



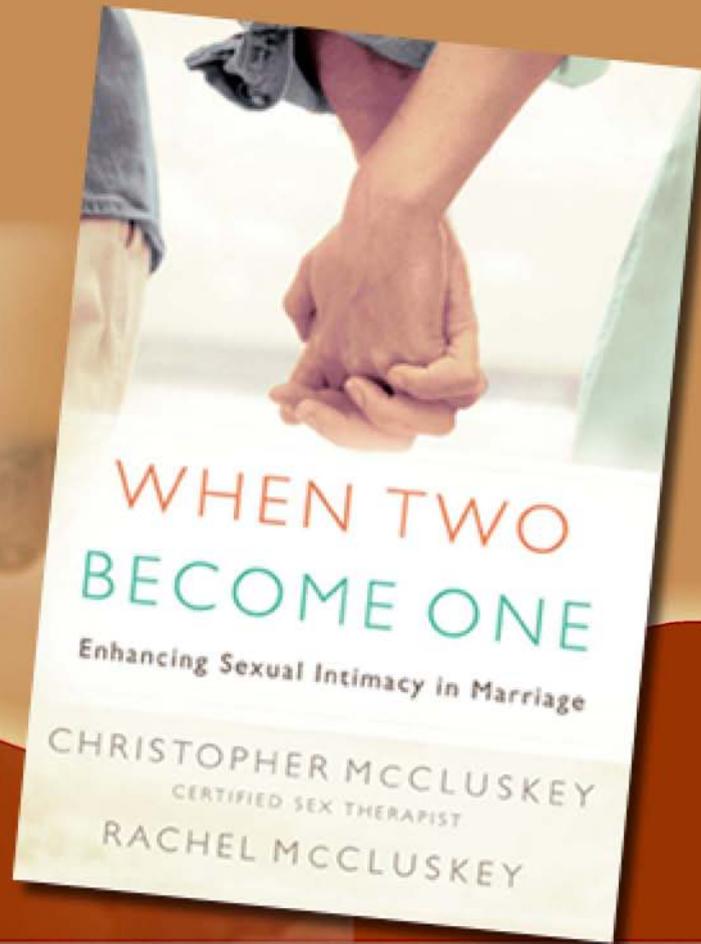
# WHEN TWO BECOME ONE

*Enhancing Sexual Intimacy  
in Marriage*

## Media Kit

One of the healthiest, most biblically consistent, and God-honoring presentations of sexuality I have ever read."

~ Dr. Gary Oliver



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## The Authors

**Christopher McCluskey** is a popular speaker, licensed counselor, certified sex therapist and a professional life coach. He's also the founder of Coaching for Christian Living and teaches at the Institute of Life Coach Training. He is the cofounder of the American Board of Christian Sex Therapists and of the Institute for Sexual Wholeness, a master's-level training program for Christian counselors. Chris produced the highly acclaimed video Coaching Couples into Passionate Intimacy: God's Intentions for Martial Sexual Union.

**Rachel McCluskey** is also a life coach who homeschools their six children. She and Chris have co-authored several chapters in popular Christian books, including The Complete Marriage Book, A Celebration of Sex, and The Complete Christian Parenting Book.

## Pictures





## Endorsements

This is a resource every pastor needs with material every marriage can benefit from!

**~Gene Appel**  
**Associate Pastor**  
**Willow Creek Community Church**

This book is a must-read for couples wishing to enhance their love life.

**~Dr. Douglas Rosenau**  
**bestselling author of *A Celebration of Sex***

One of the healthiest, most Biblically-consistent and God-honoring presentations of sexuality I have ever read.

**~Dr. Gary J. Oliver**  
**executive director,**  
**The Center for Marriage & Family Studies at John Brown University**

No matter how long you've been married, (or if you're about to be married),  
*When Two Become One* can enrich your life.

**~Dr. H. Norman Wright**  
**best-selling author of *Quiet Times for Couples***

This is a wonderful book that I can endorse enthusiastically. It is clearly written, interesting, Biblically-based, richly illustrated with stories, always in good taste, and intensely practical.

**~Dr. Gary Collins**  
**founding editor,**  
**of *Christian Counseling Today* magazine and bestselling author**

I strongly endorse this book. It should be mandatory reading for all pre-marital couples.

**~Dr. Archibald D. Hart**  
**dean emeritus,**  
**Fuller Theological Seminary, and bestselling author**

No one brings together the spiritual and sexual parts of marriage in as clear and meaningful a way as the McCluskeys. Through this powerful book you can enter that holy ground and discover, as we did, just how much God cares about our marital sexual intimacy.

**~Drs. David & Jan Stoop**  
**best-selling authors of *When Couples Pray Together***  
**and *The Complete Marriage Book***

With Biblically-informed wisdom and clinically-shaped insight, the McCluskeys have crafted a sensitive, practical and God-glorifying classic. If you only read one book on this subject, this ought to be the one!

**~Dr. Sandra D. Wilson**  
**and author of *Released From Shame* and *Into Abba's Arms***

Offering a refreshing approach, the McCluskeys capture the basics of marital sexual intimacy with a much needed emphasis on the emotional-spiritual connection, so vital to couples discovering complete sexual satisfaction.

**~Dr. Clifford & Joyce Penner**  
**best-selling authors of *The Gift of Sex* and *Men and Sex***

*When Two Become One* will challenge you to celebrate God's good gift of sex in your marriage and will help you create a deeper intimacy and connectedness with your spouse. The question and answer sections just may answer yours!

**~David & Claudia Arp**  
**authors of the *10 Great Dates* series and *Love Life for Parents***

*When Two Become One* helps couples understand marital sexual intimacy as an act of worship, painting a beautiful picture of the way God intended it.

**~Al Denson**  
**award-winning Christian artist/songwriter**

... should be read by every married couple who wish to transform their experience of simply 'having sex' into truly '*making love*'.

**~Elder Bobby Gibson Sr.**  
**director of counseling,**  
**The Potter's House Church/T.D. Jakes Ministries**

The McCluskeys unveil a model to assist couples in growing deeper in their love for God and one another. Enjoy this magnificent picture of marital love as commitment, action, devotion and sacrifice.

~Dr. William R. Cutrer, M.D. OB/GYN certified Christian Sex Therapist,  
author of *Sexual Intimacy in Marriage*,  
and Gheens professor at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Chris's warm, knowledgeable, practical teaching has helped my students gain a biblical perspective on sexuality that has helped them personally and professionally.

~Dr. Jim Hurley  
department chair, Marriage and Family Therapy Program,  
Reformed Theological Seminary

Christopher and Rachel McCluskey go where few Christians have gone, demonstrating how sexual intimacy is not only God's plan for marriage but is a powerful means of worshipping and glorifying the Father. We'll refer to this book over and over – it's a must-read.

~Clarence and Brenda Shuler  
**Building Lasting Relationships, Inc., (in conjunction with FamilyLife  
and the Billy Graham School of Evangelism)**

A soon-to-be classic on sexuality within the Christian community.

~Dr. Robert D. McCall  
coordinator of missionary care,  
Church of God World Missions International

Christopher and Rachel blow away the mist that has shrouded the sacrament of marriage, revealing the Biblical truth that sexuality is the physical picture of a spiritual reality.

~Monte & Karey Swan  
and authors of *Romancing Your Child's Heart* and *Home and Hearth*

This is a wonderful book that speaks to the sacred heart of marital sex.  
I will assign couples I work with to read it together.

~Rev. Michael Sytsma, PhD  
certified sex therapist  
and founder of Building Intimate Marriages, Inc.

*When Two Become One* captures the true spirit of making love, affirming a woman's desire for relational intimacy and bonding as well as encouraging passion. Couples will grow in their sense of God's delight as they enjoy his "wedding gift", and will experience how we actually *glorify* him as we become one.

~Debra Taylor, MA  
certified sex therapist  
and co-author of *Secrets of Eve: Understanding the Mystery of Female Sexuality*





## Keynote Presentation Topics

### **THE BIG PICTURE(75 to 90 minutes in length)**

A Crisis in Christian Sexuality  
The Difficulty of Talking Openly  
The Spirit of the Act  
Discovering God's Heart in Our Body

### **A PRACTICAL MODEL (75 to 90 minutes)**

The Lovemaking Cycle  
Atmosphere -- Creating an Environment Conducive to Lovemaking  
Arousal -- Embracing Passion  
Apex -- The Point of Surrender  
Afterglow -- Basking in Oneness

**DIRECT APPLICATION (75 to 90 minutes)** facilitated as a Q&A format, with attendees having turned in questions on 3x5 cards following each of the first two talks)

Questions Men Ask  
Questions Women Ask  
Making Love All Day Long

### **Sample Forms**

- Pre-Conference Checklist
- Sample Speaking Agreement
- Sample Brochure
- Sample Flyer
- Sample Flyer (version 2)

# Bookstore

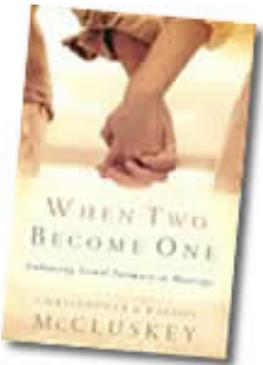
Order online at [www.whentwobecomeone.net/ordernow.htm](http://www.whentwobecomeone.net/ordernow.htm)



## When Two Becomes One Paperback ~ \$12.99

Sexual issues are often cited as one of the primary reasons for marital conflict and divorce. In **When Two Become One**, certified sex therapist Christopher McCluskey and his wife, Rachel, offer much more than a how-to book on better sex. Writing from a Christian perspective, they address many of the common issues with which couples struggle. This practical and detailed resource is one of the few that blend the physical, mental, emotional, spiritual and relational aspects of marriage with the sexual, offering a vision of lovemaking that facilitates a deeper experience of intimacy on *all* planes of the relationship.

