

*The Song
of Solomon*

THE SEASONS OF THE CHRISTIAN CALENDAR

CYCLE OF LIGHT

GOD with us

Advent: Anticipation
Christmas: Incarnation
Epiphany: Revelation

CYCLE OF LIFE

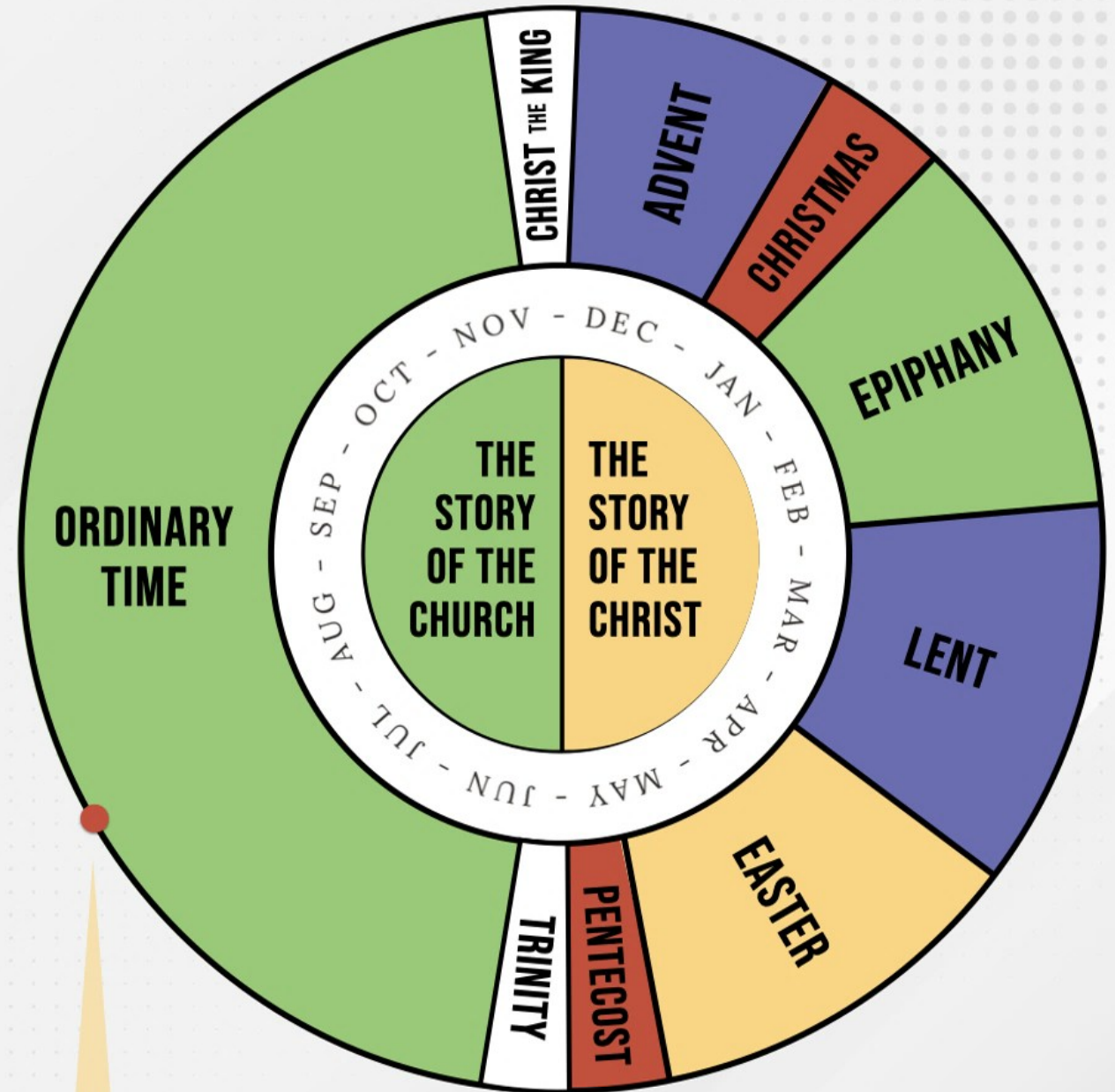
GOD for us

Lent: Crucifixion
Easter: Resurrection
Pentecost: Ascension

CYCLE OF LOVE

GOD in us

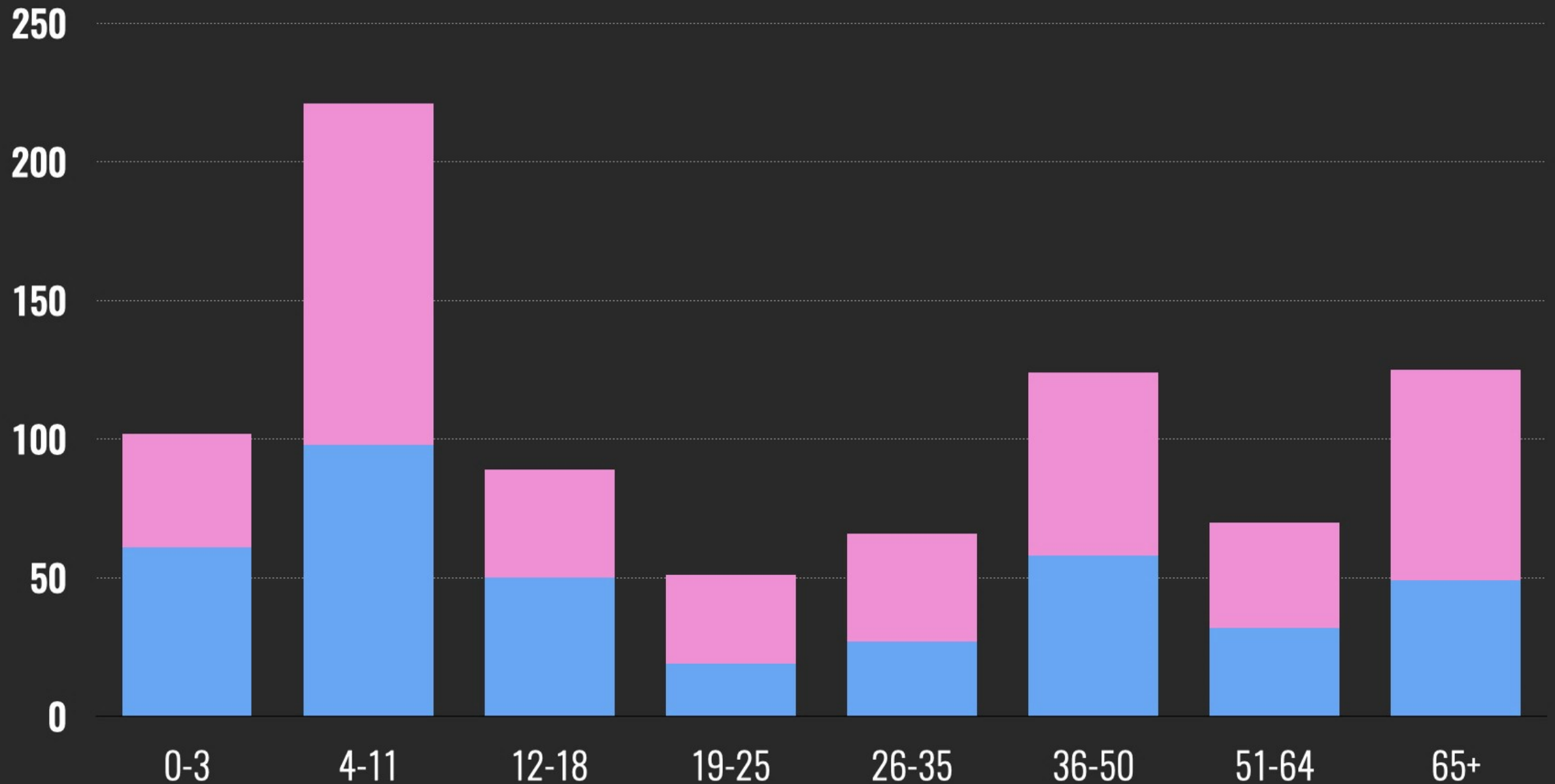
Trinity: Magnification
Ordinary Time: Mission
Christ the King: Conclusion

