

Markus & Frances
Piercy-Reins

***THE
MYSTERY
OF
LOVE***

...existential
purpose
of
man's being

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by

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The "Incomplete" God

Set me as a seal on thy heart, as a seal on thine arm, for strong as death is love, sharp as Sheol is jealousy, its burnings are burnings of fire, a flame of Yah!

Song of Solomon 8:6 YLT

There may be a few disturbed looks on the faces of some reading this title... so for those who feel worried about it, for your peace of mind, rest assured that at the end, you'll understand why the provocative word 'incomplete' was chosen to describe our perfect God.

God, being God, is perfect in ALL he does (Deut. 32:4 / 2.Sam. 22:31)... If it weren't so, then He wouldn't BE God.

His perfection includes this one all-important attribute; Love! (1.Jo. 4:16)

Because God is perfect, His love is perfect too ... and because He loves perfectly ... we need to look at love a little more closely to understand why God's perfect ability to love means that He is to some degree, "incomplete".

Here are a few questions to meditate on before continuing:

- What is love good for if there is no *object* to love?
- What will love do if it's not *reciprocated*?
- How can God be complete when His love isn't fulfilled or satisfied *by being loved back* (reciprocated) by the very *object* of His love?

Stay with these questions for a while, if you would, before reading on.

To help you a little bit, go back in your memory and recall the times when you loved or were in love with somebody ... when all the love was on your side and wasn't reciprocated. How did you feel?

You felt alright while you didn't love, but then, suddenly, love struck you like a bolt of lightning and from that point everything changed. Correct?

At first, *hope* was closely knit to your love... hope that the other would feel the same way about you as you felt about them... but as time passed by, reality showed that the fire was only burning on your side.

How did you feel?

Did you feel perfectly whole and complete... or was there a big void inside you, a deep feeling of pain and loneliness?

Perhaps not every reader will have experienced such lonely love, but we are all able to imagine it, and to conclude that *love which isn't reciprocated will always be incomplete!*

It was exactly the same with God's love.

God's ability to love... because He is the very Source and Origin of love... meant that He yearned for an *object* to love and this caused Him to become 'restless'... it was the *cause of His creative action*.

We see this clearly displayed in the first verses of John's Gospel. (John 1:1-13)

God spoke and the spoken word came into being. By the power of His word he called the universe out of non-existence into existence (Hebr. 11:3).

But could the sun, moon and stars respond to His love?

Were the plants and beasts able to respond to Him so that His love was satisfied?

So what is needed so that love can be truly satisfied?

We may love the goldfish which swim around in the tank we kindly provide for them, gawping at us with their cold eyes as we feed them with what they need ... but does this honestly satisfy the longing we have for love; for our human love to be reciprocated?

Why do you think so many people choose pets which are able to respond to them and giving them the feeling that they're loved? Parrots are far more able to interact with man than fish are ... a cat is even better! The best pet to have is a dog.

(Here's a little YouTube video showing the love of a dog! <http://youtu.be/JC5DXGIC8s8>)

Of all animals, a dog is able to return love to the greatest extent possible ... but where can *human* love find full satisfaction?

Nothing on earth can satisfy us as deeply as when we are loved by another *human being*, correct?

So coming back to God and His perfect love; what does the *love of God* need for true satisfaction? What does *His* love need to come full circle, to fulfillment?

Is there any other God besides Him who can reciprocate His love on *His* level?

He says it clearly Himself: There *is* no God like Him (Is. 44:6-8 / Is. 45:5+21)... so how can the love of God *ever* be satisfied?

Nothing in His creation was able to do it. Even the holy angels and heavenly hosts - the "servant spirits" obeying and executing the will of God - couldn't do it; for they lack this one vital ability that genuine love needs to have; the ability to act from its own independent will.

So again we must ask: How can the love of God *ever* be satisfied without having a fitting 'object' of love?

The term 'object' is misleading when we speak of it in relationship to love. Love can only be satisfied when two individual 'subjects' (acting entities) love each other on the same level... out of their independent decision.

Fallen man has created all kinds of fake, inanimate beings, from the clay Golems of the Talmudic rabbis, to which they tried to give speech and power by Kabbalistic magic, to silicone sex dolls equipped with prerecorded voices ([Link](#)) in an attempt to fill the empty void in his heart, for love and ultimate fulfillment.

God's love can't be satisfied by creating mindless puppets which do everything He wants any more than lost, lonely, fallen man can be truly satisfied by these lifeless, artificial dolls.

Aphrodisiacs? All the seductive prospects of a love potion will produce nothing but disappointment, for true love needs freedom. Love can never be forced. Love has to be free... the expression of a free and independent personality loving another personality from the depths of a free heart.

Yes, love can woo and try to *win* the love of another being... but unless this love is given freely it can never give true satisfaction.

How many couples suffer because the basis of their relationship isn't genuine love? Some marry the first partner they can find, resulting in a marriage plagued by constant frustration.

It is the longing of the writers for every reader to understand that God's love was *unfulfilled* – and thus had to be 'incomplete' – *unless He had a counterpart with the same ability to love as He did!*

His divine love *needed a partner in love*, able to reciprocate God's love from a free and independent will; the free expression of the heart.

God couldn't create a being with a preinstalled, pre-programmed 'love' ... *He had to create a being with the same ability to love as He loves.*

So He created Mankind in His image! (Gen. 1:27)

And what did God do after He had finished creating at the end of the 6th day - the day He created Mankind?

He *rested* on the 7th day. He had completed His creative action; He had brought into being *Mankind*, who would be the object of His love, and His heart was satisfied – at rest – complete.

In The Image of God

As we saw before, love always yearns for fulfillment.

Since God is the origin of love, His love was like a vacuum seeking to fill the hungry void at its heart.

In the same way that man yearns to fill the existential love-void in his heart by hunting for love all through his life ... so God also sought fulfillment for *His* love.

Physical attractiveness, similarity in intelligence and the ability to communicate were important – but to fulfill His longing however, this 'special' creation, the only one able to reciprocate His love, needed to have abilities that the rest of His creation *didn't* have:

- The ability to love like God
- Creativity, which makes a relationship vibrant and attractive
- Independence, so that a free decision can be made and
- Power of volition, the ability to make a decision by will

These are the fundamental ingredients without which true love cannot exist!

So God created man different and separate from all other parts of His creation.

In order to give man these unique attributes, He created man *in His image* (Gen 1:27) by forming man from the dust of the ground and breathing into his nostrils *His breath of life* (His Spirit – *Ruach Ha Kodesh*), and man became a *living being* (Gen. 2:7), a being not simply formed into the *likeness* of God, but *by the indwelling Spirit of God* enabled to perceive God *as He truly is* and by this to be able *to love Him as He loves*.

Romans 5:5 says of those who have been regenerated by the power of the Gospel of *Yeshua Ha Meshiach* that '*God's LOVE for us has already been poured out in our hearts through the Ruach Ha Kodesh who has been given to us.*' This was to enable us to love the One who first loved us while we were yet dead in our sins, and gave Himself for us. (1.Jo. 4:19)

In the same way, God poured out into Adam by his life-giving Spirit, the love which longed for a partner in love. God's life and love were poured out into Adam in order to make him a living being, able to reciprocate God's love.

God was taking some risks here. To have His need for love fulfilled, He equipped man with the abilities of a God! These abilities, combined with independency and will-power could be used in a different way from that which He actually intended.

If Man had been without these abilities however, God's love would never have been satisfied... so His love HAD to take the risk that His 'creation of love' might act against His creational intent.

When God created man He had another aspect in mind: He created him single. This man – although being enabled to love – had no ‘partner’ on his level of existence. He created animals male and female, but He created man as a single being – with full intent!

His intention here was to show that man was made ‘in His image’ here too... man must resemble Him with nobody being there to satisfy His need of love.

So we read in Gen. 2:20 (KJV): ... ‘but for Adam there was not found a help meet (suitable, fitting) for him.’

