The Song of Solomon

THE SEASONS OF THE CHRISTIAN CALENDAR

CYCLE OF LIGHT
GOD with us

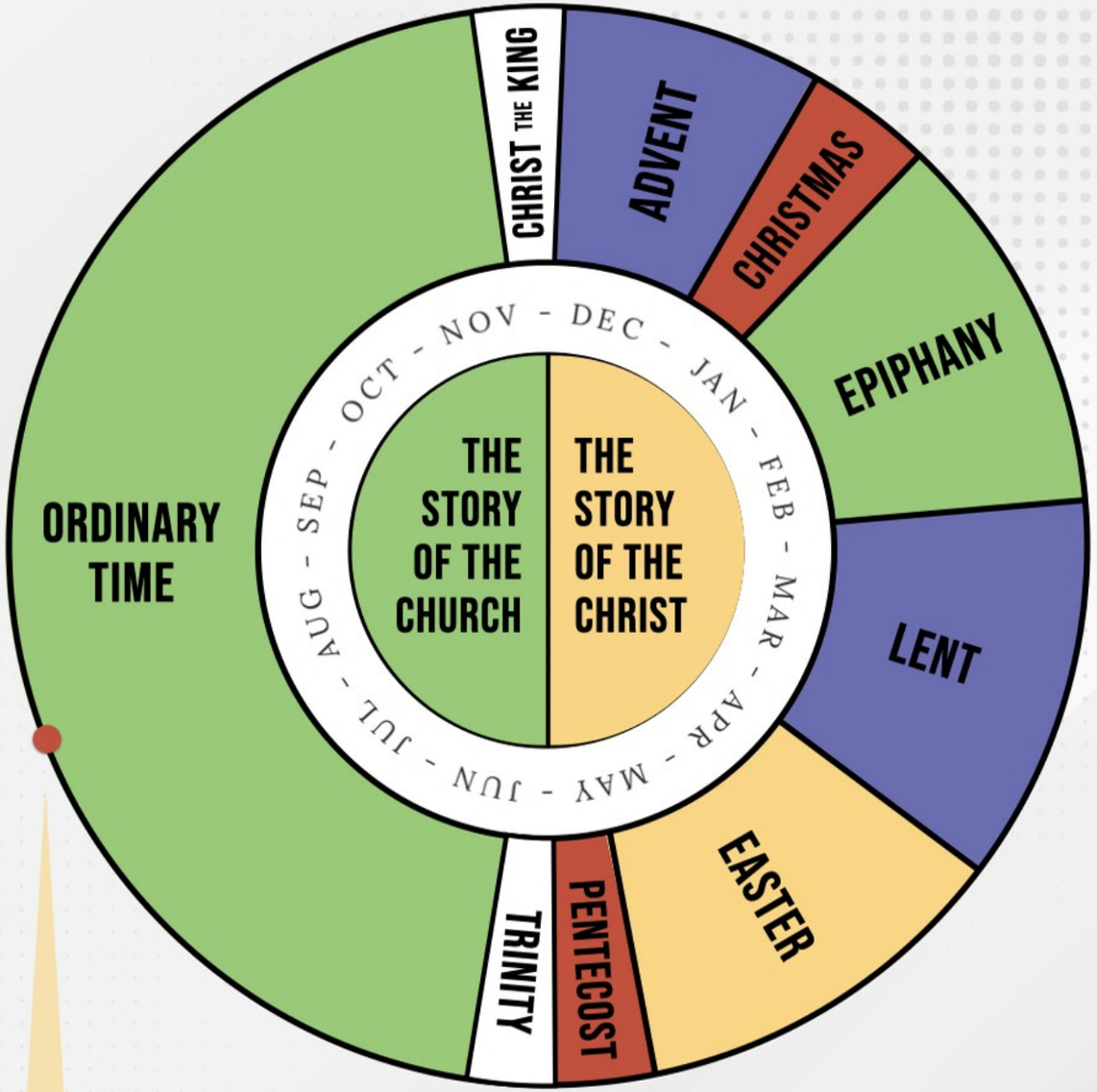
Advent: Anticipation
Christmas: Incarnation
Epiphany: Revelation