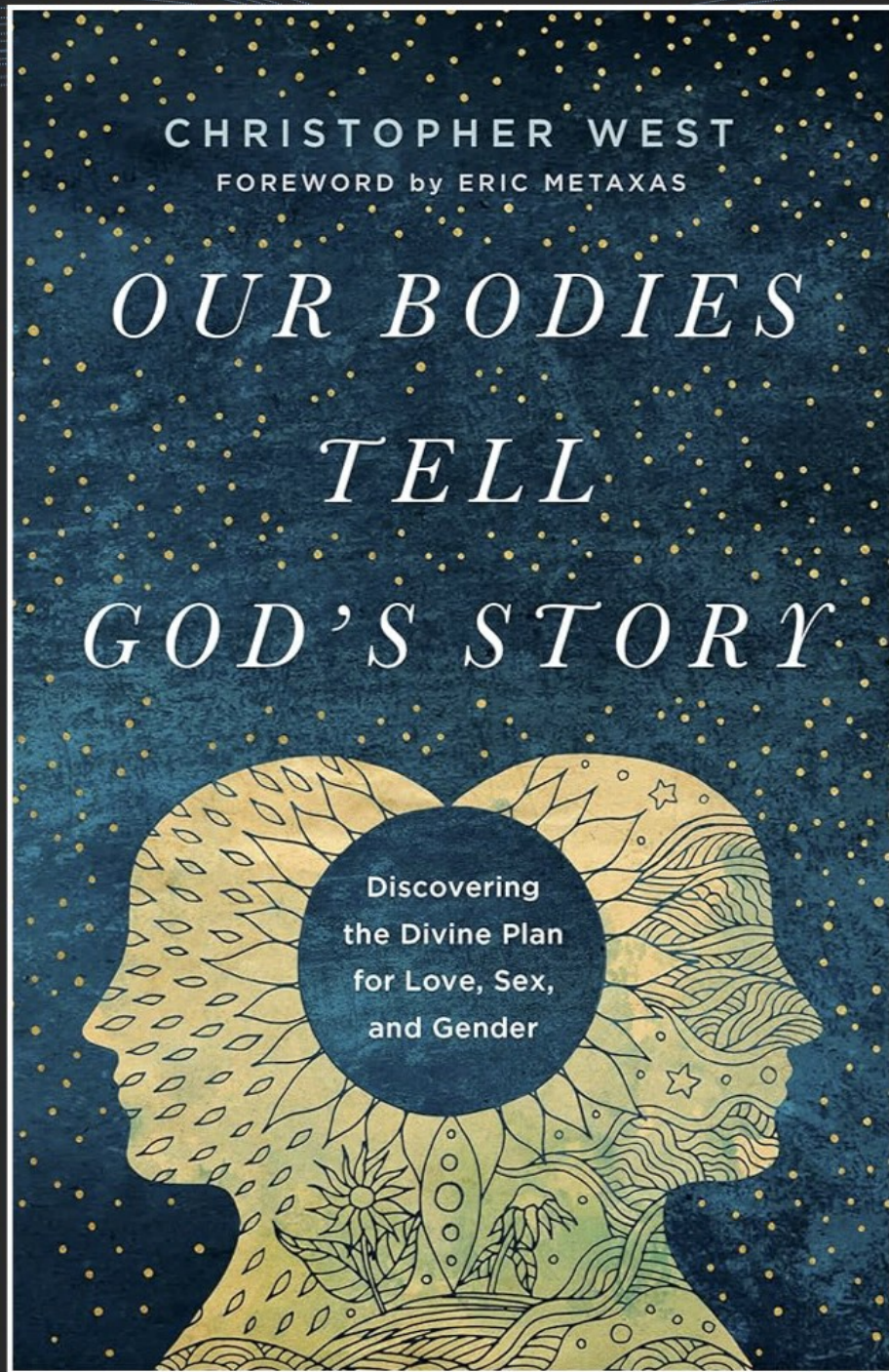


WE ARE HERE

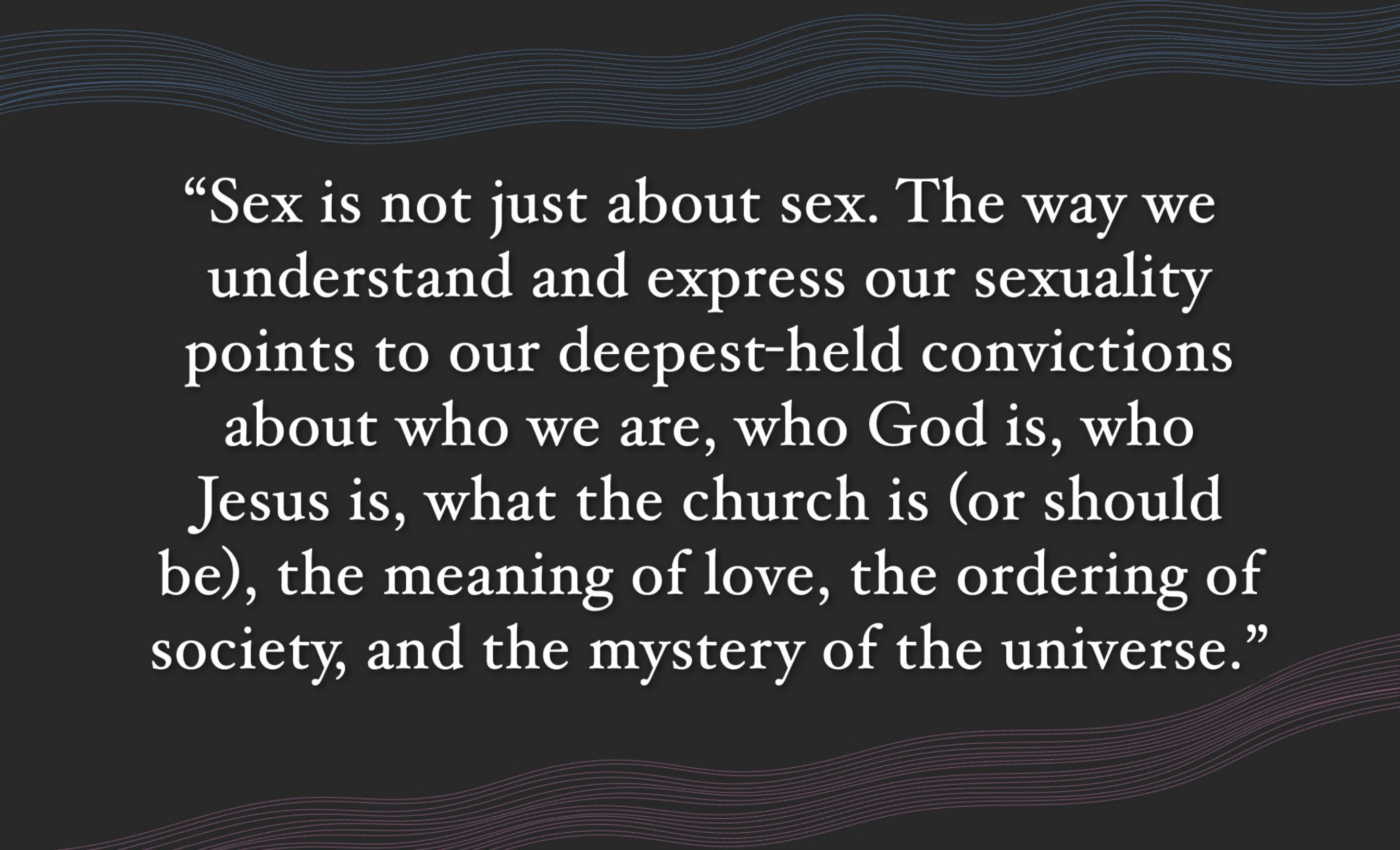
This five-week sermon series will explore **mature themes** with reverence and care, focusing not on explicit explanations but on the theological importance of embodiment, God's design, and faithful stewardship of the good gifts He has entrusted to us.