In the same way that there was no ‘help, meet’ (suitable, fitting) for God, so man – made in His image – lacked the needed counterpart for a fulfilling love relationship.

God had it in mind to teach all of us, not just Adam alone, one huge, vitally important lesson of utter importance – and it can be said without exaggeration that our eternal destiny *hangs on understanding this correctly!*

Let’s imagine how Adam must have felt when God brought him all the animals to give them their names (Gen. 2:19).

He saw them male and female; he saw them mating, and the mothers having their young.

Did he wonder why *he* was alone?

He had a partner in God, yes; he was able to communicate with Almighty God and had intimate contact with Him, but on his own level of creation no suitable counterpart was found to ‘meet’ his need, the need he had to fulfill his love.

The Helpmeet

Continuing, (Gen. 2:21f) we see how God continues to reveal His love towards mankind in general by using the creation of woman to give us a wonderful image of *His* longing for His love to be fulfilled in man loving *Him* unconditionally.

Gen. 2:18 – ‘And the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an *help meet* for him.”’

In Hebrew the word for help meet is *azar* (Strong’s 5826) meaning: to surround, protect or aid, help, succour.

So we can read this verse the following way:

‘And the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a surrounding succour helping, aiding and protecting him.”’

This is strong stuff. Precisely the same word for ‘help’, ‘azar’, is used in other scriptures which refer to *the Lord* being a help to man. (Deut. 33:26-29 / Ps.27:9 / Ps 33:20 / Ps 70:5 / Ps 115:9-11 / Hos 13:9). **Never let it be said that woman is inferior to man simply because she was created to be a helper for him.** It was because he couldn’t manage his God-given task alone that God gave Adam his Hava (Eve).

Now, thinking about how God created the woman, let’s take a fascinating excursion into the wonderful truths of God’s word that we find proven in the genetic code of *every human cell*.

In Genesis 2 verse 21 and 22 we read;

‘And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his *ribs*, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;
And the *rib*, which the LORD God had taken from man, he made a woman, and brought her unto the man.’

The Hebrew word for rib is *tse/a* and Strong’s (06760) gives us the following meaning:

beam, board, chamber, corner, leaf, plank, rib, side (chamber).

The words *corner* and *side* have been highlighted intentionally... we will need them to discover some important information which shows the validity of God’s infallible word.

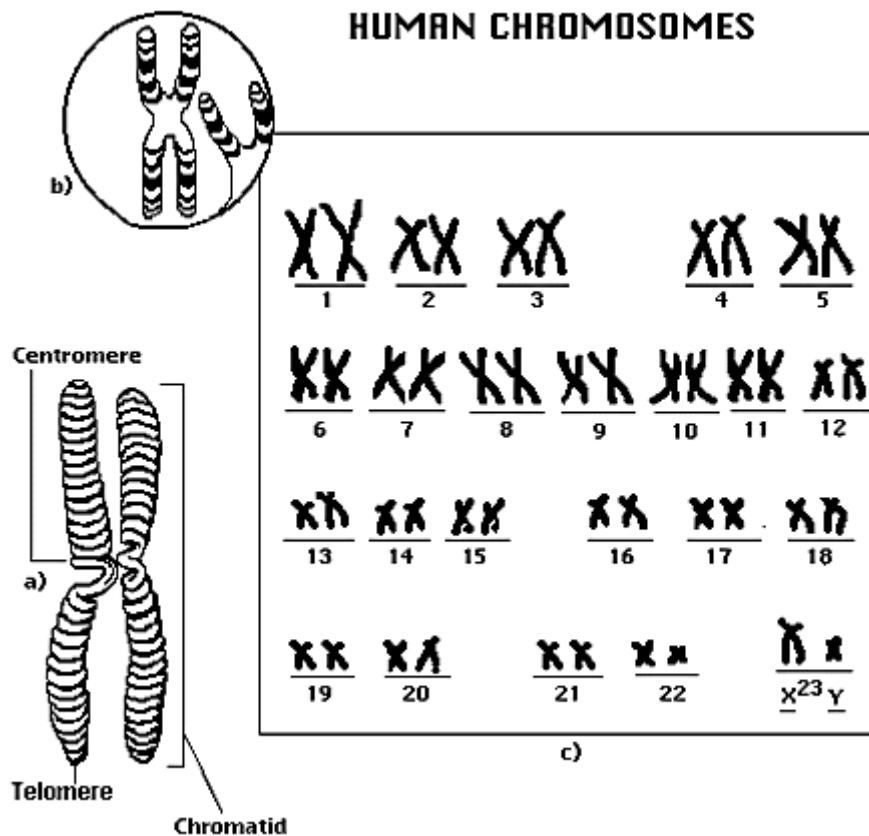
To give us deeper understanding, let’s change the translation a little:

And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took ***one of his sides***, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;
And the ***side***, which the LORD God had taken from man, he made a woman, and brought her unto the man.

Perhaps you’re a little puzzled now, wondering what this is all about.

Do you remember your school biology lessons ... particularly the ones about human genetics?

Let’s take a short look at the male set of chromosomes a man has in each of his innumerable cells.



source: <http://www.accessexcellence.org/RC/VL/GG/images/HUMAN.gif>

This illustration shows us the diploid set of chromosomes in every cell of a male body. Diploid means that every chromosome has an identical twin except the sex-chromosomes (no. 23).

The sex-chromosomes of a man are not identical... they have either one X-chromosome (being female) or one Y-chromosome (being male).

A woman has the same set of diploid chromosomes in every cell of her body with one difference: Her sex-chromosomes are X and X (identical). A woman has no male Y-chromosome.

Now let's order the male chromosomes and tabulate them one pair under the other to get a line of 23 chromosome twins starting with pair 1 on top and ending with the sex-chromosomes (no. 23) at the bottom.

Imagine we would cut right through them separating the twins now. What would we get?

Right, the haploid chromosome set of a male spermatozoon!

All cells in a human body are diploid except the female egg-cell (ovum) and the male sperm. A female ovum has only one set of chromosomes (haploid = means half) and the sex chromosome is always an X!

The male sperm has only one set of chromosomes, too (so it is cut in half, too) but every single spermatozoon is either female (X) or is male (Y).

Is this boring you? We're nearly done, OK? Bear with us a little longer – you won't regret it!

Those halved chromosome sets we can name as "halves" or "sides", right? They're "one side" of the normal human cell, right?

So, and now let's go back to my "changed" verses of Genesis 2:21+22:

And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took **one of his sides**, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

And the **side**, which the LORD God had taken from man, he made a woman, and brought her unto the man.

What did God take from Adam? He took '*one of his sides*'.

Only a man has two sides in him. A man has a "female side" and a "male side" and God took the "female X-side" and made a woman out of it! A woman who had a diploid set of chromosomes with identical XX sex-chromosomes!

This is why a woman has only XX sex-chromosomes... because she was made from the "female side of man"!

It is always the man who determines the sex of new life. Every man and woman living today got their sex from their father. A woman will always add her female side (X) so new life is either male (XY) or female (XX).

A woman can come from a man – but a man can never come from a woman! (The *only exception* is our Lord Jesus, who was conceived by the virgin Mary, but His conception was brought about by the Holy Spirit, in that the necessary Y chromosome which determined our Lord's gender was miraculously, supernaturally provided by God Himself.)

We certainly didn't learn THAT in school, but again science proves the truth of God's infallible word! God made woman from man! Even our genes prove it!

We will return to this wonderful truth later when learning about God's creational purpose for man and woman.

After this little excursion into human genetics let us return to the wonderful truths hidden in God's word about how valuable God's creation, woman is.

As we have found out the word *azar*, translated as 'help, meet' adds much value to the importance of woman.

She isn't some servant or object, to be used by man at his whim. God's love created her and gave her abilities which make her absolutely indispensable. Man can never reach his full potential without her!