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## When Two Becomes One Hardback ~ \$19.95

Same excellent resource on sexuality and intimacy in marriage in the hardback version.

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## When Two Becomes One Ministry Pack ~ \$49.95 (\$13.00 less than if purchased separately)

Perfect for Marriage Retreats and equipping Ministerial Leaders on the topic of lovemaking within the scope of Marriage Counseling.

When Two Become One Softback  
Coaching Couples Into Passionate Intimacy DVD  
The Lovemaking Cycle PowerPoint Presentation  
The Lovmaking Cycle Laminated Chart

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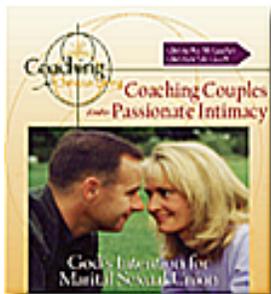
### Singles & Sexuality Ministry Pack

~ \$23.95 (\$4.00 less than if purchased separately)

Purchase the audio CD and the softback version of *When Two Become One* at a discount.

A two-part audio presentation by Christopher McCluskey recorded live at John Brown University addressing adult singles and sexuality. Covers material from **When Two Become One** on a theology of sexuality and how to glorify God in dating relationships. (Run time 60 minutes.)

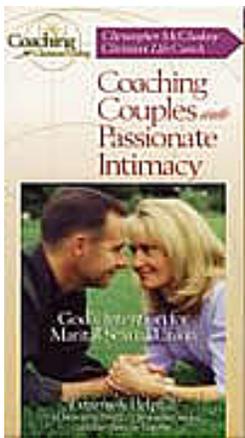
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### Coaching Couples Into Passionate Intimacy DVD ~ \$19.95

Examines God's intentions for marital sexual union. A two-part live video presentation by Christopher McCluskey of *The Lovemaking Cycle*® and core material from **When Two Become One**. Ideal for use with adult Sunday school classes, marriage retreats, premarital counseling, marriage therapy and private use. (Run time 80 minutes.)

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### Coaching Couples Into Passionate Intimacy VHS ~ \$14.95

Examines God's intentions for marital sexual union. A two-part live video presentation by Christopher McCluskey of *The Lovemaking Cycle*® and core material from *When Two Become One*. Ideal for use with adult Sunday school classes, marriage retreats, premarital counseling, marriage therapy and private use. (Run time 80 minutes.)-VHS

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### 8.5 x 11 The Lovemaking Cycle Laminated Poster ~ \$9.95

High quality laminated poster of the model as detailed in **When Two Become One** for use with counseling clients and small groups. (Permission to photocopy poster for handouts is granted with purchase.)

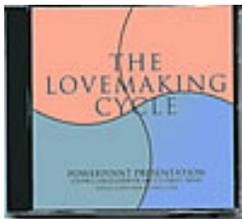
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### 11 x 14 The Lovemaking Cycle Laminated Poster ~ \$14.95

High quality laminated poster of the model as detailed in **When Two Become One** for use with counseling clients and small groups. (Permission to photocopy poster for handouts is granted with purchase.)

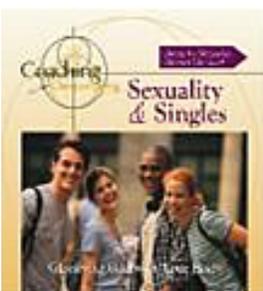
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### The Lovemaking Cycle PowerPoint ~ \$19.95

Powerpoint presentation of the model as detailed in **When Two Become One**, developing the model in stages - excellent for presentations before large audiences.

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### Sexuality and Singles DVD ~ \$14.95

A two-part audio presentation by Christopher McCluskey recorded live at John Brown University addressing adult singles and sexuality. Covers material from **When Two Become One** on a theology of sexuality and how to glorify God in dating relationships. (Run time 60 minutes.)

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## Keynote Presentation Topics

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The Difficulty of Talking Openly  
The Spirit of the Act  
Discovering God's Heart in Our Body

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Questions Men Ask  
Questions Women Ask  
Making Love All Day Long

### **Sample Forms**

- Pre-Conference Checklist
- Sample Speaking Agreement
- Sample Brochure
- Sample Flyer
- Sample Flyer (version 2)

# Pre-Conference Checklist

## After Event Confirmation

- Return one signed contract to Chris McCluskey's office at PO Box 599, Edgar Springs, MO 65462.
- Provide Chris with main contact information including home and work phone numbers as well as email address.

## Two Months Before Event Date

- Make Airline Reservations
- Confirm Talk Titles
- Procure Advertising and Promotional Pictures and Past Articles from Chris
- Book Hotel and Provide Chris with Hotel Location Information Including Phone Number
- Provide Copy of Final Advertising Materials to Chris

## Three Weeks Before Event

- Provide Chris with estimated attendance numbers.
- Confirm Name and Address of where Books are to be shipped.
- Ensure Receipt of Books
- Contact Chris to Verify Book Arrival
- Confirm Availability of Tables and Volunteers
- Contact Chris with Name and Email Address of Volunteers
- Provide Chris with Itinerary of Event Including Meal Times
- Provide Travel Directions from Airport or Confirm Where and Who to Meet (include cell phone) at Airport for Personal Pickup

## Three Days Before Event

- Confirm Driver to Airport

## Day of Event

- Have Petty Cash Available in Small Bills
- Confirm speaking area Podium, Microphone, Sound System, etc is working.
- Confirm Stipend has been Prepared.
- Give Chris Sign up Sheets from Book Table
- Give Chris the Proceeds from the Sales

## After the Event

- Confirm that unsold books are shipped back to Chris's office.

## **Book Table Helpful Hints**

- Have the books ready before the event and after the event.
- Have \$200-\$300 petty cash available in small bills.
- Place stacks of books on the table with remaining books in boxes under table.
- Have sufficient volunteers.
- Have a sign up list for those who want more information or to be kept updated on our latest products.
- All checks should be made payable to Christopher McCluskey.
- Tax is included in the price of the materials.
- We do not accept credit cards.
- After the event, all sale proceeds should be given directly to Christopher.

On the table have the following:

- Books and materials
- Price Sheet – Sent by Email
- Sign up Sheet – For those who might want other products

## Sample Interview Questions

### Guest intro:

My guests today are Christopher & Rachel McCluskey, authors of the highly-acclaimed book *When Two Become One: Enhancing Sexual Intimacy in Marriage*. First published in 2004, the book has just been re-released in oversized paperback. Christopher is a popular speaker, professional life coach, and Christian counselor certified in sex therapy. He is a co-founder of the American Board of Christian Sex Therapists and of the Institute for Sexual Wholeness, a master's level training program for Christian counselors. His wife, Rachel, is also a life coach and the homeschooling mother of their six children. They're joining me today from their ranch in the foothills of southern Missouri.

### You may or may not want these few sentences about the book itself:

The book casts a beautiful and compelling vision of marital intimacy as God intended it. The most unique feature is an innovative model called The Lovemaking Cycle which is now being taught in seminaries and graduate programs in marriage counseling throughout the U.S. and overseas. The model suggests a picture of God's three-dimensional plan for sexual union (body, soul & spirit), and provides a powerful tool for addressing problem areas that can threaten the beauty of that plan.

### Suggested interview questions (for either of us, unless otherwise noted):

1. Christopher, when people discover that you are a Christian sex therapist, how do they respond?
2. Why are we so reluctant to talk about sexual issues within the church community?
3. In your book, you make an immediate distinction between "having sex" and truly "making love". How do you define the differences?
4. Why do you say that Christians ought to be the most sexually fulfilled people on the planet?
5. Rachel, you state that sexual union is first and foremost a means of communication. What do you mean?
6. You see a link between sexuality and spirituality. Explain that.
7. Your book centers around a schematic model you have developed called The Lovemaking Cycle. Can you give us a quick overview of the model?
8. Talk to us a little about the first of the four quadrants, "Atmosphere".
9. Assuming that the atmosphere or environment within a marriage is conducive to lovemaking, how do couples flow into the second quadrant, "Arousal"?
10. And that leads naturally to the third quadrant, "Apex"...
11. Talk about this fourth and final quadrant of The Lovemaking Cycle, the "Afterglow".