PARK STREET BRETHREN DEMOGRAPHICS



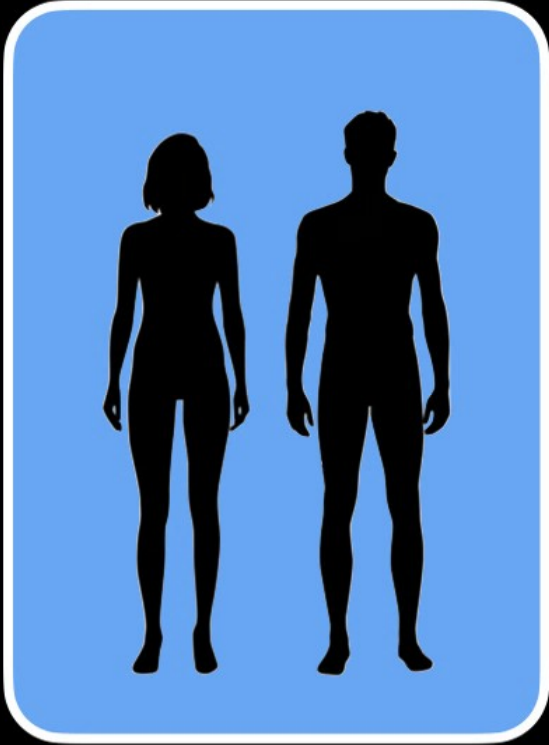


“The body is not only *biological*. Since we’re made in the image of God as male and female, the body, as we will unfold in some detail, is also *theological*. It tells and astounding divine story. And it does so precisely through the mystery of sexual difference and the call of the two to become ‘one flesh.’ This means when we get the body and sex wrong, we get the divine story wrong as well.”



“Sex is not just about sex. The way we understand and express our sexuality points to our deepest-held convictions about who we are, who God is, who Jesus is, what the church is (or should be), the meaning of love, the ordering of society, and the mystery of the universe.”

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*To be human is
to be **embodied***

GENESIS 2:7

Then the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into the man's nostrils, and the man became a living person.

***You are not like a Reese Cup:
comprised of two separate
ingredients that can exist
independent of one another.***



***You are not like a Reese Cup:
comprised of two separate
ingredients that can exist
independent of one another.***



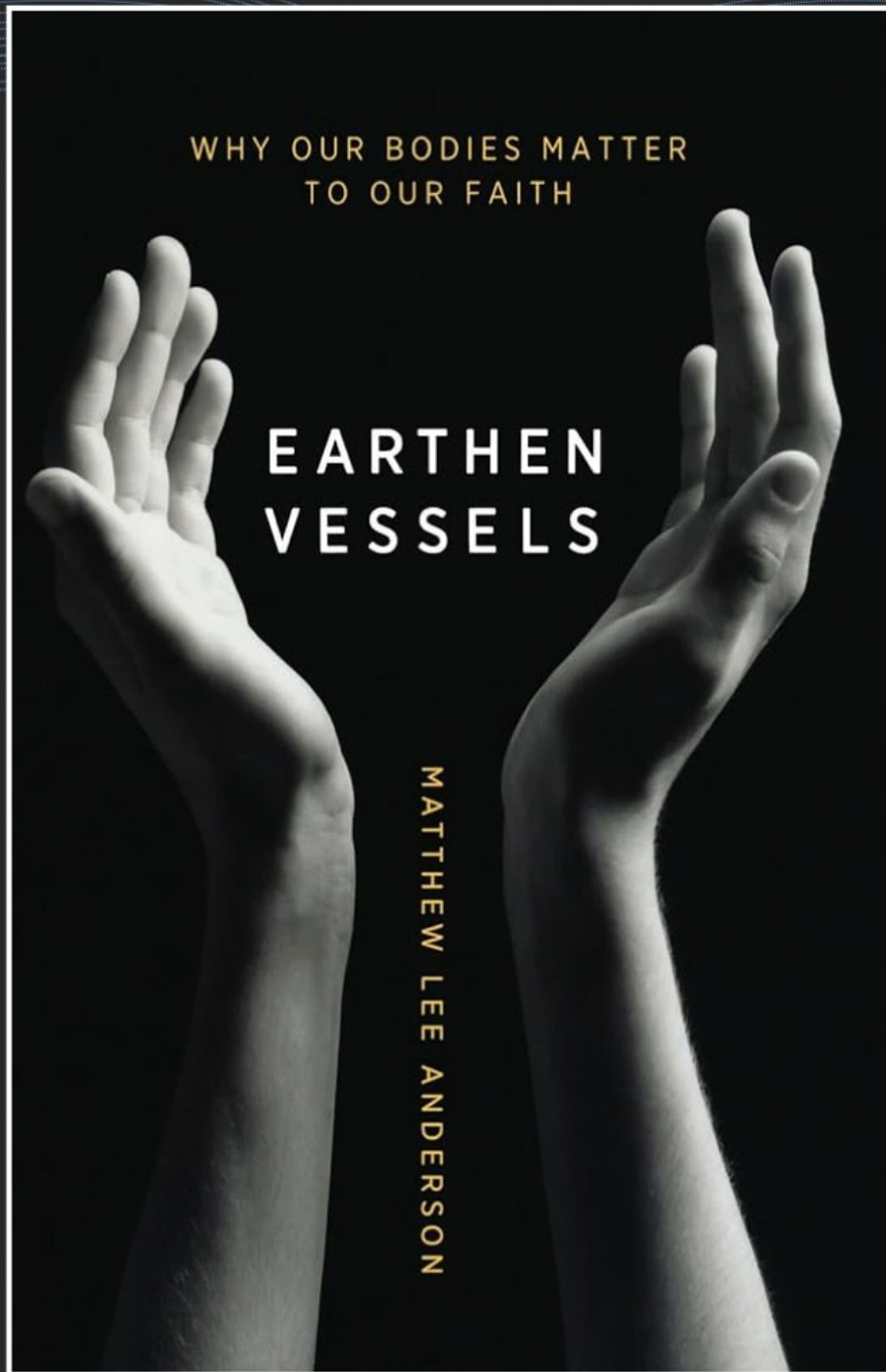
***You are more like bread: comprised of
two separate ingredients formed into
a unified whole—a single human
being, fearfully and wonderfully made.***