In the same way that God needs mankind to become complete, so He created man to be dependent on a woman to give both of them (man and woman) a perfect display of **how He needs us!**

By devaluing women, robbing them of their dignity, creating misogynistic religious ideas which deform whole societies, and by this neglecting God's creational purpose, man has put a curse on himself and all of mankind.

If **God** thought it important for man to have a helper to be his aid and protection, how can man make it without giving woman her legitimate position which **ONLY** she can fill

successfully?

In the same way that God's love needs His creation of love – mankind – to be complete, so man – made in His image – needs his succour and suitable helper, the woman, to meet his lack and need for completion.

The creation of man and woman... mirrors the relationship man in general has towards God.

And what is this wonderful "glue" God invented to join man and woman together?

Love and sexuality!

There was an incredibly deep purpose behind the reason WHY God created sexuality in the very moment He created the woman.

Don't be surprised to find references to human sexuality in God's word – both in positive and negative images – to reveal God's feelings about us!

God made man in His image, so no wonder we find Him using dramatic speech when metaphorically describing His pain when He calls Judah and Israel 'whores' fornicating with other men and forsaking Him (Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Hosea... etc...).

Not surprisingly we find a book like the Song of Songs in God's holy Word, describing the joys of love and sexuality ... as a perfect picture showing the deep, burning and affectionate love between Christ and His bride.

The love between a man and a woman mirrors the love between God and man in general. Human sexuality - this irresistible, magnetic force uniting man and woman – displays the intensity with which God longs to be loved by us and – this is important – **how He loves us!**

Echad – The Mystery of Oneness

In the very moment God created woman, He created human sexuality.

Before this, Adam was reasonably happy; he might have felt lonely on occasion, he might have wondered why all creation was different from him... but this was nothing in comparison with what he felt on awaking from the first anesthetic and surgical operation that had ever happened to mankind.

We know about God's perfection, we know that everything He creates can't be improved upon!

So when He created Hava (Eve) as the perfect fit for His creation of love Adam, we can be very sure: Hava was the most perfect woman who ever lived! She was the perfect fit for Adam on all levels: body, soul and spirit! Imagine perfect beauty of body, perfect harmony of heart and being one in the spirit!

With her, he lacked nothing... and seeing her he felt feelings he had never known he was capable of... but he wasn't alone! Hava saw her perfect fit, too! She saw the one without whom she never could have fulfillment at all either!

It was like magnets. The irresistible force which comes into play, in the very moment the plus and minus poles of magnets get close to each other; everything yearns for unification. The more perfect and pure the magnetic material the stronger the magnetic force craving for unity.

Adam and Hava were perfect creations of God, pure and undefiled... so imagine the intensity of sexual attraction between them. They simply couldn't resist... and so we read in Gen. 2:23+24 OJB:

'And the Adam said, "This is now etzem of my etzem, and basar of my basar; she shall be called Isha, because she was taken out of Ish. Therefore shall an ish leave his av and his em, and shall cleave unto his isha: and they shall be basar echad."

Here again we see the importance of the woman God created. It's not the woman leaving father and mother but the man leaving them to *cleave* to his wife.

In Hebrew the word *dabaq* means to cleave and Strong's (1692) gives us the following meaning:

abide fast, cleave (fast together), follow close (hard after), be joined (together), keep (fast), overtake, pursue hard, stick, take.

What strong words indicate this deep, strong connection between a man and his wife! There is, however, one word in these two verses that we shouldn't miss. It is the Hebrew word: echad.

This is the first time the word *echad* is used in the Bible. It is found later used to describe the very characteristics of God.

The meaning of echad (Strong's 259) is:

a, alike, alone, altogether, and, any(-thing), apiece, a certain, (dai-)ly, each (one), + eleven, every, few, first, + highway, a man, once, one, only, other, some, together

For the first time we read about the 'oneness' of two beings made in the image of God!

Does this mean God is more than one, too?

Does this mean that the 'oneness' of man and woman is the image of the "Oneness" of God?

Would make perfect sense, wouldn't it?

The Hebrew word for God is *elohim* and is the plural of the singular *eloah*. So whenever you read "God" in your Bible the original Hebrew text says "Gods".

Let's read the Shema Yisrael to find important truth about our God:

'Shema Yisrael Adonai Eloheinu Adonai **Echad** - Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord **is one!**' (Deut. 6:4)

Here we find the word *echad* again, giving us the clear message that this 'Gods' is actually 'one'.

Man – both male and female – are made in the image of God and become one flesh in sexual unification.

So what is the purpose of man's creation? Why did God made man?

We have seen that it was because God yearned for completion that he made man; for one reason; to have a counterpart to find complete satisfaction in bilateral, reciprocated love!

The purpose of man's creation was to become *echad* with God!

And this wonderful truth is the center of Jesus' prayer in John 17 KJV.

Though the NT is written in Greek Jesus was speaking in Aramaic or Hebrew and guess what word he used when He prayed:

"I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them.

And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own Name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are."

(v. 9-11)

"That they all may **be one**; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, **that they also may be one IN us**: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, **EVEN** as we are one:

I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made **perfect in one**(ness); and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me." (v. 21-23)

We read here "be one"... the word Jesus used was **ECHAD!!!**

"I in them". What does this resemble?

Correct, sexual intercourse!

And what is the result? PERFECTION IN ONENESS!

God made man for *just one reason...* to be His perfect match, His joy - to pour His love over him – and to become ONE with him in mutual love!

John writes about that glorious dimension this oneness with Him will bring (1.Jo. 3:2).
'We know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.'

And what is the illustration, the display and image He gave us to show this truth to us in perfection?

It is man and woman who He blessed with sexuality, becoming one in sexual intercourse!
Man and woman are the image of His love, His longing to be united and complete in love with man.

Consequently Jesus said when asked what best to do to please God:

"Love the Lord your God with **ALL** your heart and with **ALL** your soul and with **ALL** your mind and with **ALL** your strength." (Mark 12:30)

Do you see the perfect harmony in God's word? Do you see how diligently and lovingly God arranged everything to woo us into all-consuming love towards Him?

We read in the New Testament about a wedding, the bride and bridegroom and the marriage supper of the Lamb... do you know who will get married there?

Oh, how we wish that our words were the best words ever written, empowered by God to set every reader ablaze in an **ALL**-out love for THE LOVER of our souls!

Do you know why Paul writes in 1.Cor. 13:1-3+13:

"If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but *do not have love*, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.

If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, *but do not have love*, I am nothing.

If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, *but do not have love*, I gain nothing.

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. *But the greatest of these is love!*"

Do you see the harmony in all we have learned up until now?

If God's love was the reason He created man in His image, to be His partner in love... how can we NOT live for His love ALONE?

How can we care about so many relatively unimportant things in the days, weeks, months and years of the life he gave us, neglecting Him, our Creator, by treating Him as some peripheral relic – who we would rather did not disturb our all-important "have-to's" of daily life?

Yes, yes, we know... and on Sundays we love to worship! Oh yes! To praise the Lord is such a wonderful thing... it's like heaven, isn't it?

Who do you think you're fooling??? What percentage is **ALL**? 10%? 20%? 60%?

Where is this love... strong as death, sharp as Sheol, burning like fire, like a flame of Jah?

Yes, we find these beautiful words in the Song of Songs, describing the power of human love... this deep, **ALL**-out love between the Shulamite and the king. We see her roaming the streets at night driven by consuming desire for her Beloved.

We see Mary pouring precious spikenard over Jesus, wasting **ALL** she had just to show her love... but what do *we* do?

When God created you for this one purpose to love Him with ALL you are, how do you think you can impress Him with other things than ALL-consuming love?

A Broken Heart

'Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"

"You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman.

"For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

But the Lord God called to the man, **"Where are you?"** (Gen. 3:1-9 NIV)

When God created man His love forced Him to take some dangerous risks. All the talents, skills and abilities this 'special creation of love' needed to satisfy His love required independence and power of volition, and of course, as we have seen, this could also be used in a different way than that which was intended by God!