CYCLE OF LIFE
GOD for us

Lent: Crucifixion
Easter: Resurrection
Pentecost: Ascension

CYCLE OF LOVE
GOD in us

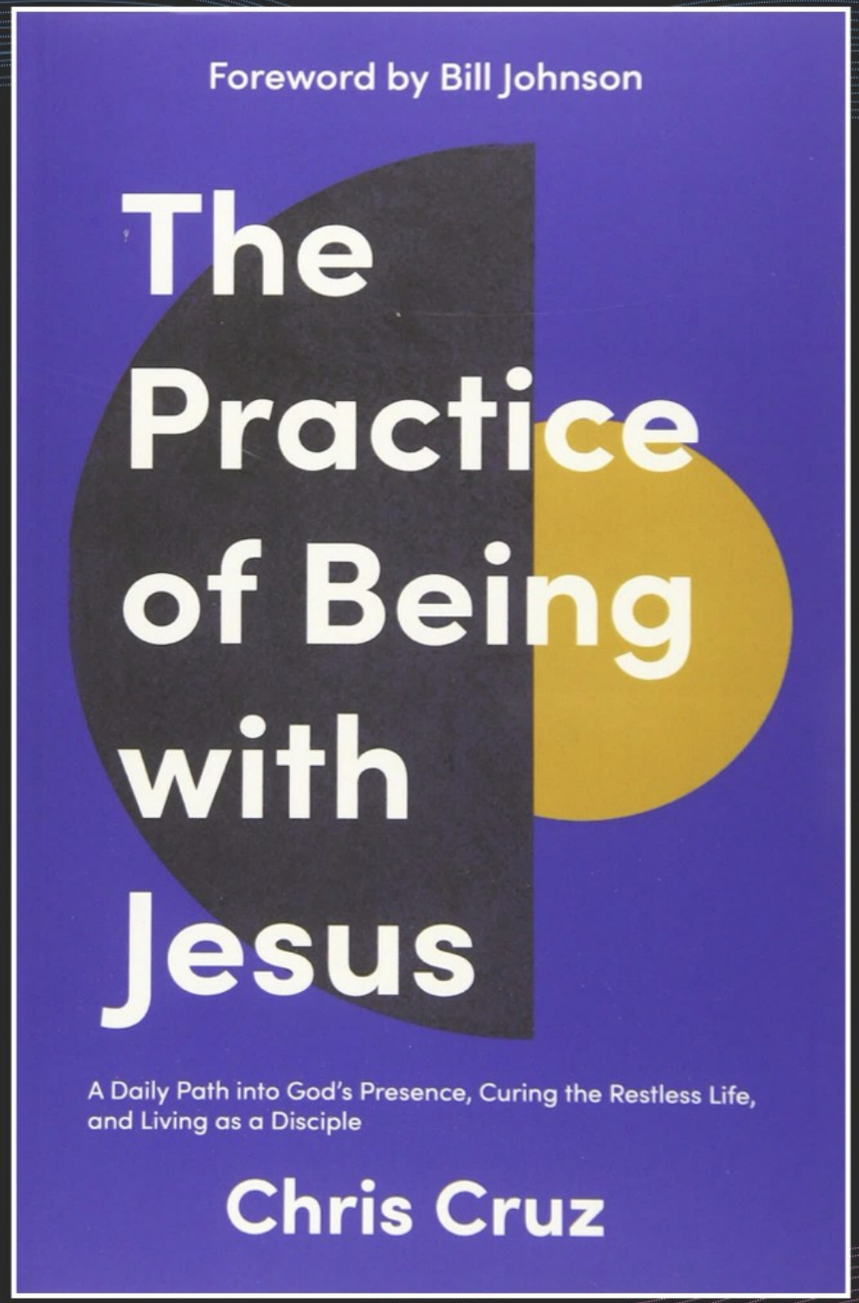
Trinity: Magnification
Ordinary Time: Mission
Christ the King: Conclusion