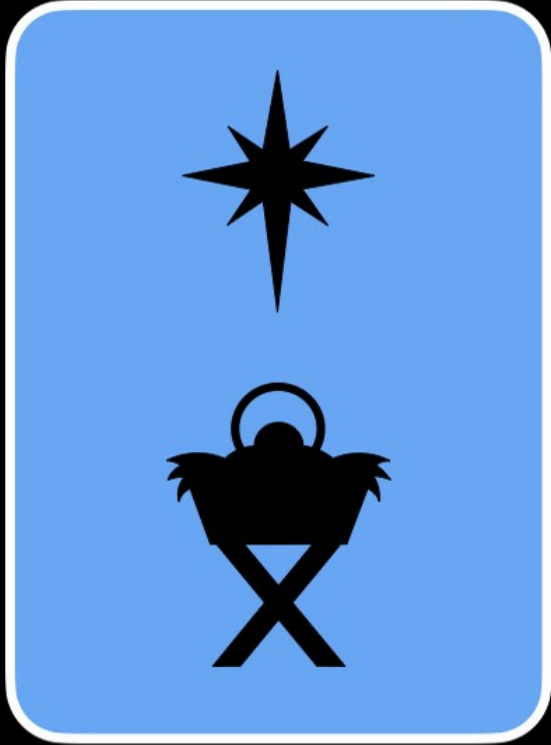
MERE CHRISTIANITY

C. S. Lewis

“Christianity is almost the only one of the great religions which thoroughly approves of the body—which believes that matter is good, that God himself once took on a human body, that some kind of body is going to be given to us even in heaven and is going to be an essential part of our happiness.”



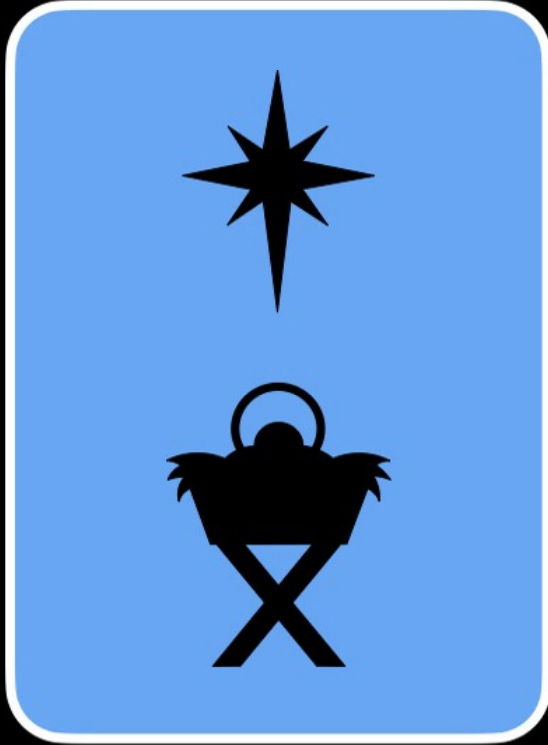
“The incarnation of Jesus affirms the body’s original goodness. The death of Jesus reminds us of its need for redemption. And the resurrection of Jesus gives us hope for its restoration.”



*To be human is
to be **significant***

PSALM 8:4-6

What is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor. You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet.



*To be human is
to be **significant***

GENESIS 1:26-27

Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule... So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