Man tries to force love although this isn't possible. Man in his deceived mind dreams of manipulating the other by using "love potion" or psychological means to win the love of the other, though this will never lead to a truly satisfying love relationship.

Love needs freedom and genuineness of heart to give satisfaction – everything else will lead into a deeply frustrating and repelling "hang-over experience" as the bubbles of unrealistic illusions burst in the heat of fierce reality.

There is no true love without freedom and authentic genuineness of heart and nobody knows this better than our perfect God - the very author and origin of all love.

He desired to be loved by a being who adored Him for Who He is. He longed to find satisfaction in His love by being loved by mankind being crazy about Him – hopelessly in love with Him.

He desired to bask in mankind's love, enjoying man's creativity in expressing his love in manifold different ways... giving Him the sweet surprises of a loving heart burning for Him alone.

It was His love which made us as we are! It was His love which gave us the freedom and ability of will *to turn our back on Him*, towards a cruel slave-master who subjected God's creation of love to a bondage and perversion *never* intended by God.

Satan knew about man's abilities and he knew about his given limitations, too. God created man in the image of God, right, but He didn't make man identical to Himself.

Man had no need to know good and evil – *this was unnecessary for a being living in Paradise a being created for one purpose alone; to love God!*

There is absolutely no need to know the difference between good and evil *if the purpose of existence is being God's perfect match in love*. A God who is pure, loving and good beyond comprehension!

We know that God is all-knowing and all-seeing. We know that He saw what happened back then in Paradise when the serpent spoke to Hava.

God could have intervened... He could easily have banned the evil one from speaking to her, but doing so would never have enabled Hava to make a free decision from her independent, loving heart.

So God watched her, watched her listening to all the tempting promises alluring her to misuse her given abilities and freedom, to trespass the given rules of God.

What pain His loving heart must have felt... what unutterable agony and despair... as His creation of love pierced Him by despising His eternal love for the promises of a black-hearted liar!

And the universe resounded, shaken to its very core by the inexpressible pain of God's heart, as the One who is Love itself, cried out: "Adam! Adam! Where are you?"

We mentioned a 'one-sided-love' before... can you *now* understand how God felt? Can you now understand the depth of pain this gave Him?

It is the prayer of our hearts that God may give every reader the grace of opened eyes so that they are able to feel and see what He felt when He saw His creation of love chose the wrong way.

For God isn't just perfect love... He is holy, just, pure and righteous, too. *His holiness now forced Him to separate Himself from His very creation of love.*

Pain; sheer agony placed the cherub between Paradise and man, forcing him to live a life cut off from the flow of true life in God. Thistles, thorns and sweat dominated man's life now. Sickness and death invaded God's creation of love, who was actually meant to eat from the tree of life forever.

But love never ends! God's perfect Love, incomplete again, did not give up on His creation of love.

'Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:
But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:
And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.' (Phil. 2:6-8 KJV)

'And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but He that came down from heaven, even the Son of Man which is in heaven.

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up:

That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.

For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved.

He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.' – John 3:13-18

God became flesh, undressed Himself from all His glory and became man... the one and only perfect man who ever lived - His beloved, only begotten son Jesus. The "man" Jesus lived up to the creational intent of God for man in perfection, loving His Father with **ALL** His heart and **ALL** His soul and **ALL** His mind and **ALL** His strength... and giving His life as ransom for man's sin (sin = separation), He opened the way for God's creation of love to return to intimacy with God again.

Again, God's love doesn't force this salvation on man! And again, God treats us after His creational intention, respecting our independence of will, patiently waiting for us to love Him more than our lives!

And as He allowed man to turn his back on Him in the beginning, so God won't intervene if we decide to reject His offering of love in Christ Jesus!

No, dear reader, it's not God's wrath and anger punishing us with eternal condemnation – it's the will and freedom of man which condemns him to eternal separation from God!

We have to understand that God's love created us with "god-like" abilities – and as He never revokes His words and deeds (Ro. 11:29) He can't overrule „our will" here. Love can never be forced! It has to be free... and so it is up to you and me to use our freedom of will and repent before Him with a broken heart, asking Him to cleanse us from all sin, restoring us into a vibrant love-relationship with Him again!

He is waiting and wooing us... oh yes, He is! Do you know the story of the prodigal son? (Lu. 15:11-32)

Here we see it all again! All we have found out until now was perfectly described by Jesus Himself! The father could have refused his son the inheritance ... but he didn't! He respected his son's will ...although he knew what would happen.

We see the same with God! He respects us enough to let us to run away from Him... knowing we'll end up in a pigsty.

Every day the father waited, searching the horizon to see his son returning... and in the same way God waits for His creation of love to return to Him! He won't force us back to Him because this would violate His love – would prevent us from blessing Him with our free and genuine love in return!

And what do we do?

Has it ever dawned on you that God isn't there for you, to make *you* happy, give *you* joy... but *you* are created to be *His* joy and delight?

Can you understand how deceived we are in the attitude of our hearts, always wanting *Him* to give to *us*... even thinking that He'll be satisfied with our church attendance, our tithe, our smart Sunday clothes, our excellent knowledge of the Bible, our immaculate conduct and behaviour, all our activities for church and missions?

Do you see how we miss it completely, never living up to the desire of **His** heart?

He loves YOU! Yes, He passionately desires you! He is yearning for your undivided heart burning in ALL-consuming love towards Him.

We're in complete neglect of the truth. God isn't there primarily to meet our earthly needs. We're made **to meet His needs!**

We sing aloud "Oh, Lord we love you!" but our hearts are just focused on the earthly benefits we hope we may draw from Him... and an eternity with unspeakable blessings – for us, of course!

And we nag him like a selfish woman, "Oh, please buy me this! Oh, look! I would so love to have that necklace! Honey... "(giving him an irresistible look from her beautiful eyes... oh yes, she can be a purring pussycat!)... PLEEEAAAASE!"

We think if we hold some worship sessions with great music and the best singers/musicians to draw us into mass praises this will bless Him and delight His heart!

We're not saying that worship is wrong in general but it's worth nothing if our hearts aren't filled with true worship, consumed by love, surrendered to Him totally... in circumstances *when we're alone and the reality of our dedication is tested by giving Him an "offering of praise" in the midst of suffering!* Worship isn't primarily singing songs; it's the attitude of a heart completely abandoned to the God who *searches* for those who will worship Him in spirit and truth. This means that such worshippers are few, and far between.

Like a selfish woman trying to lure a man to fulfill her wishes, we think God will be impressed by our "giftings" (creativity) which He actually gave us to decorate the beauty of our hearts to love Him unconditionally.

We give Him all the things He *doesn't* want and *doesn't* need... giving Him "our" money (which is His own anyway)... doing this and that "service" for Him by offering Him "our" time, doing stuff which we deem good in our own eyes, preening ourselves as we think how good we are... by rising a little earlier to read the Bible and spouting 'our' little prayers... *but never actually connect with Him at all.*

Perhaps we accidentally 'hit the nail on the head' and in joy He reacts and tells us how much He loved this... only for His loving heart to be stabbed by our selfish actions again the next moment leaving Him deeply hurt by seeing how much we are consumed by our LOVE of SELF, knowing how much we miss by not loving Him alone.

We give Him everything else... but refuse to give Him what He so longs for: OUR ALL-OUT BURNING LOVE!

Oh, God! If You would only rend the heavens and pour out the Spirit of revelation and truth so we might all receive eyes to see our utter ignorance and neglect - how we treat You and Your precious love!

The Treasure of Women

Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god; for he shall magnify himself above all.

Dan. 11:37 KJV

German Elberfelder Translation:

Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the treasure of women, nor regard any god; for he shall magnify himself above all.