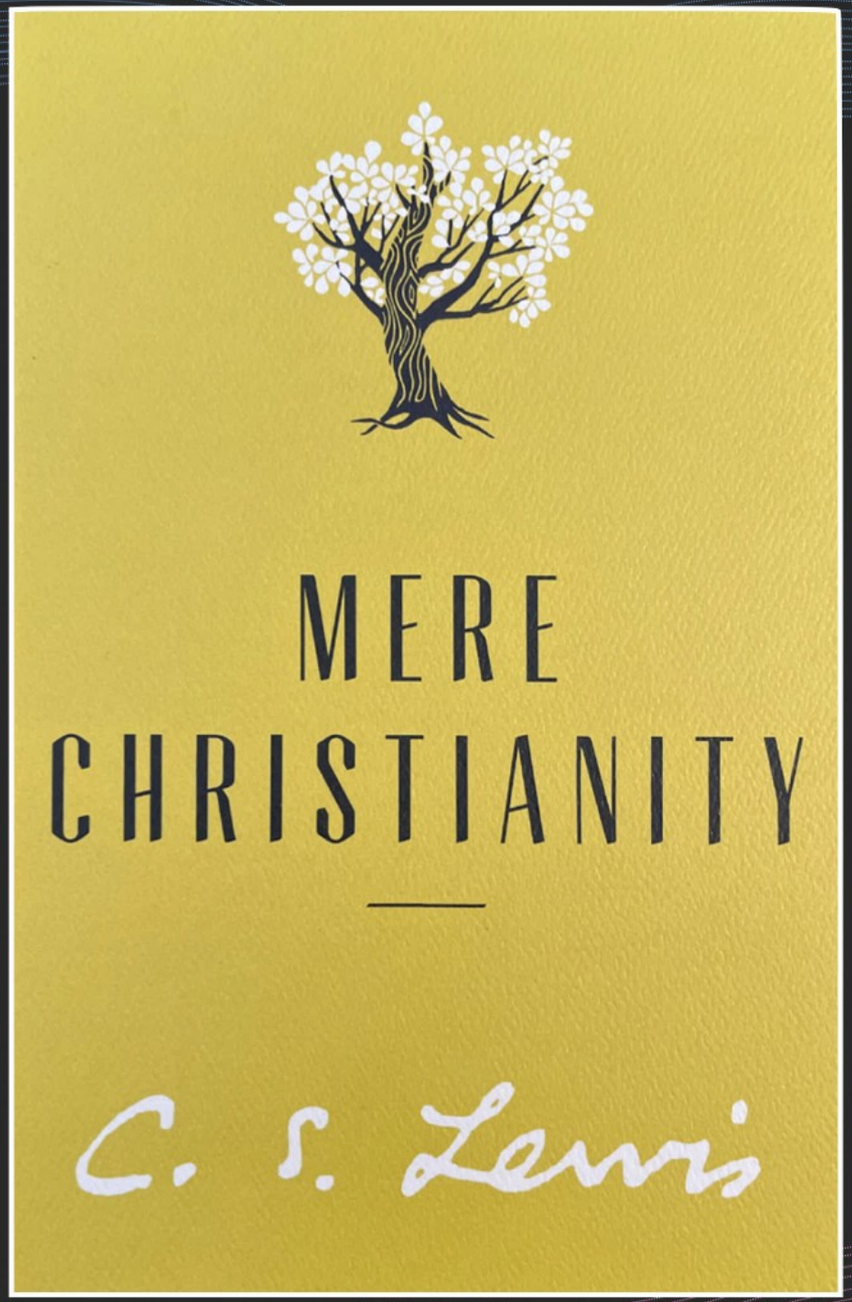
WE ARE HERE

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.

The Song of Solomon



"If we're not intentionally choosing to be formed by Jesus, we're being unintentionally formed by the world."



"Good and evil both increase at compound interest. That is why the little decisions you and I make every day are of such infinite importance. The smallest good act today is the capture of a strategic point from which, a few months later, you may be able to go on to victories you never dreamed of."

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Maybe. Another option is you've been so formed by a culture that is pathologically obsessed that not mentioning sexuality ten times every week seems like we're avoiding the topic.

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CHRISTIANS ARE VERY JUDGEMENTAL ABOUT SEX!

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CHRISTIANS ARE VERY JUDGEMENTAL ABOUT SEX!

Maybe. Another option is you've been so formed by a culture that is pornographically oriented that naming any moral boundaries in sexuality is reframed as harmful oppression.