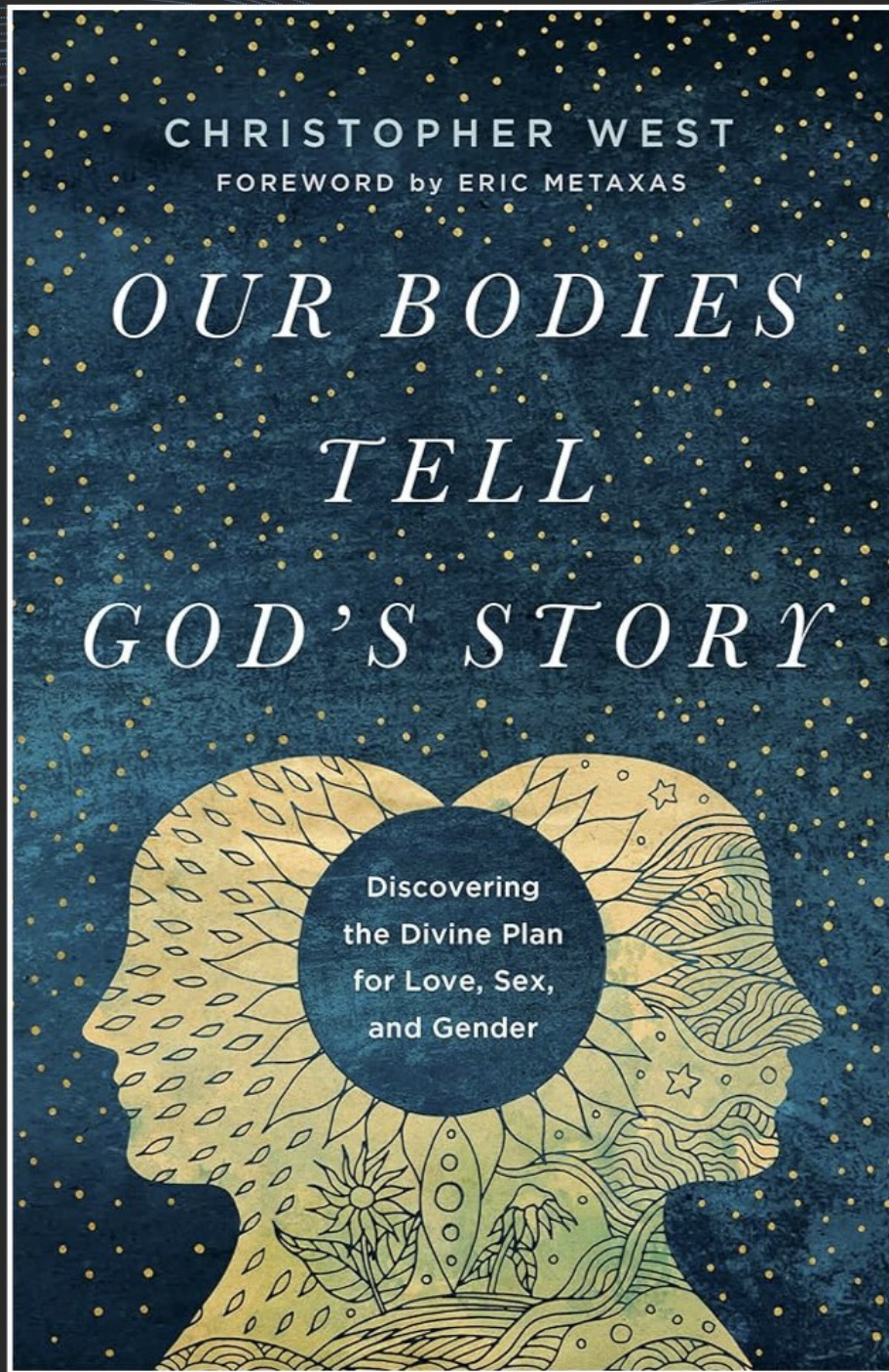
JOHN PAUL II

Man and Woman He Created Them



A Theology of the Body

“The body, in fact, and only the body, is capable of making visible what is invisible: the spiritual and divine. It has been created to transfer into the visible reality of the world the mystery hidden from eternity in God, and thus to be a sign of it.”



“The body is not divine, of course. Rather, it’s an image or a sign of the divine. A sign points us to a reality beyond itself and, in some way, makes that reality present to us... Human beings need signs and symbols to communicate. There’s no way around it. The same holds true in our relationship with God. God speaks to us in *sign language*.”