As we've seen, the love relationship between God and man (both male and female) is mirrored in the love relationship between man and woman. The intensity of this love between God and man is demonstrated in human sexuality.

God wants us to know how important we are to Him – how deeply He feels about His creation of love; Mankind. So He created the woman to be the image of His desire. He created woman to 'be' and from her nature to act in the way *He* wants to be loved ... so that the way she loves a man would be the perfect display of how *He* desires to be loved by man in general.

Women are formed for this reason... and man needs her to 'protect' him from drifting into a theoretical, mind-controlled, heartless worship of God. The woman is man's succour, his aid, the help he needs to meet his weaknesses here.

Yes, you read this correctly! Man has to learn to love God the way a woman loves!

She is his role-model, the palpable demonstration of how He wants all mankind to love Him.

So why do we not cherish and treasure women? Why do we not search them out, valuing their God-given abilities that man needs to reach perfection in God's eyes?

Why do we not study the way a woman loves?

Why do we not learn from the creation He gave us, to perfect us in love?

Dear reader, (and men are specifically addressed here) I, Markus, have learned to love Him like a woman loves... and it is so freeing and fulfilling! And most of all, He responds to this way of loving Him! Instead of being distant He comes close and you can experience Him as never before.

God's creational intention in creating a woman is for her to be this ravishing, gorgeous, captivating, enticing beauty, totally irresistible for a man. To be satisfied in her love and becoming one and whole in sexual unification with her directly mirrors how God feels about His special creation; Mankind, who He made for one sole purpose; to satisfy His love.

So although it may sound strange for many – it's unlikely that this has often been heard before – YOU ARE this 'beauty' He so longs to be loved by with ALL that you are!

Let's have a look how Paul puts it in 1.Cor. 11:7-9 and 11-12:

'For a man ... IS the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man.

For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man.

Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man.

Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, **IN** the Lord.

For as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the woman; but all things of God.'

Paul's words are wonderful. The woman is the glory of man! Yes, indeed she is! She is his crown; a costly heavenly gemstone God gave to him, just to bless him beyond his comprehension.

Men should treasure women because deep in their soul they have the key to how we all (women and men) are to love God!

The soul of a woman, including her emotions and the way she loves, is our perfect blueprint to show us how to love God – the only way to satisfy Him.

Today the 'way of a woman' - her heart, the deepest way in which she needs to be loved - is completely neglected by men (with some rare exceptions, of course). This ignorance and neglect robs man of all the pleasure and delight a woman is actually made to be. God Himself gives us the exact model how men have to treat women because they have been put in a position that mirrors His position towards mankind (Eph.5:25-28).

Male behaviour is usually more of Satan than of God. Satan is a thief, a rapist and slave master and we see this in the way many men treat their wives... and we see it in the male way that church is 'governed'.

What a tragedy that men think that *they have to govern His Bride like this!*

Instead of imitating the way that God loves us and taking Him as our role model (patiently waiting, long-suffering, forgiving, offering Himself for us)... we love and choose the authoritarian way that the world chooses.

Although Jesus clearly said that His kingdom isn't of this earth, and wants His disciples to live differently (Matt. 20:25-28) – and He even gave them an example by washing their feet (Jo. 13:4-17) His words are utterly neglected. He said, "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and *DO NOT DO* what I say?," (Lu. 6:46), but this seems to interest few people today... most do what *they* think is right.

So it's no surprise to find disrespect and the debasement of women in all the major religions – and the so called 'Christian' ones are no exception, with Catholicism at the forefront.

The Anti-Christ spirit can be identified by the way he disregards the treasure God laid in women (Dan. 11:37) magnifying himself above all – typical male behaviour. This disregard of our precious sisters is rampant in the so-called church on all levels.

Instead of being treasured, women are trampled upon – forbidden to speak – and they come to the conclusion that they're only good for 'procreation', to raise kids, feed their husbands, clean the house, equip the church-choir and 'serve' in all the tasks that man feels himself way too elevated to do.

Women are meant to be a treasure ... and they truly are!

God meant them to be a living illustration of the way He desires to be loved ... but man, who feels himself superior, rapes and forces them into spiritual infertility, makes them barren, so putting himself under a curse by neglecting the creational intention God made women for: to be man's delight and much needed 'helpmeet'.

Is it any wonder our spiritual world is so dead and perverted? Mankind has set himself above all, disregarding not only God but the greatest gift God gave man; the treasure God gave him in woman, too.

No wonder Islam is at the pinnacle of disregarding the treasure of women ... some Muslims even believe women have no soul; she's just a chattel for them to use. If a woman is raped it's regarded as her own fault. She gets imprisoned, whipped, buried alive or stoned to death instead of being defended ... the rapist is never charged.

It is clear from the way women have been subjected to degradation and oppression that *Satan absolutely hates women. And why?*

Because women are so precious! God made them so perfectly! She doesn't even need to be told to submit to her husband. She will do so gladly, *if* a man will *be* a man after God's design, taking God and Christ as his example and giving himself for her (Eph. 5: 25-33).

You see, it's already there, in her genes – *preinstalled by none other than God Himself!*

Jesus didn't just hold children precious ... but women, too (Lu. 7:37-50 / Mark 14:3-9 / Jo. 12:3-7). Women - although we hardly read about them in those times of male dominance - show us the right way to touch the heart of God!

There is Mary sitting at His feet, displaying typical female behaviour. She loved Jesus the way only a woman can love. She was completely enraptured in His presence; totally beside herself with love – and didn't feel guilty at all. She gazed at His lips, hung on every word He spoke - you can be sure that she remembered every single word till the end of her days, recalling them again and again (Lu. 10:38-42).

Later on, she showed her love again... she *had* to show it... she *had this overwhelming need to give herself away* by pouring out and wasting the most costly thing she had, over Him. Again she was drowning in love... driven by nothing else *but* her love. Love has to be expressed... she *had* to show it ... she couldn't have cared two hoots for all the male looks and comments she was getting! (Jo. 12:3-7)

Whenever a woman loves she gives herself completely on all levels. God made her this way.

Jesus – as the "super-male" – always showed the perfect response towards a woman, so it is no coincidence that it was a woman, driven by her love, who was the first to see the risen Lord. Come read this precious story in John 20:1-18!

Jesus always honoured a woman when in her response to Him, she displayed her creational purpose to love without limits ... and there is nothing a woman desires more than to be treasured in her femininity *by the man she admires*, even by men in general. She wants to let go, desires to give herself to her Beloved and longs for her love to be coveted by the one she loves. She longs to be treasured and fully accepted in the way she is made.

A woman who loves in this way won't mind not having a comfortable life. If she knows she is treasured by a man, she identifies with him completely, not caring anymore for herself. She will give herself with sheer delight - abandoning herself completely with a smile, just to be kept in his arms, blissfully happy.

Do you see what a precious illustration God gave us when He created the woman for the man?

This is exactly how we *should all live our love for God!*

The joy that comes when you realise this is overwhelming. You will see women with different eyes - so precious and costly! Thank God for them! Through them, He teaches us how to love Him! Learn to love Him the 'woman's way' - it's such a delight!

Man - Her very Life

For in Him we live and move and have our being.

Acts 17:28

In Him was life, and that life was the Light of men.

John 1:4

When God created Adam He made him from the dust of the ground and blew His life into Him. Adam became alive, not by the word of God but by the Spirit of God indwelling Him. Hava (Eve) however, He created differently, *she was alive **IN** Adam before she was even taken out of him!*

This is so important to know - **It is the same with us!**

(Eph.1:3-14 NASV)

'Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places **IN** Christ, just as He chose us **IN** Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. **IN LOVE** He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us **IN** the Beloved. **IN** Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed **IN** Him with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things **IN** Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. **IN** Him also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, to the end that we who were the first to hope **IN** Christ would be to the praise of His glory. **IN** Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed **IN** Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.'

A man mirrors God as the 'life-giving' part in a human relationship ... and a woman mirrors mankind (male and female) and receives her (their) life from a man (God).