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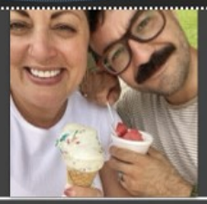
DECADE	NATE	DOUG	 STEVE & KELLY
1930s	**The Way You Look Tonight** *Fred Astaire*	**As Time Goes By** *Herman Hupfeld*	**How Deep Is the Ocean** *Irving Berlin*
1940s			
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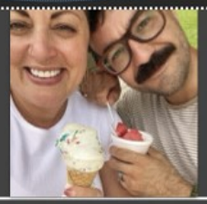
DECADE	NATE	DOUG	 STEVE & KELLY
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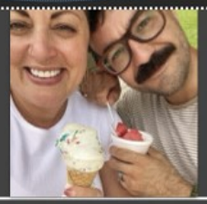
DECADE	NATE	DOUG	 STEVE & KELLY
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1950s	**At Last** *Etta James*	**Love Me Tender** *Elvis Presley*	**Love Me Tender** *Elvis Presley*
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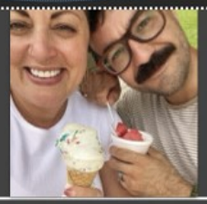
DECADE	NATE	DOUG	 STEVE & KELLY
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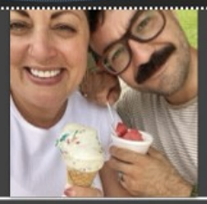
DECADE	NATE	DOUG	 STEVE & KELLY
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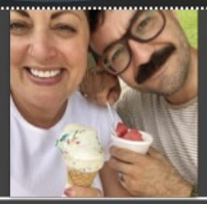
1970s	**How Sweet It Is** *James Taylor*	**A Song for You** *Donny Hathaway*	**Let's Stay Together** *Al Green*

DECADE	NATE	DOUG	 STEVE & KELLY
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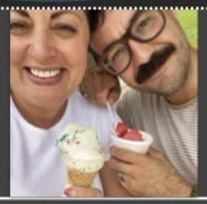
DECADE	NATE	DOUG	 STEVE & KELLY
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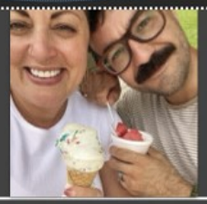
DECADE	NATE	DOUG	 STEVE & KELLY
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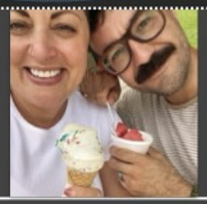
DECADE	NATE	DOUG	 STEVE & KELLY
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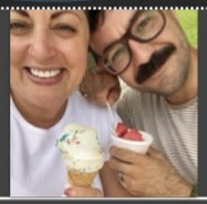
DECADE	NATE	DOUG	 STEVE & KELLY
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2010s	**Thinking Out Loud** *Ed Sheeran*	**A Thousand Years** *Christina Perri*	**Thinking Out Loud** *Ed Sheeran*
2020s	**Easy on Me** *Adele*	**Die with a Smile** *Gaga & Marrs*	**Golden Hour** *JVKE*

The Song of Solomon

SONG OF SOLOMON 2:1-17

She

I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys.

He

Like a lily among thorns is my darling among young women.

She

Like an apple tree among the trees of the forest is my beloved among the young men. I delight to sit in his shade, and his fruit is sweet to my taste. Let him lead me to the banquet hall, and let his banner over me be love.

SONG OF SOLOMON 2:1-17

She

Strengthen me with raisins, refresh me with apples, for
I am faint with love. His left arm is under my head, and
his right arm stimulates me. Daughters of Jerusalem,
I charge you by the gazelles and by the does of the field:
Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires.

Listen! My beloved! Look! Here he comes, leaping
across the mountains, bounding over the hills.
My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Look!
There he stands behind our wall, gazing through the
windows, peering through the lattice.

SONG OF SOLOMON 2:1-17

She

My beloved spoke and said to me, “Arise, my darling, my beautiful one, come with me. See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land. The fig tree forms its early fruit; the blossoming vines spread their fragrance. Arise, come, my darling; my beautiful one, come with me.”

SONG OF SOLOMON 2:1-17

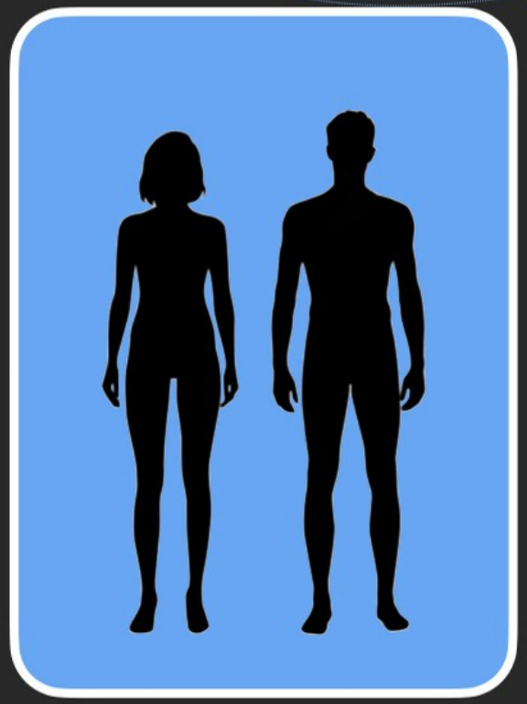
He

My dove in the clefts of the rock, in the hiding places on the mountainside, show me your face, let me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely. Catch for us the foxes, the little foxes that ruin the vineyards, our vineyards that are in bloom.