- 
12. Chris, toward the end of your book, you have two chapters that simply address several of the most frequently asked questions you receive from men and women about sexual intimacy. I noticed that men seem to struggle with the fact that their wives often have a lower sex drive than they do. How do you respond to that frustration?
  13. Rachel, it sounds like women often struggle with their body image. What help can you offer there?
  14. What would you say are the one or two biggest threats to sexual intimacy as God intended it?
  15. You wrap up the book by emphasizing that making love is something a couple should be doing all day long. You've alluded to this before – say a little more about that.
  16. Your book is available in most Christian bookstores as well as Borders, Barnes & Noble, Books-A-Million, Amazon, etc. You also have other resources available such as a videotape on The Lovemaking Cycle. Where can people find that?

**I don't know whether or not you'll offer the book as a promotional item that people can order through your show, or if you'll do any commercials at break times for the book. If so, this is copy we have used which fits into a 60-second spot:**

Sexual issues are cited as one of the primary reasons for marital conflict and divorce. Finally, a book has been written for Christian husbands and wives that blends the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual aspects of marriage with the sexual. When Two Become One: Enhancing Sexual Intimacy in Marriage has been called a "must-read" for couples wishing to enhance their love life. Written by Christian sex therapist Christopher McCluskey and his wife, Rachel, this practical, detailed resource offers a vision of lovemaking that facilitates a deeper experience of intimacy on all planes of marriage.

The most unique feature of When Two Become One is The Lovemaking Cycle, an innovative model that captures the heart of truly making love (as contrasted with simply "having sex"). The model suggests a picture of God's three-dimensional plan for sexual union and provides a powerful tool for identifying problems that can threaten the beauty of that plan.

Whether you are newly married or have been wed for decades, now is the time to ignite the intimate, passionate love God created you to enjoy! Get your copy of When Two Become One, available at bookstores everywhere.

**There are several endorsements on the book jacket but here are a few, if needed:**

"One of the healthiest, most biblically consistent and God-honoring presentations of sexuality I have ever read." ~Dr. Gary Oliver, director of the Center for Marriage & Family Studies, John Brown University

"I strongly endorse this book. It should be mandatory reading for all premarital couples." ~Dr. Archibald Hart, dean emeritus, Fuller Theological Seminary

"If you read only one book on this subject, this ought to be the one!" ~Dr. Sandra Wilson, professor of counseling at Phoenix Seminary



## Sample Speaking Agreement

This Speaking Services Agreement is entered into on the date, between the following parties: \_\_\_\_\_ (hereinafter referred to as "Speaker") and \_\_\_\_\_ (hereinafter referred to as "Client").

**Scheduled Event:** Speaker agrees to make presentations (listed below) for Client on Specific Date at above stated client address.

List Date, Time and Topic

**Compensation:** The Client agrees to pay or reimburse the Speaker for the following:

- Stipend: The mutually agreed-upon stipend for the above-named events is \$\_\_\_\_\_. An additional charge of \$250.00 is incurred if Speaker must stay longer Date to further assist Client.
- Travel Expenses including the most direct and convenient flight available, lodging, meals, parking and travel to and from the airport.

**Timing of Compensation:** The Client agrees to pay or reimburse Client upon completion of the above agreed to presentations, upon receipt of all expenses and upon completion of final speaking engagement.

**Materials:** The Speaker agrees to provide outline of all presentations to Client on or before Date. The Client agrees to provide Speaker with an 8ft table located in a prominent and visible location within the flow of traffic before and after the event so that Speaker can offer directly related books and DVD's to attendees. Furthermore, the Client agrees to provide volunteers to man the tables before and after the event.

**Cancellation:** Either party may cancel this agreement without remuneration if submitted in writing and received by the other party on or before Date. After the close of business Date, the defaulting party will be invoiced and expected to pay \$1000.00 for cancellation of contract for any reason other than an act of God. An Act of God is defined as fire, flood, tornado, earthquake, death or sickness of Speaker requiring hospitalization, car accident or other unforeseen disastrous incident which would directly prohibit the Client from hosting the event or the Speaker from being able to travel.

This contract is limited to the above named events. It does not imply or convey permission to record, copyright, distribute or sell audio, video or written transcripts of talks give at the Scheduled Events. A separate agreement will be used to establish any arrangements of this regard.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Client



## Sample Flyer

### **Marriage Enrichment Seminar!**

Based upon the highly acclaimed book

#### **WHEN TWO BECOME ONE** *Enhancing Sexual Intimacy in Marriage*

Authors Christopher & Rachel McCluskey will share a beautiful and compelling vision of God's intentions for marital intimacy. Drawing from their newly released book, the McCluskeys will present an overview of our Christian theology of sexuality and explain their innovative model, *The Lovemaking Cycle*®, which is used in seminaries and graduate programs in marriage counseling throughout America. The model suggests a picture of God's 3-dimensional plan for sexual union (body, soul & spirit), and provides a powerful tool for addressing problem areas that can threaten the beauty of that plan.

Whether you are newly married or wed for decades, make plans to attend this event! It will be held at **YOUR CHURCH** in **YOUR CITY** on **DATE**, from **TIME**. Childcare will not be provided and material will not be appropriate for children. (We recommend that you arrange babysitting and plan a dinner date after the talk!)

Cost is \$10 per couple and you must pre-register by calling the church office during business hours at **YOUR PHONE NUMBER**.

***“No one brings together the spiritual and sexual parts of marriage in as clear and meaningful a way as the McCluskeys.”***

~Drs. David & Jan Stoop  
authors of *The Complete Marriage Book*

**CHRISTOPHER McCLUSKEY** is a popular speaker, licensed counselor, certified sex therapist and life coach. He is a cofounder of the American Board of Christian Sex Therapists and of the Institute for Sexual Wholeness, a master's-level training program for Christian counselors.

**RACHEL McCLUSKEY** is also a life coach who homeschools their six children. She and Chris have co-authored several chapters in popular Christian books, including *The Complete Marriage Book*, *A Celebration of Sex*, and *The Complete Christian Parenting Book*. The McCluskeys live on their family ranch in Edgar Springs, MO.



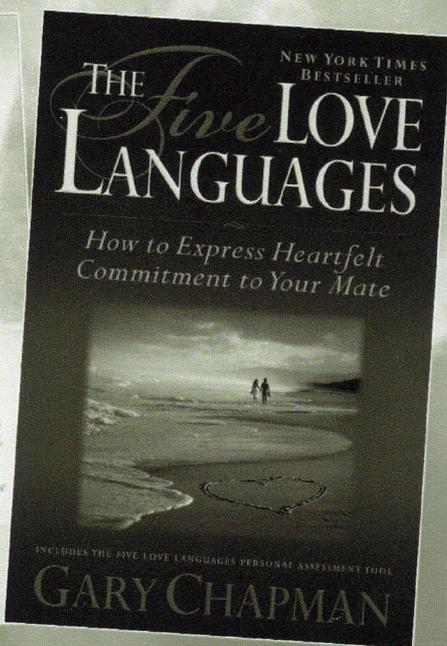
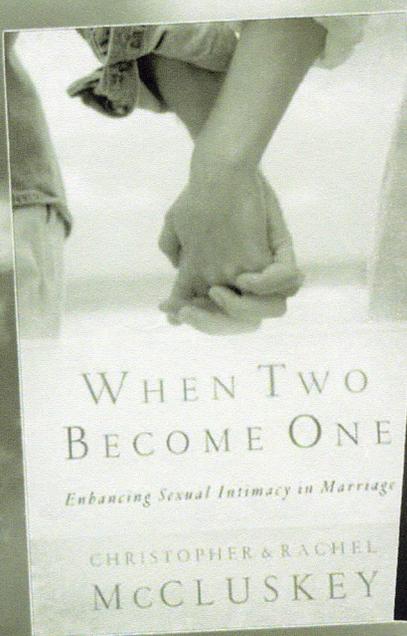
# Making Your Marriage made in Heaven a reality here on Earth...

Are eight Tuesday nights worth  
making your Marriage even better?

**Beginning May 2nd,**

**7 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.**

**St. James Christian Church**



**\$20**

Registration  
Fee includes  
both books

Aaron Jeffers  
Senior Pastor

Refreshments and Childcare will be provided

Contact us to register: 265-3478 · [ajeffers@fidmail.com](mailto:ajeffers@fidmail.com)

227 E. Scioto · St. James, MO 65559

Come to the...

# Fields of the Fatherless

Around the world . . . everyday, children are cast aside; abandoned in the forgotten fields of the fatherless. Though desolate and barren, God declares this land "Holy Ground;" a hallowed place where the needy reside and His presence dwells. The orphan's cry is a divine priority. Their names and needs are written on the corridors of God's heart. He may be calling you to follow Him into these Fields; where hope changes everything. You can embrace a little life today through International Adoption. Children wait in Bulgaria, China, Guatemala, Kazakhstan, and Russia longing for a loving family, earnestly praying for hope to arrive. To learn more about International adoption please call us today.

ADOPTION • RELIEF • MINISTRY



Embrace with us the world

1-800-214-6719

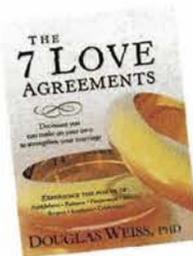
3308 NE Peerless Place,  
Portland, OR 97232

Email: [info@allgodschildren.org](mailto:info@allgodschildren.org)  
[www.allgodschildren.org](http://www.allgodschildren.org)

## between the covers

### The 7 Love Agreements

by Douglas Weiss (Siloam).