Paul puts it perfectly in 1.Cor. 11:8 and 9:

'For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man.'

Knowing about God's creational intent now we can use Paul's words and say the following: For God is not of the man; but the man *of God*. Neither was God created for the man; but the man *for God!*

From the first verses in the gospel of John we know that Jesus was the Word of God by and through whom everything was created.

He is true LIFE ... and **IN** Him we live, move and have our being.

This divine process of creation is mirrored in the relationship a man has to a woman... and we even find this shown in our genes.

We know that the female egg-cell (ovum) is always female (X-Chromosome). From this fact alone, it is clear that a man can never originate from a woman; for she has no male sex-chromosomes (Y) in any of her cells.

Without a man inseminating a woman with his sperm (his life) mankind would become extinct after one generation!

It is the "life-giving and life-sustaining" male ability to have the female (X) chromosome in his sperm securing and sustaining human life.

A woman receives his life and with her 'life-bearing, life forth-bringing and life-protecting' abilities, she is *as important as* the man. It's a wonderful partnership - **of equals**.

There can be no woman without a man... and there can be no man without a woman.

The Hebrew word *azar* for helpmeet includes the meaning 'protecting'... the woman is the protective environment for his life to grow and come forth.

It's the same way with God and man.

The love of God yearned for a partner to share His life with... and so man bears His life by being His glory! (1.Cor. 11:7)

This is God's creational intent for all of us!

Dear reader, can you see? It's not about *us* enjoying eternal glories in an eternity of unspeakable delight. We have to get our focus off ourselves and on to Him alone.

It's all about us fulfilling *His* deepest desire to be His perfect match in love!

In Hebrew Eve is called Hava and Strong's gives us the following definition:
from 2331; life-giver

This word has its roots in the word chavah (Strong's 2331) giving us a deeper meaning:
to live, to declare or show

So we can say:

Woman = Hava = showing forth and declaring life!

What life does a woman show forth and declare? The life she receives from man's inseminating his life into her... and so a woman conceives new life!

Again, it is exactly the same with God and man! As a woman bears the life of a man so we are to bear the life of God in our weak, earthly forms - *for and of the very declaration of His beauty and glory.*

Paul writes:

'The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual.

The first man was of the dust of the earth; the second man is of heaven.

As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the heavenly man, so also are those who are of heaven.

And just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, so shall we bear the image of the heavenly man.' (1.Cor. 15:46-49)

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness" made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed **IN** the face of Christ.

But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power (*life*) is from God and not from us.' (2.Cor. 4:6+7)

We bear His life and power – His glory - birthing forward His kingdom here on earth!
We're His partner in love – He made us alive again **IN** Jesus Christ our Lord. The high appointment for us now is to live worthy of this high calling, using our birthright and drawing close into His presence to be transformed into His likeness (2.Cor. 3:18)... becoming one with Him, our very life!

Yes, to be born again – having His new life in us - isn't a kind of sticker we can attach at a whim ... but the REALITY of a life lived after God's *original intention!*

In the Old Testament God says He will give a new heart filled with His Spirit with His laws written inwardly on the heart. (Ez. 36:26+27 / Jer. 31:33)

Why does He do this? There should be some practical consequences, don't you think?
What is the evidence or fruit of this rebirth?

The evidence is nothing but *the ability to love God as He longs to be loved by man!* If this love of God isn't in us all our claims are worth nothing!

A personal and intimate relationship with God in the fullness of His purpose - being in love with Him – is the fruit or evidence of the reality of being created anew in His image!

He is our life and His life **IN** us makes us His joy and glory! We are created to reign with Him to be His partner in love – in the same way that a woman becomes alive and life-bearing in the love of the one man she is one with, as his beautiful glory.

Again, what a wonderful analogy this is for our relationship with Christ! Yes, God needs man to establish His kingdom ... He needs us to be the fulfillment of His love in becoming ONE with Him, as His glory!

'So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church.'

For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

'For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. **THIS IS A GREAT MYSTERY: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.**' (Eph. 5:28-32 KJV)

So with all that we read about the bride, the bridegroom, about marriage and weddings in His word – *who are we* to reject this "mystery of Christ and the church"... of the Bridegroom and His Bride?

The Bride

Oh! Give me something refreshing to eat — and quickly! Apricots, raisins — anything! I'm about to faint with love! His left hand cradles my head, and his right arm encircles my waist! (SoS 2:5 MSG)

Arise, my love, my fair one, *and come away*. O my dove, that art in the clefts of the rock, in the secret places of the stairs, let me see thy countenance, let me hear thy voice; for sweet is thy voice, and thy countenance is comely. (SoS 2:13+14 KJV)

... I found the one my heart loves. I held him *and would not let him go* till I had brought him to my mother's house, to the room of the one who conceived me. (SoS 3:4)

'How beautiful you are, my darling! Oh, how beautiful! Your eyes behind your veil are doves. Your hair is like a flock of goats descending from the hills of Gilead. Your teeth are like a flock of sheep just shorn, coming up from the washing. Each has its twin; not one of them is alone. Your lips are like a scarlet ribbon; your mouth is lovely. Your temples behind your veil are like the halves of a pomegranate. Your neck is like the tower of David, built with courses of stone; on it hang a thousand shields, all of them shields of warriors. Your breasts are like two fawns, like twin fawns of a gazelle that browse among the lilies. Until the day breaks and the shadows flee, I will go to the mountain of myrrh and to the hill of incense. You are altogether beautiful, my darling; there is no flaw in you. Come with me from Lebanon, my bride, come with me from Lebanon. Descend from the crest of Amana, from the top of Senir, the summit of Hermon, from the lions' dens and the mountain haunts of leopards. *You have stolen my heart*, my sister, my bride; *you have stolen my heart with one glance of your eyes*, with one jewel of your necklace. How delightful is your love, my sister, my bride! *How much more pleasing is your love than wine, and the fragrance of your perfume more than any spice!* Your lips drop sweetness as the honeycomb, my bride; milk and honey are under your tongue... (SoS 4:1-11 NIV)

'Come back, come back, girl from Shulam!
Come back, come back to where we can see you!
Why are you looking at the girl from Shulam as if she were dancing for two army camps?
How beautiful are your sandaled feet, O queenly maiden. Your rounded thighs are like jewels, the work of a skilled craftsman.
Your navel is perfectly formed like a goblet filled with mixed wine. Between your thighs lies a mound of wheat bordered with lilies. Your breasts are like two fawns, twin fawns of a gazelle.
Your neck is as beautiful as an ivory tower. Your eyes are like the sparkling pools in Heshbon by the gate of Bath-rabbim. Your nose is as fine as the tower of Lebanon overlooking Damascus.
Your head is as majestic as Mount Carmel, and the sheen of your hair radiates royalty. The king is held captive by its tresses.
Oh, how beautiful you are! How pleasing, my love, how full of delights! You are slender like a palm tree, and your breasts are like its clusters of fruit.

I said, "I will climb the palm tree and take hold of its fruit." May your breasts be like grape clusters, and the fragrance of your breath like apples! May your kisses be as exciting as the best wine, flowing gently over lips and teeth.' (SoS 7:1- 10 NASV)

... for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife has made herself ready. – Rev. 19:7
KJV

After all we have learned up until now it is very easy to see how far "the church" has moved from God's creational intention – the plan He had for mankind.

We proudly claim to be 'born-again' and even filled with His Holy Spirit but *our actions*, the way we behave, resemble more the schemes of the evil one.

We do not intend to allow any comfortable excuses here... no, "the church" *ISN'T all the others!*

We want us *all* to check our hearts here ... and *especially* "the brothers", the ones who give themselves positions of superiority and dominance which they don't actually have.

Dear brothers, don't you know that you will never become Christ's loving bride ... unless you accord your sisters the legitimate position of equality, influence and the rights they need to have, to complete *you* so that you and they together become "*echad*" with the Father and the Son, reaching FULLNESS in ONENESS?