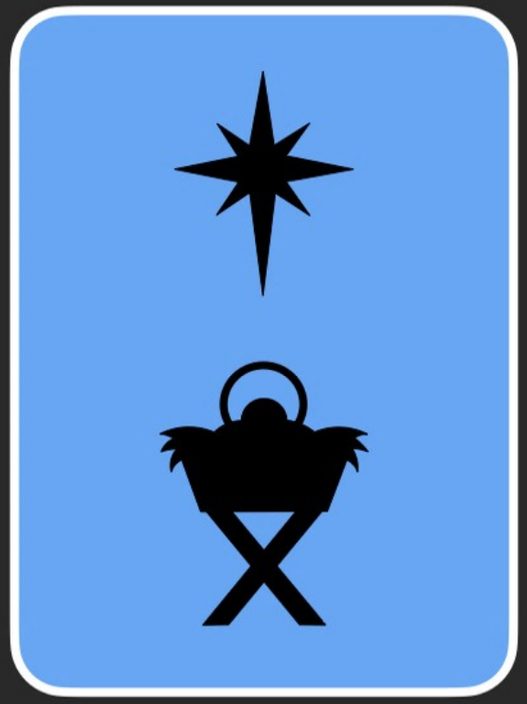
She

My beloved is mine and I am his; he browses among the lilies. Until the day breaks and the shadows flee, turn, my beloved, and be like a gazelle or like a young stag on the rugged hills.