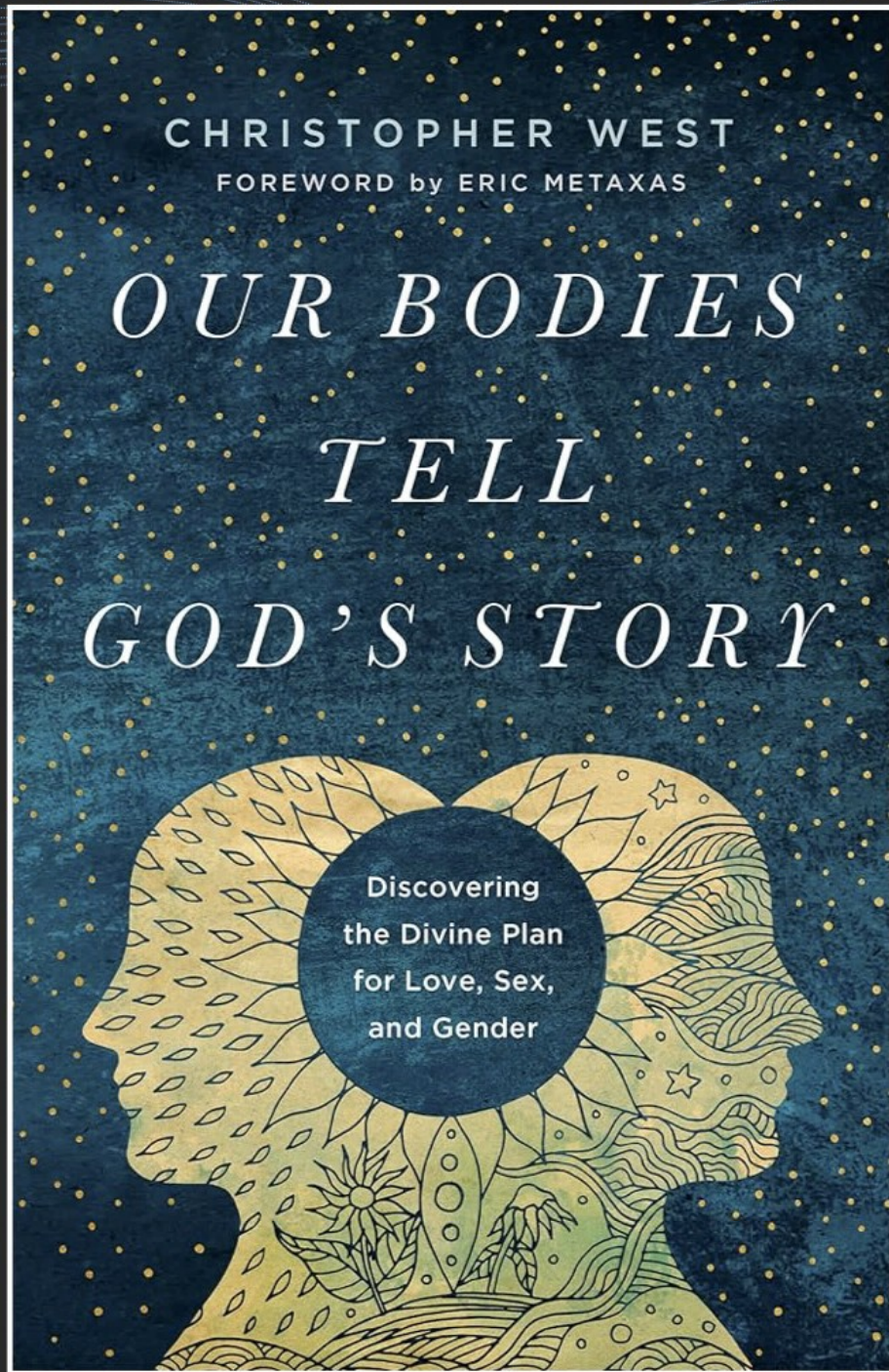


*To be human is
to be **communal***

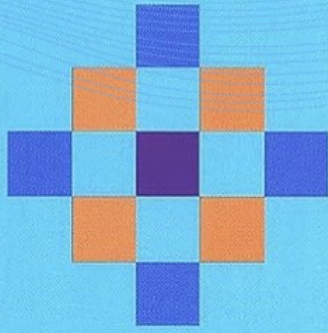
GENESIS 2:18, 24

The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”

That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.



“Think about it: A man’s body makes no sense by itself. Nor does a woman’s body. But seen in light of each other, sexual difference reveals the unmistakable plan of God that man and woman are meant to be a ‘gift’ to one another in spousal love.”