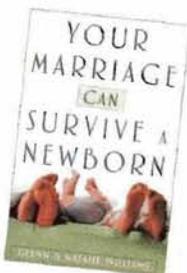


*I'll never be poor again. I'll never be the kind of parent my father/mother was.* These are the kind of agreements people sometimes make with themselves that, if kept, can break a

cycle of poverty and abuse. In this book, Dr. Weiss addresses seven agreements you can make that will drastically improve the state of your marriage—agreements made not with your spouse, but with yourself. So even if your mate isn't motivated to change, your marriage can still benefit from keeping them. After explaining how making adjustments in each area covered (faithfulness, patience, forgiveness, service, respect, kindness, and celebration) can enhance or strengthen your marriage, there's also a list of specific agreement samples to use or brainstorm.

### Your Marriage Can Survive a Newborn

by Glenn and Natalie Williams (Broadman & Holman).

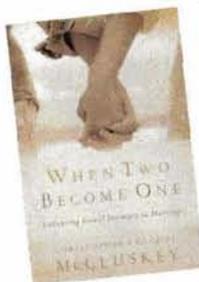


No matter how many parenting books you read or veteran parents you talk to, none of it can completely prepare you for the life-altering experience of parenthood. What is needed and what this book provides is the reassuring voice to young mommies and daddies that they are not

alone in the sometimes overwhelming emotions and conflicts they're bound to face. Sleep deprivation, labor division, and the all too real need for non-baby time are just a few of the issues these seasoned parents cover that will provide the newbies with a deep sigh of relief that their family—and marriage—can survive this time of adjustment.

### When Two Become One

by Christopher & Rachel McCluskey (Revel).



Few marriage experts would argue that a healthy, satisfying sex life is paramount to a happy, healthy marriage. But as Christians, this certified sex therapist and his wife help us to see that this mere act can be a much deeper intimate experience that carries over to other areas of our marriage—the differ-

ence between having sex and making love. While explaining The Lovemaking Cycle, which Christopher created, we see that this lovemaking process can be "thought of as a wheel, and if each quadrant of the wheel is functioning like it should, a couple's lovemaking will roll along nicely down the road of their lives together." More important, the book helps identify potential problems in the wheel that might make it "clunk" along or stop altogether, and provides practical steps and discussion questions to keep the wheel "greased." —Raelynn Eickhoff

To order a copy of these or other great marriage books, go to [marriagepartnership.com](http://marriagepartnership.com) and click on "Marriage Resources."

## The Better Sex Diet

Adding these nutrients to your daily diet will give you and your spouse a passion pick-me-up:

**Zinc** helps improve vaginal lubrication. Get your fix from oysters, lean beef, turkey, and almonds.

The muscles that contract and spasm during orgasm need **calcium** to function. Eat dairy, broccoli, and sweet potatoes.

Testosterone kicks your libido into high gear, and is produced with the help of **niacin** (vitamin B3). Get a sexy boost from tuna. Source: Redbook (December 2004)



# The Soul of Sex

BETHANY TORODE

It may have been Victorian prudishness, although I was looking forward to lovemaking and had enjoyed a number of open discussions with my fiancé. Or maybe it was my romantic sensibilities. But when someone gave me the classic evangelical sex guide *Intended for Pleasure*, I could skim only a few pages before setting it aside.

Looking at similar books (Tim and Beverly LaHaye's *The Act of Marriage*, Dr. Cliff and Joyce Penner's *The Gift of Sex*) confirmed my dislike of the genre. When I was engaged, the notion of having a Christian sex manual in my bedroom seemed analogous to landing on a beautiful deserted island, only to be met on shore by a previous explorer with a detailed map. I didn't want to read the books because I didn't want to kill the joy of discovery.

Now that I've been married a few years, and have also listened to the struggles of married friends, I've mellowed out a little. I see the need for Christian sex therapy, and I respect the courage of those authors who have braved offending the CBA market by writing about sex.

Still, most of the evangelical sex guides lack soul. They focus mainly on technique (at times reading like *Cosmo* columns with Bible verses tacked on) at the expense of the deeper realities of which sexuality is an expression. I doubted that any such book could aptly capture the meaning of lovemaking—until I read *When Two Become One*, by Christopher and Rachel McCluskey.

The McCluskeys understand and speak to the inextrica-

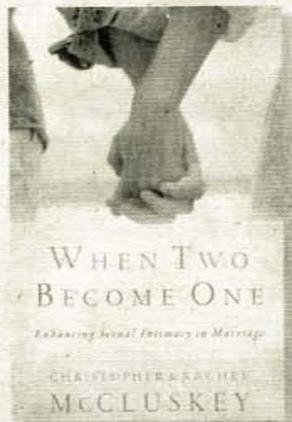
ble connection between body and spirit. "There is a world of difference between having sex and truly making love," they write. "The phrases are used interchangeably and, indeed, the acts themselves are the same. But the spirit of making love is entirely different from simply having sex."

They view sex as a form of communication, an exchange between persons (hence the term "intercourse"). So it's natural that they focus on what's being communicated. It's at this deeper level, they contend, that most sexual problems and frustrations begin. And they can only be cured at the source—in the soul.

Most of the book is devoted to discussing the spiritual state of your marriage, which becomes manifest, for good or ill, in physical intimacy. The McCluskeys primarily address communication problems and sexual and theological misunderstandings. They also suggest some beautiful ways to increase intimacy: "Many people find it extremely difficult to look into their spouse's eyes as they kiss, and even more difficult as they actually begin to make love. . . . But if we are willing, we can peer into the soul of our mate through their eyes as we become one."

Their language is candid without being crude (unlike another of the evangelical sex guides, which relies on terms such as "Mr. Happy"). They avoid the degrading lingo that most people, Christians or otherwise, default to in discussions of sex. While mechanistic language has invaded discussions of all areas in life, including sexuality, the McCluskeys protect the dignity of the person as a physical/spiritual whole.

Although they comfortably use medical language when needed, the McCluskeys' words are mostly reminiscent of the poetic-yet-explicit imagery in the Song of Songs. Showing their own romantic sensibilities, they conclude the book with a lengthy and beautiful quote from Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables*, part of which reads: "It is impossible that this sacred festival of destiny should not send a celestial radiation to the infinite. . . . When two mouths, made sacred by love, draw near each other to create, it is impossible that above that ineffable kiss there should not be a thrill in the immense mystery of the stars."



Christopher is a licensed counselor and sex therapist, so at times the book feels like a counseling session (in a good way). Each chapter begins with a character sketch of a marriage from Christopher's casebook, and the stories resonate, touching on issues all couples struggle through. My cheeks flushed as I saw my own mistakes woven through others' experiences. But the book's gentle tone makes this bearable.

My one quibble is that I wish the McCluskeys had discussed fertility. An overview of the female fertility cycle (and its effects on moods and desire) can be invaluable for both husbands and wives. Also, some discussion on how hormonal contraceptives alter a woman (and hence affect the marriage relationship) would be a plus. Many of my young Christian friends have gone on the Pill, and it's been the source of unnecessary (and sometimes extreme) emotional, physical, and marital problems. As Dr. Richard Fehring of Marquette University writes, "Fertility is a good, being a whole person is a good, and integrating one's fertility is an essential component of wholeness." In my own marriage, grappling with my fertility (instead of suppressing it) has tremendously helped my husband's verbal and sexual communication skills.

"Christians ought to be the most sexually fulfilled people on the planet," the McCluskeys write. "That doesn't necessarily mean the most sexually active or the most sexually varied in their practices, but simply the most sexually fulfilled." Their book will help this become a reality in many marriages. It's an invaluable resource for pastors and priests doing marital counseling, especially since it lays a clear, solid theological foundation in the first few chapters. I've been giving it as a wedding gift (though, like me, I suspect most couples won't fully appreciate its wisdom until they've had a year or two to allow problems to surface).

With this book, the McCluskeys have set a new standard for the genre. Much more than a manual, *When Two Become One* speaks to and about the holy longing in each of us, a longing for God in our physical experience of each other.

**B&C**

## When Two Become One

Enhancing Sexual Intimacy in Marriage

CHRISTOPHER AND RACHEL MCCLUSKEY • REVELL, 2004 • 192 PP. • \$19.95

*Bethany Torode lives with her husband Sam and their two sons in South Wayne, Wisconsin. She is a frequent contributor to Boundless webzine.*

gling of continuity and change defined Reformation-era worship practices. The editors, Karin Maag and John D. Witvliet of Calvin College, take particular pains to show that Protestants were not the only ones to introduce innovations. Catholics also added new elements to services, and both confessions retained large bits of older styles of worship.