The Song of Solomon

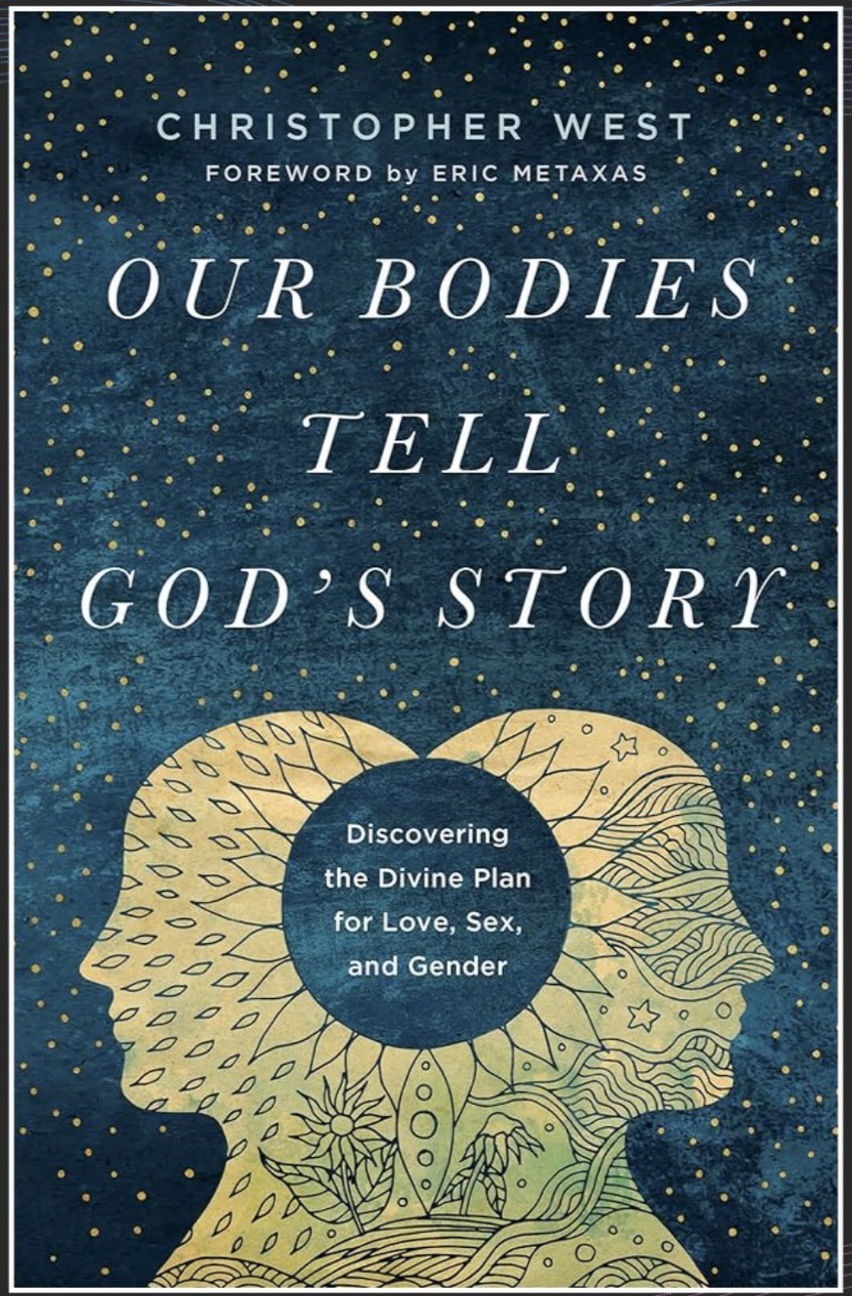


To be human is to be **embodied**

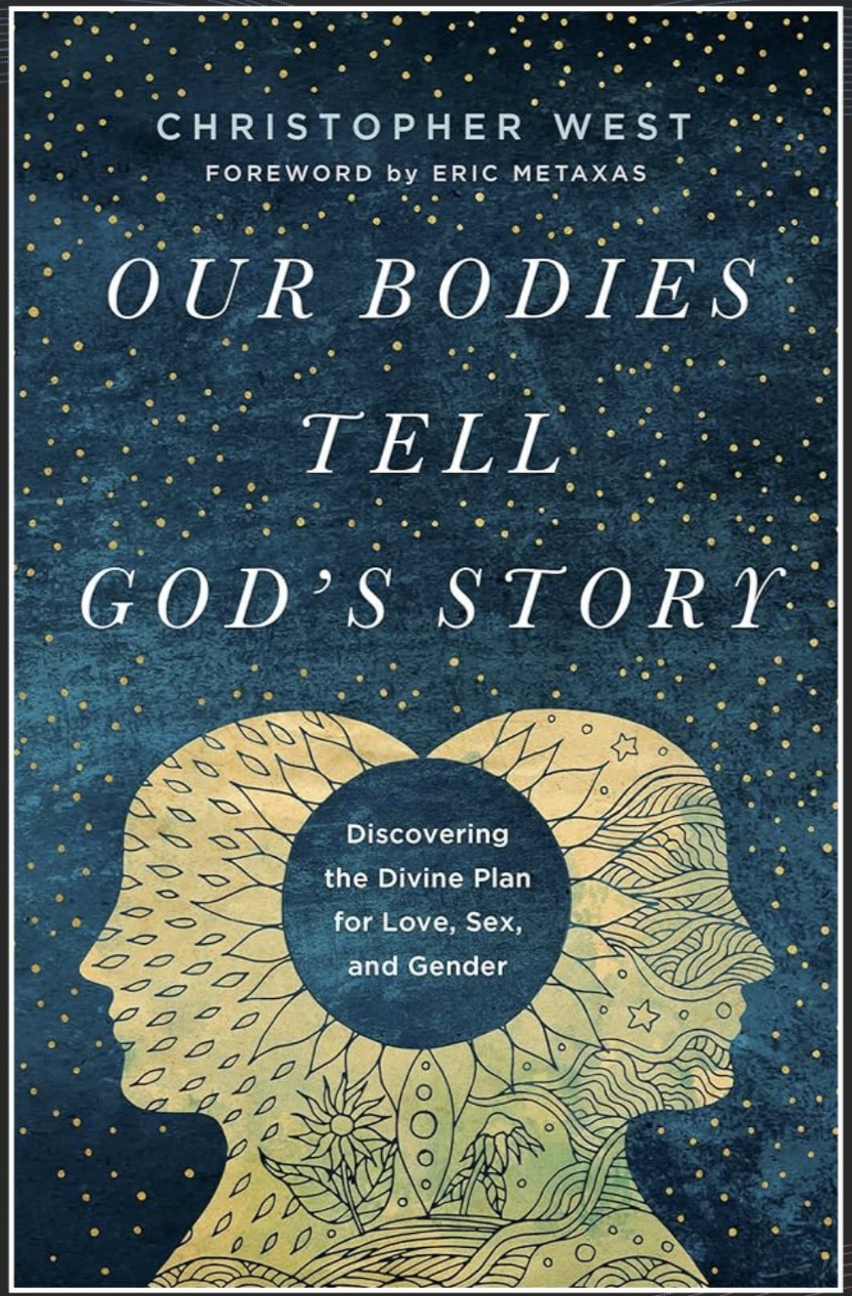


To be human is to be **significant**

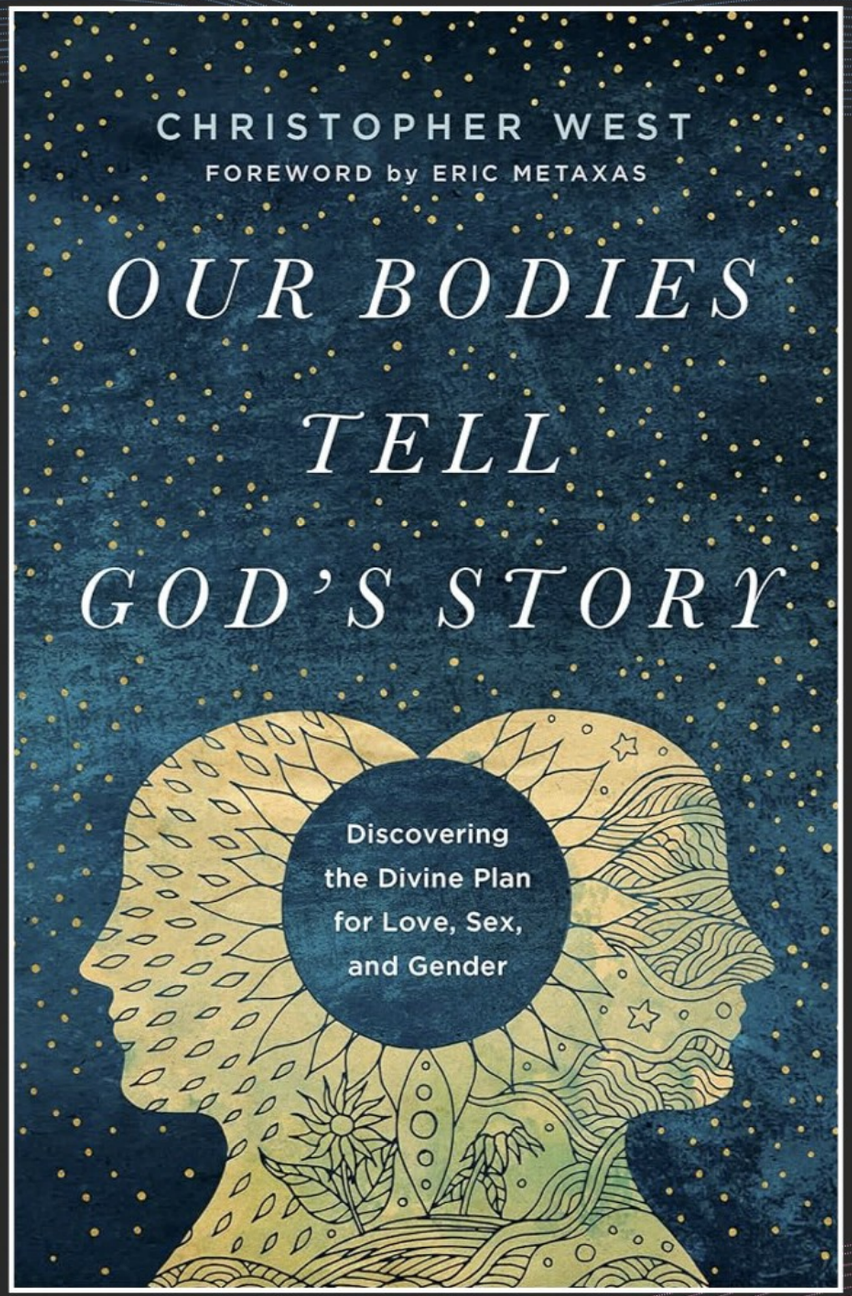
To be human is to be **communal**



The fall causes, "a failure to see the body as it truly is: as a sign that points beyond itself to God. When this happens, our desire for Infinite Beauty (eros) gets 'stuck' on the body itself. The icon becomes and idol, and we come to worship the creature rather that the Creator."