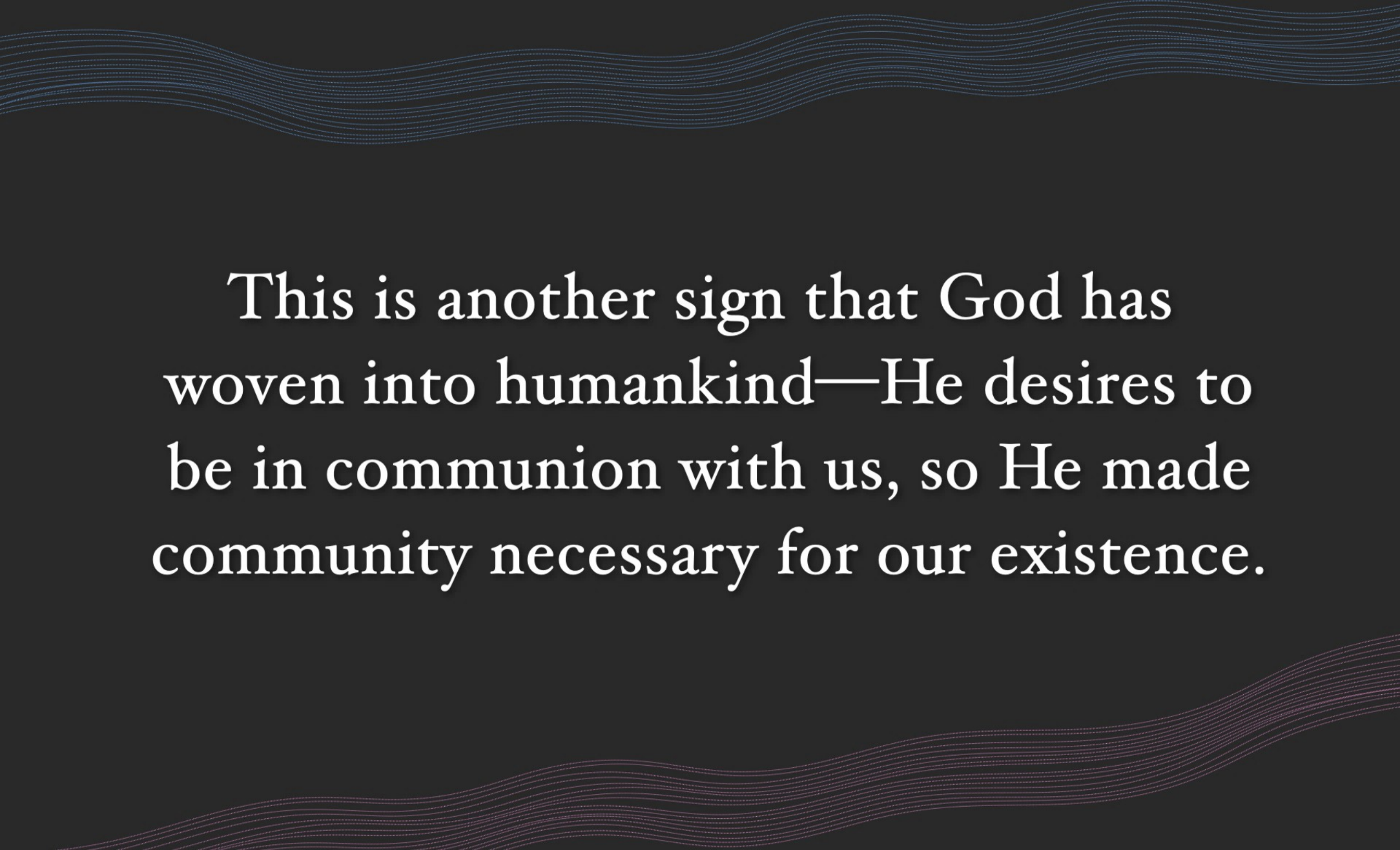
Resurrection and Moral Order

An Outline for
Evangelical Ethics

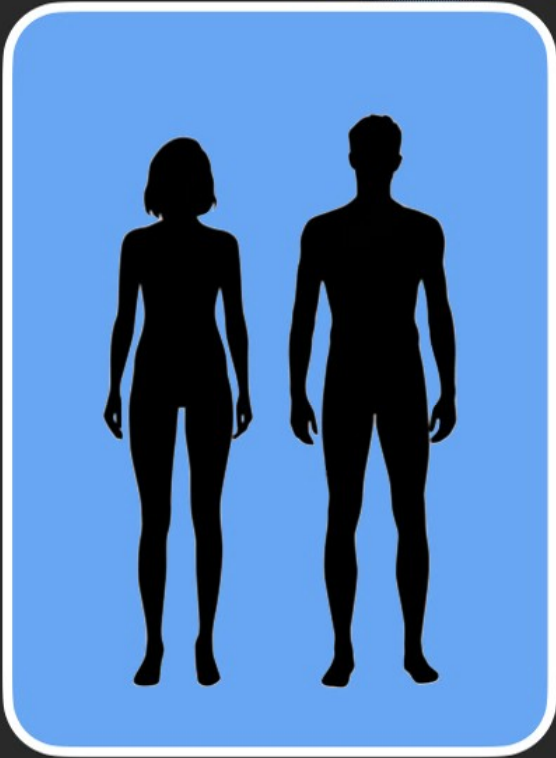
OLIVER
O'DONOVAN

Second Edition

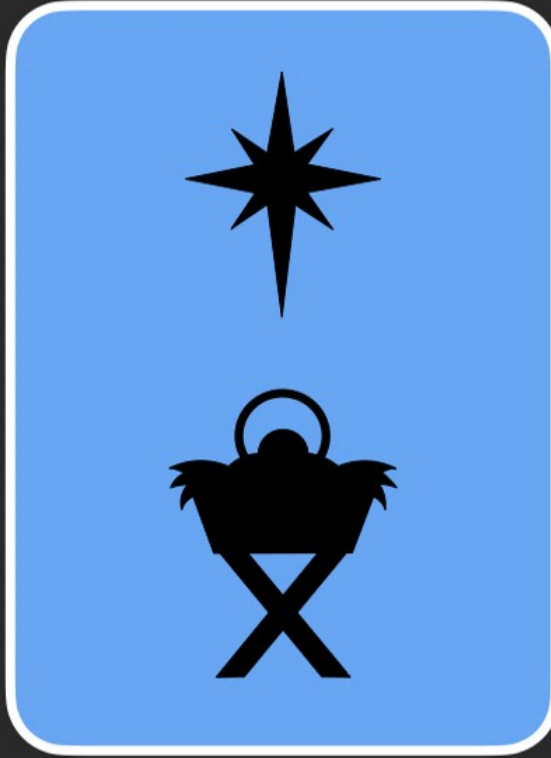
“[The New Testament Church] conceived of marriage and singleness as alternative vocations, each a worthy form of life, the two together comprising the whole Christian witness... The one declared that God had vindicated the order of creation, the other pointed beyond it to its eschatological transformation. In other words, marriage points to Genesis, singleness to Revelation.”

The slide features a dark blue background with decorative wavy lines in a lighter blue shade at the top and bottom. The text is centered and reads:

This is another sign that God has woven into humankind—He desires to be in communion with us, so He made community necessary for our existence.



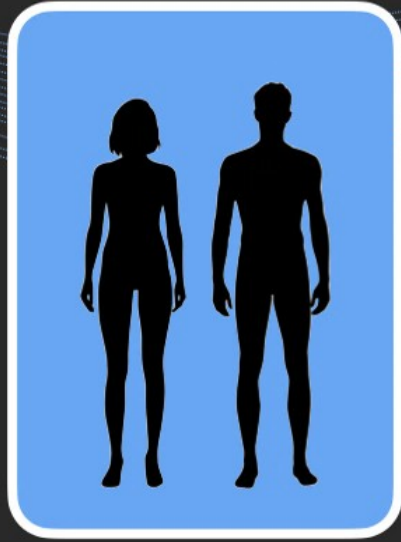
*To be human is to
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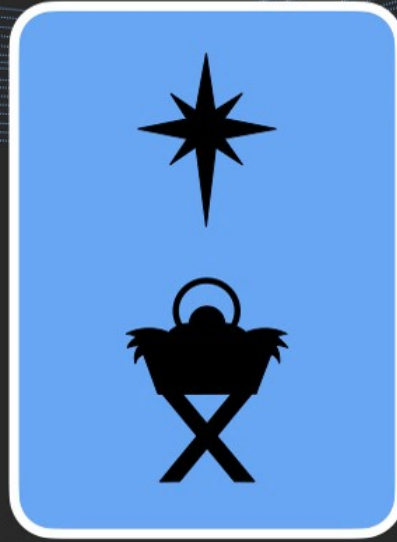
*To be human is to
be **significant***



*To be human is to
be **communal***



To be human is to
be **embodied**



To be human is to
be **significant**



To be human is to
be **communal**

Humans are embodied with **genders**,
which are signified by our **genitals**,
which allows communal existence
through **generating** life.

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SONG OF SOLOMON 1:1-4

Solomon's Song of Songs

She

Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth—for your love is more delightful than wine. Pleasing is the fragrance of your perfumes; your name is like perfume poured out. No wonder the young women love you! Take me away with you—let us hurry! Let the king bring me into his chambers.

Friends

We rejoice and delight in you; we will praise your love more than wine.

SONG OF SOLOMON 1:9-14

He

I liken you, my darling, to a mare among Pharaoh's chariot horses. Your cheeks are beautiful with earrings, your neck with strings of jewels. We will make you earrings of gold, studded with silver.

She

While the king was at his table, my perfume spread its fragrance. My beloved is to me a sachet of myrrh resting between my breasts. My beloved is to me a cluster of henna blossoms from the vineyards of En Gedi.

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