The authors' sustained attention to continuity and change helps to unify the essays. Atypically for an edited volume, these pieces work together to advance a central argument: Protestant Reformation and Catholic Renewal altered much, but central practices endured. Drawing on detailed work with primary sources, and ranging geographically from Spain to Sweden, the essays consider such diverse subjects as the pre-Reformation unity of private devotion and corporate worship in Rheims, pre-Tridentine forms of the Catholic Breviary, changes to Lutheran liturgy in the Swedish, the survival of worship instruction in Genevan school ordinances, alterations to Lutheran baptism ceremonies in Breslau, confessional similarities in marriage ceremonies throughout Europe, changes to church decoration in Haarlem, and Martin Luther's contributions to vernacular service music.

Only rarely in this book do we get the laity's viewpoint. Instead, we learn how the organizers of church services wanted their worship services to run. Worship as seen from the altar is different from worship as witnessed from the pews, but the studies gathered here at least diminish the gap between ecclesiastical authorities and individual congregations in local churches.

While the essays are uniformly readable and informative, a number of them do a particularly good job at opening up the worshiping lives of 16th- and 17th-century Christians. Among these, some emphasize changes in worship practices. Robert Kingdon, for example, draws on the records of the Geneva consistory to show how charges of "muttering" (a loose translation of *barbetement*) during Protestant services revealed a switch from a Mass-centric to sermon-centric worship service. Previously in Catholic services the congregation occupied the time that the priest took to celebrate communion by saying their own prayers from a prayer book. Reformed emphasis on the

*Mary Noll Venables recently received her Ph.D. in Early Modern European History from Yale University and is now living in Ireland.*

ing altars, untouched. Zwinglians and Calvinists, certain that only behavior explicitly ordered in the Bible was acceptable, changed church decorations more often. In Reformed thinking, the probability that Christ had celebrated the last supper at a table with his disciples meant that his 16th-century followers should also hold communion at a table and not around a box.

At times, the emphasis on continuity and change becomes tedious. Finding new things in the 16th and 17th centuries is hardly surprising, while identifying enduring patterns in a time when so much did change can seem like grasping at straws. But even if the theme is belabored, this attention to continuity and change yields insights both for current discussions of worship and for historical studies of the early modern period. For those concerned with contemporary worship, remembering that previous generations simultaneously did things the same and did things differently can serve to temper disputes. Worship changes slowly; worship is always changing. If John Calvin was willing to accept less frequent communion services than he desired, surely contemporary worshippers can accept transforming their church services more slowly or more rapidly than they desire. For historians, balancing continuity and change provides a more nuanced view of the early modern period, making it easier to study the 16th and 17th centuries on their own terms and not merely as staging grounds for later developments. The Protestant Reformation did not immediately produce the 19th century and its strict confessional boundaries.

For those who are intrigued by the complications of the early modern period, *Music and Religious Identity in Counter-Reformation Augsburg, 1580-1630* offers an opportunity to delve further into the subject of continuity and change in religious practice in a particular context and medium. The study is bounded by the opening of a Jesuit house in Augsburg, which introduced vibrant Counter-Reformation Catholicism to Augsburg, and battles in the 'Thirty Years' War, which destroyed the city. Unlike *Worship in Medieval and Early Modern Europe*, which seems to have been written for both historians and church people, Alexander Fisher's book is intended primarily for historians and musicologists.

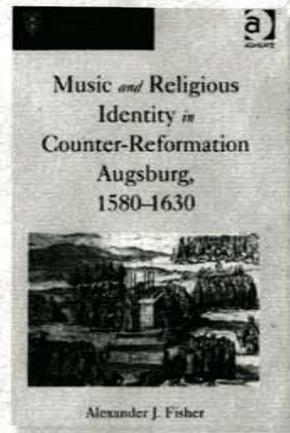
tion in Augsburg arranged performances of their works. When priests and monks organized processions and pilgrimages to nearby holy sites, they integrated music that emphasized typically Counter-Reformation themes of Marian and eucharistic piety.

Taken together, *Music and Religious Identity in Counter-Reformation Augsburg* and *Worship in Medieval and Early Modern Europe* amply support the argument for change and continuity that is explicitly laid out in the latter book. The changes are almost too numerous to count; the continuities are easier to enumerate. One continuity is the multiplicity of causes for change. As expressed in *Worship in Medieval and Early Modern Europe*, theological reflection spurred changes in worship practice. *Music and Religious Identity in Counter-Reformation*

*Augsburg* demonstrates how political realities defined acceptable religious music.

An even more basic, yet also contradictory, continuity is visible from a bird's-eye view of the past. From the two books under review, the armchair historian can glean that worship is central to Christian life and that worship itself is varied. Perhaps inevitably a practice that expresses central tenets of Christian faith is prone to controversy (so much so that controversy should probably be included among the continuities of worship). Nonetheless, when congregations gather to praise God and learn from him, they express their enduring belief that worship—whether in set prayers or spontaneous utterances, in venerable hymns or contemporary choruses—is integral to their lives.

**B&C**



## Worship in Medieval and Early Modern Europe

Change and Continuity in Religious Practice

KARIN MAAG AND JOHN D. WITVLIET, EDS.

UNIV. OF NOTRE DAME PRESS, 2004 • 376 PP. • \$30, PAPER

## Music and Religious Identity in Counter-Reformation Augsburg, 1580-1630

ALEXANDER J. FISHER • ASHGATE, 2004 • 345 PP. • \$119.95

# Can This Marriage Be Saved... by God?



**Joyce Meyer**, an evangelical minister and author of *Help Me: I'm Married!*

The Bible, says Meyer, tells us "to be makers and maintainers of peace." There are some things that are worth standing your ground over (like fundamental values) and some that aren't (like your husband's horrendously paired outfits). "If you are walking in love, you don't have to mention every little thing your partner does wrong," she believes.

**Ed Young**, a senior pastor and author of *Kid CEO: How to Keep Your Children From Running Your Life*

Our culture has "put kids in the corner office," making them the center of the universe, Young believes. But when couples orbit their kids' lives, they lose track of each other. The Bible says the couple's relationship should come first, says Young. Only when this relationship takes priority can the family flourish.

**Virginia Todd Holeman, Ph.D.**, author of *Reconcilable Differences: Hope and Healing for Troubled Marriages* and a licensed family therapist and an associate dean at a theological seminary

"More marriages erode than explode," says Dr. Holeman. What takes time to fall apart also takes time to put back together. After trust has

Need a higher authority than a therapist to keep your marriage strong? These best-selling authors show how faith can lead the way **BY TRICIA O'BRIEN**

been shattered, reconciliation involves the recognition that you cannot go back to the way things used to be. Rather, "it requires two people committed to the hard work of restoring love and truth and trustworthiness to their relationship," says Dr. Holeman.

**Charlotte Kasl, Ph.D.**, a therapist and the author of *If the Buddha Married: Creating Enduring Relationships on a Spiritual Path*

Relationships are always in flux, as is life, in the Buddhist view, and only by letting go of fixed expectations of others' behavior are we able to live in the present moment. We stop saying things like "But you used to like it that way" or "We've always done it this way." Instead, "Who are you now?" becomes the relationship-building question we ask each day.

**Esther Jungreis**, a rabbi and the author of *The Committed Marriage: A Guide to Finding a Soul Mate and Building a Relationship Through Timeless Biblical Wisdom*

"There are two ways of looking at every situation," says Jungreis. "You can see light or darkness, blessing or curse. You can choose to be considerate or bitter, patient or angry, loving

or critical. It all depends on how you train your eye." Your decision to "use your good eye," she holds in her book, can determine the health of your union.

