of pastoral care and healing for men and women seeking wholeness in their sexuality.**



July 20 - 24 Exodus will have their annual conference in Azusa, CA.



July 22 will begin our summer meetings of Broken Yoke. We will be meeting at Faith United Methodist Church in Neenah. This is a drop-in group for overcomers.



September 24 - 26 Exodus Regional, "Change My Heart: A Time of Healing" will be held at the Association retreat Center in Osceola, WI. For more information, check out our website: [www.reclamationrc.org](http://www.reclamationrc.org)



October 22 - 23 "Reflecting the Truth in Love," will be held at Christ The Rock Community Church in Menasha, WI. For more information, check out our website: [www.reclamationrc.org](http://www.reclamationrc.org)

## Sex and Gender

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that both God and man are beings not in splendid isolation, but beings in relationship. Genesis 1:27 also establishes that we relate not merely as people, but as male or female people; we are sexual beings.

As we look at the Genesis 2:18-24 account of the creation of woman, there are some important points to be seen. First, it is interesting to see that only on the sixth day of creation, the day God created man, that God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make him a suitable helper." (Genesis 2:18).

After every other day of creation God said, "It is good." God realized that Adam needed another to be able to fully realize his humanity.

Another was needed, but another what? We can see in this text that God is a loving, involved God. He knew Adam's need, and saw the only and best way to meet that need was to create another for Adam. The only adequate counterpart was one who would be similar enough to him to meet him on the inspired ground of his humanity, yet unique enough to draw him out of his aloneness and fill in the empty places of his masculine soul.

Adam knew his masculinity in the gaze of Eve's distinct femininity, and vice versa. The dynamic sense of dissimilarity and similarity drew them into an adventure of

self-discovery. The mind, body, soul and spirit of the one engaged the other's - probing and discovering common ground, as well as the differences that rounded out the limitations of each. God did create us as gender beings, not arbitrarily, but as an act of love.

Sexuality is, at core, relational and requires relationship with God. The Genesis account reveals that we are created to express our gender from our relationship with our Creator.

Adam and Eve knew each other without shame because of their spiritual yieldedness to God (Genesis 2:25).

Let's explore the topic of the masculine and feminine. The masculine is manifested as movements within the soul, expressed as initiative, justice seeking, truth telling, proactive problem solving, pragmatism, knowledge by analytical reasoning, the conscious mind, the will. The feminine is manifested as movements within the soul expressed as responsiveness, community building, knowledge by union, the unconscious mind, dreaming and visioning.

From Genesis 2:19, 20 we see that Adam was given the task of naming all the creatures of the new creation. In the account of the fall of man in Genesis 3:8, 9 we see somewhat an order of accountability. It was not until Adam ate of the forbidden fruit that their eyes were opened, and after they did eat, it was to Adam that God directed His questions.

"Adam knew his masculinity in the gaze of Eve's distinct femininity, and vice versa."

## Classic Thoughts

*Frederick Buechner  
explains the significance of  
the Resurrection of Jesus.*

“. . . The greatest miracle that Christianity has to proclaim is that the love that suffered agonies on that hill outside the city walls was the love of God himself, the love of God for his creation, which is a love that has no limit, not even the limit of death. And for us the meaning of that love is that we can now raise our own shrill voices from the hills of our own suffering and say some such words as these:

There is little that we can point to in our lives as deserving anything but God's wrath. Our best moments have been mostly grotesque parodies. Our best loves have been almost always blurred with selfishness and deceit. But there is something to which we can point. Not anything that we ever did or were, but something that was done for us by another. Not our own lives, but the life of one who died in our behalf and yet is still alive. This is our only glory and our only hope. And the sound that it makes is the sound of excitement and gladness and laughter that floats through the night air from a great banquet. It is what Christians mean by salvation, and we saw it first at Emmaus, through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

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From these and other verses, it seems that God designed the masculine with initiative at the core of his being. Man was created to be loving with deep, strong involvement; he longs for respect.

The essence of femaleness is that of responsiveness. In Genesis 2:18, 20-22, God created woman as a “suitable helper” and to meet Adam's aloneness. In the account of the fall it is also noted that it was only recorded that Adam was warned not to eat of the forbidden fruit, not Eve. Woman was created to be warmly involved and supportive; her longing is to be cherished.