If God created incomplete man to resemble Him and His need to have a partner in love ... as He gave the woman as an illustration of how He sees us ... who are we to reject our sisters and their God-given talents to bless us by forcing them into spiritual infertility?

Unless we learn to love Him as a woman loves we can bury the thought of being His Bride at all!

Reading 1.John 4:7-21 we see that love (both loving God and our brothers and sisters) is the hallmark of everyone who is born of God so therefore, the absence of love is the obvious proof of NOT knowing God at all – let alone being His Bride!

You see, the gender of "the Bride" is female, so forget this cold-hearted, head-controlled and well-calculated approach we see so often in male behaviour. Our sisters have something we all – men as well as women – need to become Christ's loving bride. We need this complete abandonment of ourselves, this all-out surrender of our whole existence and complete being into Him alone. All our heart's motivation – from dawn till dusk – has to spin around Him alone... and when we wake at night the longing of our hearts will make us restless by our yearning for Him to fetch us away.

We all – yes, the brothers, too – have to become 'Marys' and become 'beside ourselves with love'.

Reading this do you feel slightly uncomfortable now? Are you thinking, 'Hmmm, no I can't do this... This makes me feel silly?'

If so, you don't yet have the heart of a "bride-believer"... and you're not yet ready to be His loving Bride!

Don't worry, dear brother, God doesn't want you to imitate women in every way... no, you'll even become more manly when you become a complete man in Christ, by treasuring the gift He gave for your perfection in our dear sisters – and learning from them.

It is men who press women into the role of 'second-class-believer' while they rule in some elevated sphere in ignorant incompetence. What potential of blessing is forfeited! The blessing God placed in women is despised by people holding up a system which never came from God in the first place. **It is time for men to change!**

We as His bride are to bear fruit... but how can we be His "Hava" when we reject His plan in our creation, when disorder rules instead of divine order... when men and women don't love and treasure the other as their God-given counterpart for completion and fullness in unity?

Most of what we see today is nothing but a barren harlot deeply involved in masturbation and fornicating with the products of her own perverted mind – believing that if she feels great by what she does for and to herself this must be His presence - satisfying Him! Without His 'life' **IN** us first, without returning and repentance, all we will bring forth, all we will bear is nothing but self-deception!

Dear reader, we have to actively separate ourselves from this cursed system of Babylonian "Churchianity" which God so despises and has destined for sudden judgment. (Rev. 18:8)

In the true body of Christ, a different spirit rules:

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, **there is neither male nor female: for ye are all ONE (*echad*) in Christ Jesus.** (Gal. 3:28)

The "bride-company" is characterised by genuine love. An all-out, burning love towards our beloved husband to be – Jesus – and then, because He lives in us, a strong, affectionate love towards our brothers and sisters.

Love always seeks what is good for the other, correct? So obviously, loving our sisters means laying down our lives as brothers for them to bring them into the fullness of their calling ... and their genuine love for us brothers will become this influential part – the help we need - to reach fullness in oneness with them.

There won't be a bride without everyone – women as well as men – becoming the perfect partner in love that God had in mind when He created man – both male and female.

God didn't make women for procreation alone... His initial intention in her was to make her this ravishing, mind-blowing beauty man so longs to be one with. God made her to make man complete – full circle – **IN** her.

In the same way God longs to be **IN** us so that His love becomes satisfied in becoming ONE with us!

There is one big error most believers have got stuck with. They believe repentance is merely confessing all our 'wrongs' to God and asking Him to cleanse us from them so we might have a blessed life and the promising outlook of an eternity in unfathomable bliss.

Well, we're completely off target again!

Repentance means to return to a life after God's creational intent! Repentance means to realise that we have been separated from God by misusing our will and independence for our own exaltation.

Repentance means to know about God's plan for my life... and to ask Him to remove the separation and connect me with Him again, restoring me into an intimate love-relationship with Him.

God promised this by the prophets:

'I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols.

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.' – (Ez. 36:25-27)

"The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah.

It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the Lord.

"This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the Lord. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

No longer will they teach their neighbour, or say to one another, 'Know the Lord,' because they will ALL know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the Lord. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more." – Jer. 31:31-34

This new heart filled with God's Holy Spirit means just one thing: To enable us to be God's partner in love again!

Knowing His heart, knowing what pleases Him, together with our will to love Him with ALL we are and radically pressing into His presence (2.Cor. 3:18), will transform us into this fatal beauty He simply can't resist.

Now, here is where our gifting and creativity comes in.

How does a woman, who has been set free in her femininity, and who is madly in love, think? She thinks like this:

"How can I show Him my love? What can I do to make Him crazy for me? What is His favourite food? How can I make myself so beautiful that he won't be able to take his eyes off me? What clothing shall I wear to entice him, what make-up would look good on me? How shall I do my hair? What perfume would grab his attention? How shall I move or look when I'm near him? All I want is to be near Him, day and night... **100% of the time.**"

It is clear that this beauty isn't our physical existence but the beauty of our renewed hearts burning for Him alone... yearning for unification with Him.

Paul expresses this longing for being *echad* with Him in Phil. 1:23 and 2.Cor. 5:2-9... it is His Spirit in us constantly pulling us closer towards Him.

This longing for unification we hear from Shulamite, too (SoS 7:11-14 NASV):

"I am my lover's, and he claims me as his own. Come, my love, let us go out to the fields and spend the night among the wildflowers.

Let us get up early and go to the vineyards to see if the grapevines have budded, if the blossoms have opened, and if the pomegranates have bloomed. There I will give you my love.

There the mandrakes give off their fragrance, and the finest fruits are at our door, new delights as well as old, which I have saved for you, my lover."

God is deadly serious about our love! He isn't impressed by all we do for Him at all... our entire activity means nothing to Him – there's only one thing He looks for: Love!

He expresses it clearly in the letter to the church in Ephesus (Rev. 2:1-7 NIV) – "Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first."

If we do not repent – **and yes, repenting is returning to love Him again** – He will remove our lampstand or *menorah* from its place.

What is the lampstand? It represents the Church with Christ in the midst; His Presence in His Temple, in the midst of His people. (Rev.1:12-15 CJB) If He says that He will remove the menorah from its place, He must be saying that *He will separate His Presence from His people.* What a terrible thought this is!

But didn't this very thing happen in the days of Samuel? (1.Sam. 4:1-22) Because Israel had departed from God's creational intention for her, to live as His Bride in intimacy with Him, and had instead chased after foreign gods, (so that even the priests, the sons of Eli, the High Priest at Shiloh, where the Tabernacle of God had been placed, were evil men who despised God's sacrifices and indulged in Temple prostitution) God allowed the Ark of His Covenant, where He caused His Presence to dwell, to be captured by the hostile Philistines.

This is *I-Kavod* (without glory) - The Presence and glory of God had abandoned His people, since His people had already, for so long, abandoned Him.
Today, Shiloh is just a field of windswept grass.

The same can be said for every temple Israel built. In each case we see how Israel departed from God's love, abandoning Him for her own lovers and was in turn abandoned by God. When man turns his back on God, the great edifices he builds (ostensibly for God's glory) will be left as ruins.

So in Revelation 2 we see Jesus warning the church of Ephesus to return to her first love, or He would remove her lampstand/menorah. What is Ephesus today? Weeds, thorns and thistles grow amongst the ruins of what were once proud streets and buildings. It reminds us of Isaiah 13:19-22:

'And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldeans pride, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. It shall never be inhabited, neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation: neither shall the Arabian pitch tent there; neither shall shepherds make their flocks to lie down there. But wild beasts of the desert shall lie there; and their houses shall be full of doleful creatures; and ostriches shall dwell there, and wild goats shall dance there.

And wolves shall cry in their castles, and jackals in the pleasant palaces: and her time is near to come, and her days shall not be prolonged.'

