



The True Shade of Romance

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Then God made... a woman and brought her to the man. `This is it!' Adam exclaimed... the man and his wife were both naked, but neither was embarrassed or ashamed. – Genesis 2:22,25 (LB)

Why God Created Sex

- **TO PROMOTE UNITY** (*Ephesians 5:31*)
- **TO PROVIDE ENJOYMENT** (*Proverbs 5:18-19*)
- **TO PRODUCE CHILDREN** (*Genesis 1:28*)

Reigniting Romance

1. CULTIVATE HEALTHY ATTITUDES

For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected, but all is to be received with a prayer of thanks. - 1 Timothy 4:4 (GN)

Honor marriage, and guard the sacredness of sexual intimacy between wife and husband. - Hebrews 13:4 (MSG)

Be happy, yes rejoice in your wife... Let her ... tender embrace satisfy you. Let her love alone fill you with delight. - Proverbs 5:18-19 (LB)

Use every part of your body to glorify God. - 1 Corinthians 6:20 (LB)

2. COMMUNICATE HONEST FEELINGS

Reliable communication permits progress. - Proverbs 13:17 (LB)

Encourage each other and build each other up. - 1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NLT)

3. CREATE HELPFUL ADJUSTMENTS

The marriage bed must be a place of mutuality -- the husband seeking to satisfy his wife, the wife seeking to satisfy her husband. Marriage is not a place to 'stand up for your rights.' Marriage is a decision to serve the other, whether in bed or out. - 1 Corinthians 7:3-5 (MSG)

You husbands must be careful of your wives, being thoughtful of their needs... - 1 Peter 3:7 (LB)

... You have made me eager for love... - Song of Solomon 6:12 (GN)

THE SONG OF ROMANTIC SEXUALITY

- Fragrances (1:12)
- Complimenting (1:15-16)
- Privacy (2:5)
- Affectionate touching (2:6)
- Attractive attire (4:9,11)
- Intimate talk (4:16)
- Unhurried time (5:1b)
- Special places (7:12)
- Total commitment (8:6-7)

Do not cheat each other of normal sexual relations, unless you both decide to abstain temporarily to make special time for prayer. But afterwards you should resume relations as before, or you will expose yourselves to the obvious temptations of Satan. – 1 Corinthians 7:7 (Phillips)

My Next Step

- I will memorize [Hebrews 13:4](#)
- I will adopt God's views on sexuality and get my cues from His Word.
- I will read with my spouse the Song of Solomon out loud.
- I will reserve my sexual gift for marriage only.

WALK THE TALK

A Growth Group Guide

- 1. Why do you think sexuality is so open-ended today more than it ever has been? Why have we strayed so far away from the Biblical standards?*
- 2. Why do you think God reserved wholesome sexuality for ONLY the marriage between one man and one woman?*
- 3. How can we reestablish the broken standard that God has set in the Scripture? What are some practical things we can do to change the next generation?*
- 4. For Married Couples to talk about: The Bible has a lot to say about romantic love, and even in a pretty graphic manner it can describe what it looks like and feels like. Why are we, as married couples, so reticent to talk about this to one another?*
- 5. For Parents to talk about: How and when do you think you can have a healthy talk with your child about wholesome, biblical sexuality? Why is it important to do this instead of avoiding the talk all together?*
- 6. A Personal Reflection For Singles: Whether you're a virgin or not, what practical, protective steps will you put into play to ensure sexual purity until marriage?*