There are two other ways to express the masculine and feminine:

1. The masculine is that which is outer directed; the feminine is that which is inner directed.
  - Thus the man, embodying more the masculine tends to be directed towards the world; he builds, plows, designs.
  - The woman with a more developed feminine side is directed towards relationships, to nurturing, to understanding, towards feelings.
  - In the fall, man's fate was towards the world--the ground from which he drew his sustenance. The woman's curse was more relational--towards man and childbearing.
  - Man's thinking is analytic, woman's intuitive. The man observes; the woman knows.
  - The man is fed by that which is outside himself; the woman from within.
2. Another way of viewing masculinity and femininity: masculine authority and feminine power.
  - Our God is different from other gods in that he is an authority who stands outside of creation and rules and judges creation. In this authority role, he is ultimately masculine.
  - In the traditional family relationship, although man is the authority; the family is held together and sustained by the woman. The man is in ways other than the physical, often the weaker of the two.

So we see that as essential spiritual beings, with an inner yearning to commune with God our Creator, we have been graced with a wondrous longing “not to be alone,” and graced with the opportunity to ease that aloneness through encountering other human beings and ultimately becoming one with a member of the opposite sex.

## Reclamation News

Reclamation News is published quarterly by Reclamation Resource Center. Reproduction of material is prohibited without written permission from Reclamation Resource Center. Our mission is to help individuals seeking freedom from unwanted same sex attractions. We also desire to equip the Church to better understand the issue of homosexuality and thus minister to individuals affected by homosexuality.

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Reclamation Resource Center is a member of Exodus international, North America. We are an outreach of Christ The Rock Community Church, Menasha, WI. Doctrine and policy information available upon request.

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## Reclamation Resource Center

offers a variety of services including pastoral counseling, original tapes and brochures, speaking engagements, as well

as:

**Renewed Hope** An open drop-in group for families and friends of those involved in a gay or lesbian lifestyle.



**Broken Yoke** An open drop-in group for those with homosexual attractions who are curious about and/or pursuing change.



**In His Image** A closed group for individuals committed to pursuing change from unwanted homosexual attractions. (*Application required*).



**Reflecting the Truth in Love**  
 Our annual seminar on the issues of sexual brokenness, homosexuality, change and compassion.



**Reclamation News** A quarterly newsletter.

## Sex and Gender

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The God-given longing to connect and ultimately merge with another define our sexuality. And so spirituality and sexuality are distinct and yet inseparable. We either connect with others upon a mature and sanctified base, or in separation from God, resulting in relational chaos.

In the next issue we will explore how the fall has affected our sexuality and what change really means.

## Truth Without Compassion?

A pastor from Southern Wisconsin recently picketed Lawrence University with a billboard reading, "HOMOSEXUALS REPENT OR BURN IN HELL!" One of his associates proceeded to enter a shouting match with a homosexual student offended by their message. When I heard of this incident, I thought, "Lord, I think this man is saved. How can he get away with this type of preaching?"

I have not spoken to this man personally and have no way to be sure what he believes about men and women lost in homosexuality. Unfortunately, I can be sure his approach will not help them turn from wrong, but may turn them away from God. If the Lord has called him to preach the Gospel, how effective is he when only saved people will listen to him?

You might wonder why I care. After all, he doesn't share my burden to see men and women struggling with homosexuality be restored to wholeness. So I should ignore him and go on, right?

Wrong! We need him! And not just for "ex-gay" ministry either. The pastor (like all of us) needs a kingdom perspective! Rather than looking at gays and lesbians through the eyes of worldly fear, he needs to view them through the eyes of godly love. Every believer needs a Christlike response over the continuing decline of Christian values.

The heart of this response is the unity of true lovers of God. As the days grow darker, we will discover our need to support each other. We need to start now! I believe an appropriate issue to start with is helping the homosexual change. The church is so polarized on this issue that all that's left is middle ground!

I believe we need to proclaim God's standard on homosexuality with compassion. We should explain that His standards regarding homosexuality are not harsh and arbitrary, but based in His love. God understands we are fulfilled only when we depend on Him to meet all our needs. He also knows that as we relate to each other out of dependence on Him, the only way to physically express our sexuality is in the confines of heterosexual marriage. When we choose to violate these standards we are not only choosing to rebel against God but we are never able to achieve the wholeness we were designed for.

Our God wants this harvest and we who reap fulfill His eternal plan. One day God will welcome us to a thanksgiving feast. Sitting across from you may be some soul no one else cared about except you and God. Maybe then you can thank them for all they have taught you about God's kingdom!