If this could happen to Ephesus, Babylon and Israel, *how much more could it happen to us as individuals – His temple of today! We desperately need the ointment of divine truth to open our eyes (Rev. 3: 18) make us aware of our spiritual condition and the vital necessity to return (repent) to His LOVE.*

If the creational intent God made us for was to be His partner in love ... repentance means to return to His love again! 1. Corinthians 13 says it clearly: LOVE IS ALL THAT MATTERS!

If you have never repented in this way - there still is time to return to Him! Confess to Him your sin of ignorance; confess to Him how you have misused His love for your selfish dreams of Him being there for your own pleasure alone... how you revolved around yourself instead of Him alone.

May God send His Spirit to open our eyes to the utter neglect of His love and the presumptuous, egocentric focus on **OURSELVES!**

We can be quite sure that He won't *marry* anyone else but the ONE who is consumed by an all-out, burning love towards Him!

Come back, come back, Shulamite!
Come back, come back ... to where He can see you!

May Bugs

by Markus Reins

It was mid April 2013 when I had a blessed e-mail exchange with my dear brother Michael Clark. Our exchange developed from mistranslations of the Bible to the worth women have in the body of Christ... and the terrible, widespread deficiency we see so often today.

I was so blessed by sharing for the first time all that the Lord had put in and on my heart in all these past years when He started to transform my spiritual man.

Poor Michael had to suffer by being flooded by a breaking dam! It was the first time I was able to share about all the important, precious truths in the above chapters.

I had so often said to the Lord:

"Lord, why are you showing me all these wonderful truths if I can't share them with others? What's the point if no-one shows any interest in knowing about the very nature of love, about Your needs... and feels attacked when I say that it's not about God serving *us* ... but rather *us* serving *You*?"

Seeing Michael's interest and even his enjoyment in exchanging his insights and thoughts with me was such a blessing ... but though I loved our conversation I wrote:

'My dear brother, I so loved sharing my heart with you... but although I loved it, I know it's still imperfect. You know why? It is so wonderful to see you responding ... but you are "just" my brother. Though we love Him with all our hearts... to reach the fullness of the body of Christ something is missing: the heart and words of a dear sister!'

In one of his e-mails Michael sent me the link to a post written by the late Jay Ferris writing about the love of women:

<http://lovinglikegod.com/2013/03/18/the-love-of-women/>

Reading it I was awestruck! Jay even used words similar to mine.

He wrote,

'Lord, help us to melt into this feminine way of loving in time so that the world might

"know."... This fit so well with the words I wrote to Michael,

'I learned to love Him the "woman's way"... and it's such a delight! What a blessing that God made women!!!'

... and this without ever having heard about Jay before!

In amazement I turned to the Lord asking,

"Lord, what is this now? I have never spoken or written about this to anyone ... and now I see the same truths popping up at the same time. Lord, what is going on? What are you doing?"

His answer was – and I felt Him saying it with a chuckle - "Look to the May bugs!"

May bugs or May beetles (cockchafers) are very common in central Europe – every child knows them. There are songs made about them and I ate quite some of them as a boy in the form of chocolate being formed into May bug shape; wrapped in printed aluminium foil.

For a short introduction to readers not familiar with these very unique creatures, click the following link: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cockchafer>

The grubs of these bugs live in the ground - invisible - for 3 to 4 years feeding on the roots of plants. Then - though being isolated not knowing about each other - driven by an inner impulse on one warm May evening the "boys" dig themselves from the ground first. On one

evening they all come to the surface. Although they're spread over square miles and each of them are totally isolated ... they all come to the surface synchronized by some unknown, invisible impulse! What a wonderful God we have!

A few days later on another warm evening all the "girls" come forth... to be greeted by the bunch of "boys" who have waited for them impatiently... Oh my!

Like butterflies, May bugs go through metamorphosis. They live in INVISIBILITY for years as grubs in the ground, but then they all stretch their wings and fly away! HALLELUJAH!

By pointing me to the May bugs, God is saying that He is synchronizing His work by working on men first (again a parallel to Adam being created first ... though "incomplete"... and later being completed by Eve in the garden of Eden) before our dear sisters will come from the "ground" as well and be welcomed and put into their rightful positions after the plan of God! What a joy it is to see Him doing all this! He is the maestro conducting this wonderful symphony to prove before the whole world that it is He who builds His church and He alone prepares His bride!

What I didn't know then – God's word contained a prophetic message, too! I took His words as an abstract, allegorical parable for how He is going to act... and was dumbstruck when the first sister emerged from invisibility ... and sure enough, it was one week after my birthday in May this year!

For many years I have known that everything He had shown me He wanted me to write not alone but 'with the completing touch of a woman's hand and heart'. Though I enjoyed my exchange with Michael in April I knew I had to wait till He would bring me a sister to share in this all-important work.

I'm well acquainted with waiting on Him, but sometimes He acts quite fast... and so I'm very glad and thankful that Frances and I were able to write this message together.

There is another beautiful parallel in the garden on Resurrection morning. Our Lord died on the Cross and was buried. On the third day, He rose in His transformed, resurrection body from the dead – and who was there first to greet Him? It was a woman, Mary Magdalene – who represents the **Bride of Christ**, who came into being because He laid down His life for her. She completes Her Lord! Eve was taken out of Adam while he slept. The Bride was taken out of Christ while He slept in death.

Jesus said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." (Jo. 12, 24)

In the same way, we as His Bride are to lay our lives down for each other. As we die to ourselves, we will bring forth MUCH fruit for the Kingdom of God.

The May bugs also show this principle. They too have to go into the ground as grubs, invisible, unnoticed, and metamorphose, to emerge as fully developed May bugs *at exactly the right time*.

Though it's primarily a message for the body of Christ it contains wonderful and blessed truths for every couple, too.

Man and woman enslaved and bound in and by satanic delusion and perversion have forgotten the creational intent God originally planned to bless them with in each other. Sexuality – meant to be a wonderful blessing – got perverted and spoiled by egoism, self-

love and even brutality.

God laid in man the image of the "female ideal". The lack in man defines the existence or creational purpose of a woman. There would be no sense at all if it were different. We can say the same thing about women! The lack in a woman defines the existence or creational purpose of a man!

God made each one to complement the need **IN** the other... and to become whole **IN** their unification... and so reach FULLNESS IN ONENESS.

A woman doesn't know how to become the 'ideal woman' after God's design ... she needs man for this.

A man doesn't know how to be the 'ideal man' after God's design ... but a woman knows. The lack in the one defines the completing other. This is simple, easy logic.

All that is needed now is just the realisation of this simple fact - and the humility to see and accept one's own limitation and imperfection. That's it – it isn't complicated at all.

However knowing this won't mean we're able to live it. As it is for normal marital relationships so it is with spiritual relationships between brothers and sisters: Without being changed into His image we won't be able to live it.

Man and woman, brother and sister have to be renewed in spirit and heart first to live after His creational intent – the plan He has for us.

Unless the grain dies it will stay barren (dead), but allowing Him to cut away the branches hindering Him and putting to death our own life will enable HIS LIFE to sprout forth!

This NEW LIFE will bring marriages into the blessing of divine order as it will bring our precious sisters into the position we brothers so need them to be in.

(We have to actively bring them there. God wants us brothers to honour Him in them by doing so.)

Then the objectives for our writing this will have been finally realised ... and I'm looking forward to God sending our sisters to us. We need them ... as they need us.

Then the Bride will be ready as the ravishing, irresistible beauty He so longs for to be united with ... and He will come running! Oh, yes He will come... to fetch her away... never to be apart anymore ... for all eternity! Basking in the fulfillment of His LOVE!

Come back, come back, dear Shulamites!

Come back, come back ... to where we can see you!

Every reader is encouraged to make contact with the authors and to pass this writing on. However we ask it not to be altered or changed in any way. Excerpts and passages may be quoted with the following info attached:

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