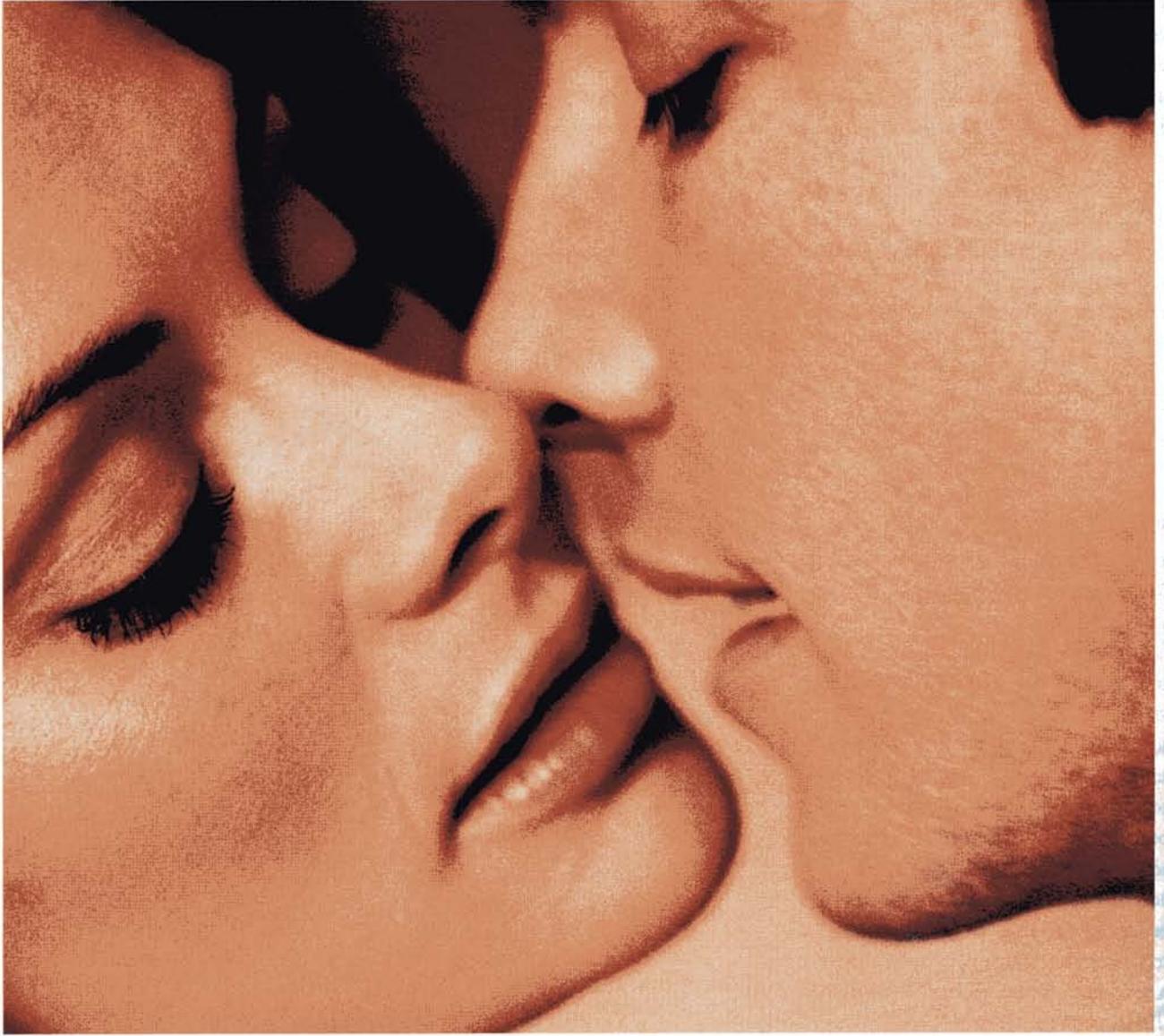
**Gary Thomas**, author of *Sacred Marriage: What If God Designed Marriage to Make Us Holy More Than to Make Us Happy?*

Thomas believes it is important to accept that marriage is difficult and says that once you do, it's easier to deal with the challenges. "The difficulty shapes us as people, it enlarges our soul, it develops our character," he says. Where does holiness come in? Thomas says that marital conflicts should be viewed as a call to change yourself rather than your spouse. In other words, relationship difficulties give you an opportunity to grow closer to God, and to each other.

**Christopher and Rachel McCluskey**, coauthors of *When Two Become One: Enhancing Sexual Intimacy in Marriage*

"Being sexual is an act of worship. It is part of God's original design and if it is of love, it is of God," say the McCluskeys. In that light, making love may be a good way to resolve a disagreement. "Sometimes conflicts look different after making love," explain the authors. The caveat: It doesn't work if you're up against a serious disagreement or a trust issue, or if your marriage is characterized by anger, hatred, criticism, neglect or disdain. ❖

ILLUSTRATION BY MARTI SOMERS FOR JAN COLLIER



*The Spirit*



don't know which is worse," she cried, "the fact that we hardly ever have sex, or that when we do, I end up feeling used."

Beth and Steve stared at the floor, too embarrassed to look at me but obviously in pain. We'd been making great progress on emotional distance and poor communication in their marriage, but today's session had turned to the topic of their sexual relationship.

"We just don't seem to connect during sex. I know it's supposed to be this wonderful thing, but mostly it just feels like a duty; like I'm servicing him, and he's not really *with* me. I feel so empty afterward. It's gotten to the point that we hardly ever do it at all. We tried to talk about it once with Bill and Mary, the couple that teach our Sunday school class, but Bill just quoted the Scripture about not withholding ourselves from each other. There's got to be more to it than that! I swear, sometimes I wish God hadn't even made sex in the first place!"

#### A Common Problem

Sexuality is probably the most difficult issue we deal with in marriage counseling, and yet most of us are ill prepared to work effectively with it. This is in spite of numerous studies citing sex as one of the most common causes of marital conflict and divorce. Many counseling programs offer only an introductory course in human sexuality, and many M.Div. programs don't even offer it as an elective. This lack of training results in otherwise skilled Christian counselors unconsciously avoiding the subject, fumbling awkwardly with it, or worse yet, referring to a secular sex therapist who may recommend interventions that are not God-honoring.

Unlike many of our training programs, Scripture addresses sexuality frequently. God knew the power of what he was giving us, for good or for evil. He made it abun-

dantly clear that we are not to misuse the gift, but he also greatly affirmed its frequent enjoyment within the bonds of marriage. He knew it would either be the glue that bonds us together or the dynamite that blows us apart. It is imperative that we become more skilled in working with sexuality so that it becomes that bond for our clients.

#### The Spirit of the Act

When addressing difficult issues, Jesus repeatedly emphasized the importance of the spirit of an act, rather than simply the letter of the law. If the spirit of an act is wrong, the results will not be glorifying to God... no matter how right the act may appear. God looks on the heart. And so, though it is true that the Word admonishes us not to withhold ourselves from each other, we must be careful not to slap a Scripture verse on a problem that warrants great sensitivity. If we can help bring lasting healing and real growth to a couple's sexual relationship, we will have blessed them with one of God's greatest means of expressing and deepening their love for each other.

In being careful not to oversimplify sexual problems, we also want to be sure that we don't make them more complex than necessary. Facilitating lasting healing does not necessarily require one to become a sex therapist. Much of the work is an outgrowth of the work we already do—enhancing relational intimacy and encouraging better communication. Many sexual problems can be resolved simply by helping a couple talk more effectively.

This is because, at one level, sexual intercourse is merely a

**Many sexual problems can be resolved simply by helping a couple talk more effectively.**

# of the Act

## Having Sex or Making Love?

CHRISTOPHER McCLUSKEY

form of communication. The term *intercourse* is not even a specifically sexual term; it simply means an exchange or communing between persons. We can help a couple look at the messages they are conveying in their *verbal* intercourse throughout the week, pair these with the rest of their *relational* intercourse, and then compare their *sexual* intercourse to see if the messages are consistent. If messages of love, devotion, and oneness are not reflected in the rest of the relationship, their sexual intercourse is a lie. This is why so many spouses feel used and empty after sex; the physical expression of giving oneself completely to the other belies the loneliness and distance that actually characterize their marriage.

Our goal, then, is not simply to help couples have better sex. There is a world of difference between “having

sex” and “making love.” Our culture uses the words interchangeably, and the acts are the same, but they are vastly different in spirit. Merely “having sex” does not glorify the Father. Just as we are not to partake of Christ’s body through communion in an unworthy manner, we are not to take lightly the joining of our bodies in sexual communion. Simply “having sex” misses the spirit of God’s plan for us to celebrate our oneness through a covenant act. We want to help our couples share the true spirit of “making love.”

### An Intimate Marriage

For a couple to experience that spirit, they must first have an intimate marriage—one in which they are coming to deeply know, and be known by, the other. True sexual *intimacy* is always the

outgrowth and expression of intimacy in the rest of the marriage. We put the cart ahead of the horse if we focus on sexuality when there is still great distance in the rest of the relationship.

But once a couple has established a fairly intimate marriage, we can help each partner more effectively convey and deepen their sexual intimacy. This will require a childlike playfulness on their part. The language will prove awkward at times, and the subject will create some embarrassment, but just as we can only enter the kingdom of heaven as little children, a couple will only find intimate connection sexually when they approach it with childlike wonder and curiosity.

### Vulnerability

Part of that child state involves a willingness to soak up one’s partner, as well as to fully give of oneself. This again requires healing in the rest of the marriage, since each partner will only be that vulnerable when he or she feels truly safe. Examining the thoughts and feelings each person has during physical, emotional, and spiritual nakedness will reveal lingering areas of mistrust, hurt, anger, and trauma. It is rich ground for continued healing and growth.

To help with some of the awkwardness of discussing sexuality, couples should be encouraged to read a few pages a night together from one of the excellent Christian texts available on healthy sexuality. This will help desensitize them to the topic and provide solid information, which will make productive dialog much easier.

As a couple increasingly views their lovemaking as a means of communicating, try to ensure that nothing is tarnishing the message, whether fantasizing about another, problems with body image and performance, or faulty views of sex as dirty or a necessary evil. Encourage them from Scripture to

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“delight themselves in each other” (Song of Songs 1:2; 4:10) and “enjoy all of their choice fruits” (4:16). This is to be a time of abandon, giving and receiving fully in body, soul, and spirit. Surrendering like this invites a climax that is not merely physical but spiritual as well.

Perhaps the most critical piece of lovemaking is the period of restabilizing immediately after the act is completed. Many couples quickly jump out of bed to go clean up, or simply roll over and go to sleep. Encourage them to spend a few moments basking in the afterglow, soaking in an awareness of what they have shared together. After such a time of transparency and vulnerability, this is a rich opportunity to affirm each other, cuddling, caressing, and soliciting feedback. There are few moments in marriage where we can become so aware of our love.