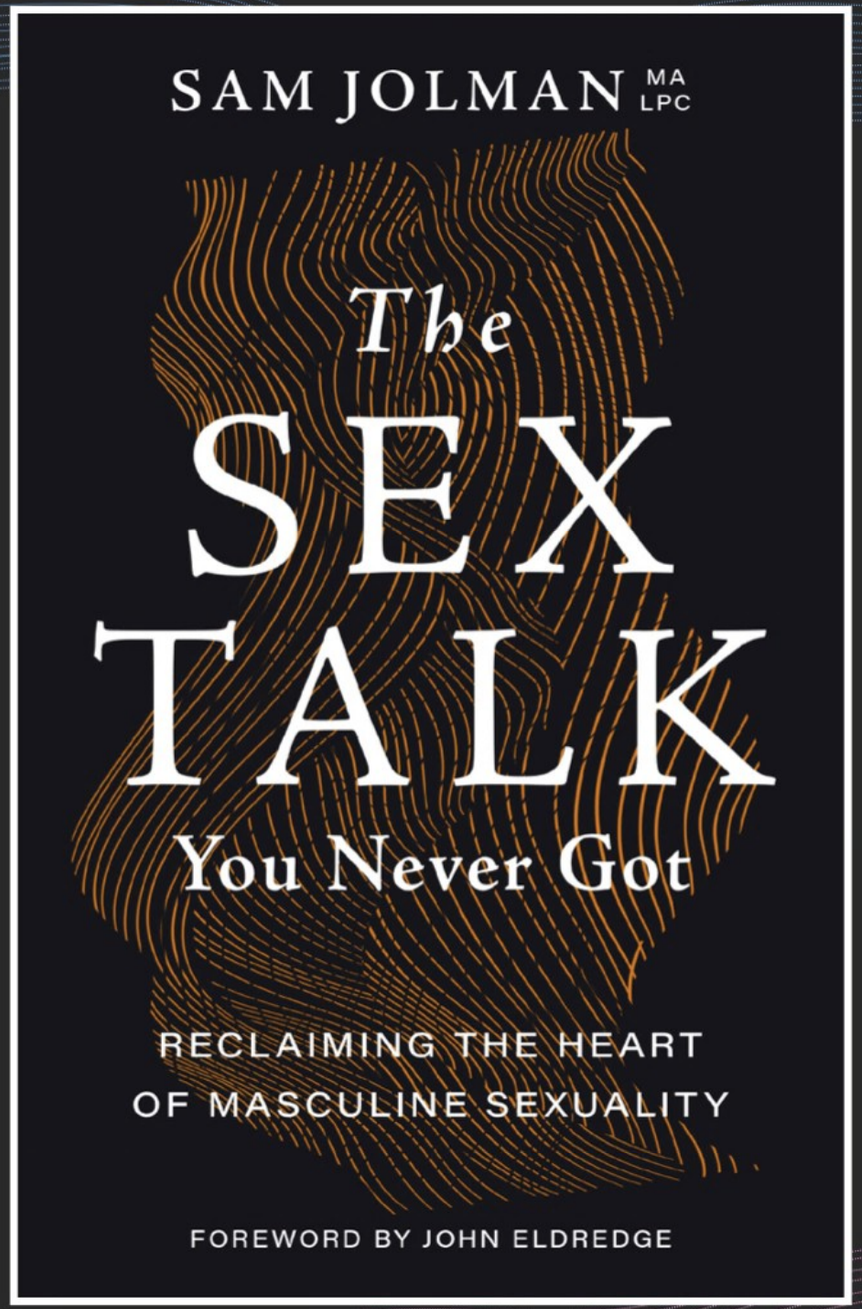


"A woman does not feel the need to cover her body when she is alone in the shower. But if a strange man were to burst into the bathroom, she would. Why? John Paul II proposes that 'shame' in this sense is a form of self-defense against being treated as an object for sexual use. In the case of the woman, she knows that she is never meant to be treated as a 'thing' for someone else's pleasure."



"When pleasure is the main goal of sex, people become the means and babies become the obstacle. So we take our pleasure, and we kill our offspring. This is not some dire prediction of an apocalyptic future. This is the culture we live in now: a culture of (dehumanization and) death."

The Song of Solomon



"What I'm driving at is this: Clothing serves less to cover our shame and more to veil our glory. In this broken world clothing is not a statement of the shamefulness of our bodies, but rather a recognition that most of us are not able to appropriately receive the body's full glory."

The Song of Solomon