

The Intimacy of Desire: True Intimacy  
Rev Bob Ragan

A. What lies beneath

“We live in a culture sated with sex, but remain starved for love.” Christopher West

1. Getting to the core
2. Our culture seeks happiness and satisfaction apart from God
3. Love and sex are idols in our culture
4. Without God’s core design for our sexuality and relationships, we settle for false intimacy
5. What do we humans hunger for in our inner most being?

B. In the beginning

1. God is love...not merely the concept of love or a cognitive principle
2. Genesis 1:26 “Let us make man into our image”
3. “Man is not just an image but a likeness-image. He is not simply representative but representational. Man is the visible, corporeal representative of the invisible, bodiless God. Demut guarantees that man is the adequate and faithful representative of God on earth.”  
R. Laird Harris, Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament, p. 192
  - a. when God breathed into Adam’s nostrils, it wasn’t simply bios (biological life) but included zoe (God-life)
4. Genesis 2:18 the Lord states “It is not good that the man should be alone.”
5. God assigns Adam a task
6. How did Adam feel when he looked into the eyes of the animals?
7. Did Adam wonder if there was another body-person like himself somewhere?
8. God gifted Adam with a helper, a partner, one perfectly and uniquely suited just for him
9. “Their biological sex, specifically designed by God, is divinely inspired, and part of how they represented the fullness of His image.” Bob Ragan
10. “As Genesis 1 makes clear, gender is a foundational, creational, human category reflective of the nature of God in us that exists prior to and independent of marriage and sexuality. If we can’t see the foundational importance of gender, independent of marriage and sexual relations, then it merely reflects how little we understand and appreciate it.” Dale Kuehne, Sex and the iWorld, p. 120
11. Adam and Eve’s defense-less-ness enabled them to see each other: no masks or barriers
12. Intimacy was occurring both with God and each other
13. Adam and Eve experienced true intimacy as designed by God

### C. Eros, Agape, and Intimacy

1. In the garden, agape and eros were joined together and it was good
2. How was sexuality explained to you as a child?
3. What does erotic desire, have to do with the stars?
4. The world knows of the void within which searches for infilling
5. Redeemed eros, as God designed it to be, is our rocket to the stars
6. Eros is a yearning for the infinite
7. We were created for unending fulfillment
8. The word “intimacy” in our culture typically has an association to the sensual and sexual
9. We are always seeking for true intimacy
10. There were profound consequences due to Adam and Eve’s separation from the Tree of Life
11. The legacy of Adam and Eve was passed down to us
12. Not living out of our true center in Christ, our inner ache becomes our center

### D. Connecting with the stars

“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.”  
Ephesians 5:31–32

1. The bible begins with a marriage and ends with a marriage
2. Redemption of the fallen marriage in the Garden of Eden occurred in the Garden of Gethsemane
3. “We exist because God wants to make a gift of Himself to us because God wants to share His own infinite goodness and bliss with us.” “In short, these heavenly nuptials are what we long for (desire); they’re what we’re created for (design); and they’re what we’re headed for (destiny).”  
Christopher West, *Fill these Hearts*, p. 102
4. God desires for us to experience true intimacy through His life incarnate within us and His love
5. Marriage and sexual union is holy and sacramental
6. Jesus wants to marry you!
7. We must become spiritually aware of our true hunger