### Summary

We must become more skilled and comfortable in working with sexuality if our clients are to experience the fullness of what God intended in marriage. Our tendency has been toward avoidance, or admonishing from Scripture, without the kind of care and attention we give any other area of marital conflict. If couples cannot come to us for real help and healing, they are left with no good alternatives. Our answers lie not so much in techniques as in understanding the spirit of the act and helping our clients convey that spirit to each other.

*Christopher McCluskey, MSW, is a Psychotherapist, Certified Sex Therapist, and Christian Life Coach. A co-founder of Sexual Wholeness, he produced the highly acclaimed video “Coaching Couples into Passionate Intimacy.” He can be contacted at his website: [www.christian-living.com](http://www.christian-living.com)*

## Resources for Couples

**William Cutrer & Sandra Glahn, *Sexual Intimacy in Marriage* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 1998).**

**Archibald Hart, Catherine Hart Weber, & Debra Taylor, *Secrets of Eve* (Nashville, TN: Word, 1998).**

**Christopher McCluskey, *Coaching Couples into Passionate Intimacy* (video) (Tampa, FL: Media Resource Center, 2000).**

**Clifford & Joyce Penner, *The Gift of Sex* (Waco, TX: Word, 1981).**

**Douglas Rosenau, *A Celebration of Sex* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1994).**

**Ed & Gaye Wheat, *Intended for Pleasure* (Old Tappan, NJ: Revell, 1977).**

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# Fawning over Flynt film shows twisted values

By CHRISTOPHER McCLUSKEY  
 Psychotherapist, Clearwater, Florida

"As far as best films go, the nod is to **The People Vs. Larry Flynt...**" the article said. I was sitting in a booth at a restaurant across from my office eating lunch. On each table was a pamphlet entitled "Entertainment Guide – Special Year-End Issue." These were the opening lines of the cover story on the movies they felt would win Academy Awards in February.

I had to read the sentence three times to convince myself of what it said. This was the film that had been forced to redesign advertising posters that pictured actor Woody Harrelson, who plays Flynt, clothed in a diaper and standing in a crucifix position, flanked by a woman in a bikini. The movie had to be cut considerably to gain an R rating instead of the NC-17.

Since that day, the movie has received rave reviews at the Golden Globe Awards.

Many Americans know Larry Flynt as the multimillionaire founder of *Hustler* magazine and its myriad of spinoff hard-core porn magazines. Although he has not had the degree of press exposure given Hugh Hefner, founder of the *Playboy* empire, he is perhaps best known for his highly publicized Supreme Court victory in the 1970s securing First Amendment protection for hard-core pornographers.

By now, in the aftermath of such high-profile sex films as **Showgirls** and **Striptease**, another movie about the sex industry doesn't come as much of a surprise. But there are at least two factors that set **The People Vs. Larry Flynt** in a category by itself in terms of impact for evil in the world.

The first is that the movie has ingeniously targeted the Generation X audience. The casting of Woody Harrelson (of the TV sitcom **Cheers** and star of the movie **Natural Born Killers**) creates instant appeal with the Generation X audience. Harrelson is one of Hollywood's most outspoken advocates for the legalization of marijuana. Recently on the cover of *Hemp* magazine, he is in the midst of a high-profile legal battle over his public displays of possession of marijuana. Harrelson's popularity with the youth culture will provide them immediate identification with the character he plays, a man who refers to himself in the movie as "The Pervert."

But it is the casting of rock star Courtney Love that provides the strongest draw for the younger generation. She plays the role of Flynt's fourth wife, Althea Leasure, and does many of the obligatory nude scenes including one of group sex.

Her character visibly wastes away throughout the movie, eventually dying of AIDS as a drug-addicted shell of a human being.

Love is extremely popular with Gen Xers, partly because she is the lead singer for the grunge band Hole. Her songs are often about death, drugs, despair and other themes that play well to the emptiness that characterizes so much of the grunge crowd. However, it was her marriage to Kurt Cobain, lead singer of the group Nirvana, whose suicide by gunshot made front-page news for weeks in 1995, that established her as a cultural icon. Kurt Cobain is the James Dean of the '90s, a charismatic rebel whose music and life captured the angst that so many Generation Xers feel. One of his classic songs was "I Hate Myself and Want to Die."

Several youths around the country killed themselves following Cobain's suicide. He still has a strong cult following not unlike that of Jim Morrison (of The Doors) in the 1960s. Cobain and Courtney Love had a daughter and her fans praise her as a mother in the same way that Madonna's fans are gushing over her recent motherhood.

By casting Courtney Love, director Milos Forman and producer Oliver Stone have virtually guaranteed a large attendance from Love's devoted fans. These young people, who have already had exposure to the sex-saturated material so prevalent in our society, will get an almost irresistible invitation into the harder core of the sex industry. Many who might not otherwise have ventured so far as the XXX bookstores and movie houses may now see them as a new way of trying to fill up the void in their spirits, becoming engulfed in the world of pornography.

Flynt's world of sex, drugs, wealth, power and irresponsibil-

## BACKGROUND: LARRY FLYNT

- Born in 1943, Flynt grew up in poverty in eastern Kentucky.
- He owned a number of cocktail lounges in Ohio, where he began *Hustler*, a newsletter to keep customers informed about their favorites among Flynt's 300 female dancers.
- *Hustler* went national as a pornographic magazine and achieved a reputation for degrading women with nude scenes of sexual bondage, rape, and dismemberment. One cover of the magazine showed a woman being shoved head-first into a meat grinder. The magazine was also famous for its extremely offensive humor, which included a regular cartoon feature about a pedophile, entitled "Chester the Molester." *Hustler* gained national attention with the publication of pictures surreptitiously taken of former first lady Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, as she vacationed nude on her husband's Greek island.
- In 1977, after spending time with evangelist Ruth Carter-Stapleton, sister of President Jimmy Carter, Flynt supposedly converted to Christianity. He determined to change *Hustler* into a magazine that would "hustle for God." The new emphasis was a financial disaster, and Flynt reversed his decision to mix God and pornography.
- In 1978, Flynt was shot by a would-be assassin which left him paralyzed from the waist down. In bitterness, he denounced God and Christianity, as well as religious leaders who opposed his magazine, such as Rev. Jerry Falwell, Moral Majority founder. Following an ad in *Hustler* which suggested that Falwell's first sexual experience was with his own mother in an outhouse, Falwell sued. A lower court awarded Falwell \$200,000 for emotional distress, but in a historic 1988 decision the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the decision on First Amendment grounds.



"**The People Vs. Larry Flynt** is a movie that is glorifying [my father's] life. And I'm opposed to that idea.... I think a lot of people don't realize what *Hustler* magazine is all about and the damage that it does to society and to women. And I am speaking on behalf of the victims – people that have been abused or that are caught up in pornography or in bondage because of pornography. There are a lot of those victims and they seem to be going unnoticed and unspoken for in the midst of all of this media frenzy surrounding this movie.... They are not talking about the prostitution that was involved in getting the money to start this magazine. They are not talking about the extreme violence against women and the way that the magazine promotes and advocates and causes rape and child sexual abuse."

TONYA FLYNT-VEGA, daughter of Larry Flynt

ity are contrasted with portrayals of the rest of America as uptight, judgmental, puritanical hypocrites. Flynt once professed to be a born again Christian after having been evangelized by Ruth Carter-Stapelton, sister of former President Jimmy Carter. Christianity is ridiculed throughout the movie, from Althea joking about her cousin shooting a Baptist preacher in the back, to the implied sexual advances of Ruth Carter-Stapleton toward Flynt, a moronic Jerry Falwell, and the name plate on Flynt's desk which reads "Jesus H. Christ, Publisher." Flynt even states that God is working through him, and wears a T-shirt that says "Jesus Is An Anarchist."

There is a second threat from this film that may prove even more devastating. The movie is absolutely wrapped in the American flag, and the political punch it delivers defies belief. Flynt is portrayed as a hard-working underdog ("I'm just trying to make an honest buck...") who fights the system and becomes a champion of American freedoms. When convincing his attorney to take his case before the Supreme Court, Flynt states, "I would love to be remembered for something meaningful." After winning his case, which protected his right to publish an ad lampooning Jerry Falwell as having intercourse with his mother in an outhouse, Flynt tells reporters, "If the First Amendment can protect a scumbag like me, it can protect all of you."

The cast includes some very powerful political figures. James Carville, key political strategist for President Clinton in both his 1992 and 1996 bids for the Presidency, plays the role of a federal investigator. The simple fact that he appears in this mockery of American justice suggests that Larry Flynt's Supreme Court victory is something of which Americans should be proud. Carville laughingly told *Entertainment Weekly* magazine, "Flynt's got a sixth-grade education. Becomes a millionaire. Gets mixed up with [Jerry] Falwell and [Charles] Keating. Goes through the Supreme Court stuff. Almost gets assassinated. When you put it all together, it's a Forrest Gump kind of thing." This man is one of our President's closest advisors.

The role of Ruth Carter-Stapelton is played by Donna Hanover from the TV journalism show **Good Day New York**. Hanover also happens to be the wife of Rudolph Giuliani, Mayor of New York City. She did an interview with Larry Flynt years ago when an issue of *Hustler* magazine ran nude pictures of Jackie Onassis. Flynt has apparently returned the favor by casting her in his movie. Asked for her thoughts on the film, Hanover told *Vogue* magazine, "It's a very political movie, and people think it raises some important issues. The First Amendment protects us all." Incredibly, her husband is in the middle of a highly publicized crack-down, vowing to shut down as many as 150 sex shops in New York City.

Half of the cast flew with Larry Flynt in his black jet to visit

Vaclav Havel, President of the Czech Republic, who is a life-long friend of director Milos Forman. These kinds of international connections, which Flynt, Stone, Forman, Carville, et.al. have formed throughout their highly public lives, create open markets for a movie that might not otherwise have gotten worldwide exposure. This movie will be viewed by millions who will see its portrayal of Larry Flynt's life as a triumphant example of American Democracy at work.

Many of these markets have only recently opened themselves up to the irreversible poisoning of Western-style pornography. Many countries have not had the steady rise of legal sex-oriented businesses we have seen in America since the 1950s. This movie serves as a two-hour award-winning commercial on what they have been missing. It sugar coats the poison with the greatest symbol of America – freedom. These countries are inviting an onslaught of the most depraved material mankind has ever mass produced, and they are doing it in the name of Westernization.

It is important to understand that hard-core porn is not just naked people in sexual situations. It frequently centers around graphic scenes of rape, torture, incest, sado-masochism, sexual slavery, bestiality, genital mutilation, urination, defecation, body dismemberment and murder. The impact of these images on society cannot be overstated.

An obvious example was a woman who was brutally gang-raped in a pool hall shortly after *Hustler* ran a feature called "Dirty Pool" picturing such a gang rape. In an unbelievable display of their indifference, *Hustler* responded to the crime by publishing a postcard of a nude woman on a pool table with the inscription, "Greetings from New Bedford, Mass, The Portuguese Gang-Rape Capital of America."

It is hard to identify any one thing that has had as much adverse impact on the moral decline of our culture as pornography. It seems to appeal to the voyeuristic part in us that cranes our necks as we pass an automobile accident. Its influence can be seen in the huge rise in sex crimes and Jeffrey Dahmer/Ted Bundy-style molestation murders. Bundy gave testimony to the intoxicating influence of pornography on his life in an interview with Dr. James Dobson just hours before his execution.

But its influence is seen far more universally in the way it has shaped our television and movie industries, art, theater, music, notions of public decency, and our basic institutions of marriage and family. Pornography's greatest harm is its ability to desensitize us to evil. It is impossible to measure how greatly it has rotted the core of our nation.

**The People Vs. Larry Flynt** is mainstreaming a key ingredient of our culture's decline. The greatest tragedy is that America is praising it for doing so.



# CYBERSEX & CYBERPORN

Christopher McCluskey

The story is told of a young Christian man who moved into the attached apartment of a boarded-up storefront. Shortly after moving in, renovations began, and the store was reopened as a XXX bookstore. Night after night the young man wrestled with himself, knowing that just beyond the second door of his bedroom lay every sexual fantasy he could imagine. It was only a matter of time until he arose one night and turned the doorknob, opening Pandora's box and stepping into its evil.

At the close of the 20th century, we find ourselves facing an even greater temptation than this on a daily basis. Our turn of the doorknob is the click of a mouse and, via the World Wide Web, we can enter into every imaginable sexual sin in the privacy of our own homes. *If we are connected to the Internet, we must acknowledge that we have attached our homes to the world's largest porn shop.*

I can easily recall the first clients I saw who were hooked on cyberporn. After being lured to a website by lurid text and/or revealing photographs, they had been invited to view more for a fee, which was billed to a credit card. Without ever having to risk being seen in a peep show, bookstore, or strip club, they had easily run up tens of thousands of dollars in debt in a few short months. In the process, they often destroyed their families, reputations, and Christian lives.

I long ago lost count of those who have followed in their footsteps or have been caught by their spouses having "virtual affairs" over the Net. I have read their portrayals of sexual escapades written to faceless lovers in e-mail and chat rooms. These dialogues provide fantasy material for masturbation, and sometimes result in real-life rendezvous. One of the most graphic exchanges I have seen was between a 67-year-old man, who assumed a virtual persona as a much younger Don Juan, and a (supposedly) young woman in another state. Though they never met, the affair devastated his marriage.

Therein lies perhaps the greatest drawing card of cyberporn and cybersex: *anonymity*. The ability to act under a greater cover than even darkness. The ability to assume any identity—even that of the opposite sex if desired. From the time of the Fall, humans have always sought to hide their sins, and the Internet provides not only one of the most powerful invitations to sin, but the ability to hide that sin in ways never before possible.

Like it or not, the Internet is here to stay, and it will become increasingly difficult to function in the 21st century if we are not online. While some will argue that the best response is to simply avoid the Net, most will find this almost impossible. So-called "E-commerce" is entirely changing the business world and predictions are that the web will impact nearly every industry over the next 10 years. Not being online will be like not having a telephone.

How do we guard ourselves and our families when we are daily presented with so great a temptation? First, I believe we must call the temptation by name: voyeurism, fornication, adultery, lust. We must recognize how great a sin it is and then, to the best of our ability, make no provision for that sin.

Second, we must establish hedges to protect ourselves and decrease the likelihood that we will fall. These might include installing filtering software or utilizing a filtered Internet access provider. We may need to establish a password for Internet use that only our spouse knows. We might post photos of our spouse, our children, or Christ on our monitors as screensavers. It is certainly wise to place the computer in an area of the home or office that does not allow for uninterrupted privacy, and stay off the Net at night or when everyone else is in bed.

Third, if we still find ourselves struggling with this temptation, we must make ourselves accountable to our spouses and to select brothers or sisters in the body who will pray for us, ask the difficult questions, and be available when we need their strength. If necessary, we must seek out a 12-step group or a trained Christian counselor who can work effectively with sexual addiction.

In short, we must be willing to do whatever is required to "flee from sexual immorality" (1 Cor. 6:18). If we do, the Internet can be a tremendous blessing. If we do not, it will destroy us. **CCT**

*Christopher McCluskey, M.S.W., is a Licensed Psychotherapist, Certified Sex Therapist, and Life Coach. He can be reached at Coaching for Christian Living, [www.christian-living.com](http://www.christian-living.com)*



*"When Two Become One: Enhancing Sexual Intimacy in Marriage"*

## Christian authors to explain Lovemaking Cycle, sign books Tuesday evening at Christian Church

St. James Christian Church, 227 E. Scioto, will host Rachel and Christopher McCluskey, authors of the highly acclaimed book "When Two Become One: Enhancing Sexual Intimacy in Marriage," for a two-hour mini marriage enrichment seminar and book signing at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, June 20.

Christopher McCluskey, a

Missouri Licensed Clinical Social Worker, has long been involved in Christian psychotherapy and life coaching, but is also a pioneer in distinctly Christian sex therapy. He is a co-founder of both the Institute for Sexual Wholeness in Atlanta, Ga., and of the American Board of Christian Sex Therapists.

He and his wife Rachel live

in Edgar Springs, Mo. with their children and extended family.

Christopher and Rachel collaborated on the book and will be presenting many of its concepts and signing copies at the Christian Church meeting that night.

The McCluskeys emphasize that there is a great difference between "having sex," and "making love," two phrases used almost interchangeably in today's culture. "God has much more in store for his children than just a physical rush," they write in the book.

They explain that truly making love involves a deep, intimate knowledge of each other's deepest thoughts and beings, and is carried out on more than just a physiological basis. They maintain that true lovemaking involves the body, soul and spirit, and that none of those parts can be ignored without one or both partners feeling empty, cheated or used.

Thus, Christopher and Rachel developed a diagnostic tool, The Lovemaking Cycle, which helps couples use God's three-dimensional plan to direct their love making into a joyous celebration, rather than just having sex.

The Lovemaking Cycle is diagrammed in four sections, each with a list of signs or conditions that need to be achieved on deeper and

deeper levels as the couple grows in lovemaking skills and intimate knowledge of each other.

Atmosphere, Arousal, Apex and Afterglow are the four general stages of the cycle.

The book also has chapters addressing the more common questions that men and women have asked during the longer seminars conducted by the couple, and actual situations that Christopher has dealt with in his counseling sessions, presented in a confidential context, of course.

The McCluskeys' book, published in 2004 by Fleming H. Revell, is soon to be reissued in large-format paperback edition, he said. The book can be found locally at The Reader's Corner Bookstore in downtown Rolla, or on the web at amazon.com.

Christopher and Rachel McCluskey hope their book will help Christians and churches develop a healthy model for sexuality, and be able to discuss that aspect of human relationships in an open and respectful way, embracing the physiological pleasure, the absolute freedom, and the sacred bond of the act of making love.

For more information on the book signing and seminar, contact the St. James Christian Church at 573-234-3478.



Christopher and Rachel McCluskey  
Authors of "When Two Become One"