

# THE THEOLOGY OF THE BODY

KRISTIN BIRD  
BURNING HEARTS DISCIPLES

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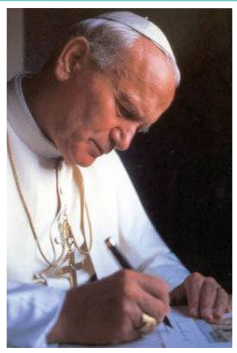
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## THE THEOLOGY OF THE BODY

- Proposed a sacramental worldview.
- Brought together fundamental questions of our age: Who am I? Why am I here? Who is God?
- Persuasively proclaimed a gospel of the body



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## WHO IS GOD?

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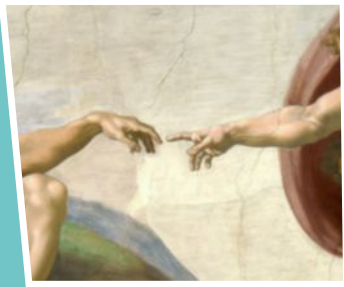
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## IN THE BEGINNING...

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1ST STORY: GENESIS 1:1-2:4

2ND STORY: GENESIS 2:5-3:7



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You have 5 minutes to work with your group. Read through your assigned story of creation and make note of what stands out to you.

What do you notice? What details caught your attention?  
What is surprising or unexpected?

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## FIRST CREATION STORY

GENESIS 1:1 - 2:3

**First Truth:** God is the author of creation, and He gives it order, purpose, and meaning. He deliberately wills it.



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**Second Truth:** God's creation is "good."



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**MAN & WOMAN REFLECT WHO GOD IS.**

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**SECOND CREATION STORY**

GENESIS 2:4-25

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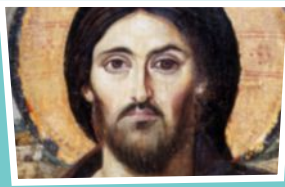
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GOD USES THE PHYSICAL TO  
MAKE VISIBLE THE INVISIBLE.

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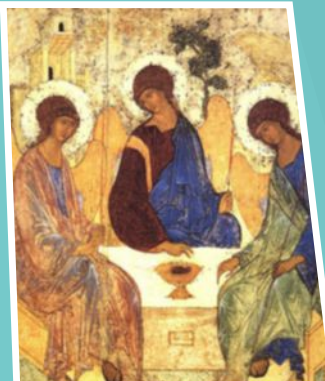
WHO ARE WE?

*CREATED FOR LOVE*

CREATED FOR LOVE

"God himself is an eternal  
exchange of love, Father, Son and  
Holy Spirit, and he has destined  
us to share in that exchange."

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 221



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Think about a time when you knew someone loved you.  
What happened? Did someone say or do something that  
helped you feel loved?

## WHAT IS LOVE?

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### 4 TYPES OF LOVE



**Eros**

erotic, romantic love - physical attraction & arousal



**Storge**

natural, familial affection - such as parents have for children



**Philia**

brotherly love, friendship - unites people in community



**Agape**

unconditional, self-giving love - God's Love

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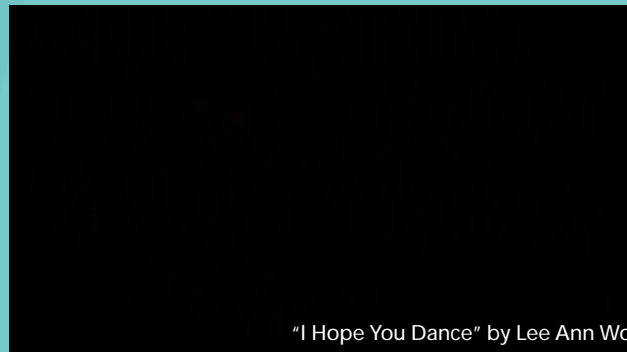
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## WHAT TYPE OF LOVE?



"I Hope You Dance" by Lee Ann Womack

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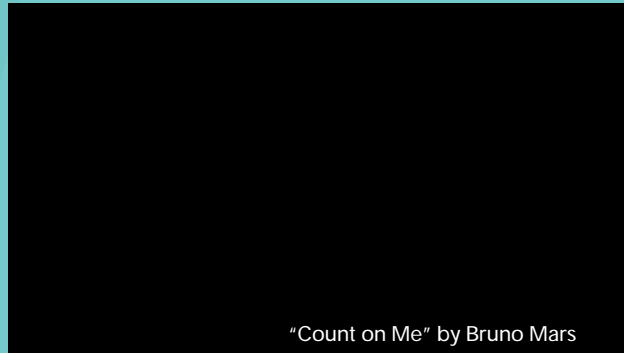
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## WHAT TYPE OF LOVE?

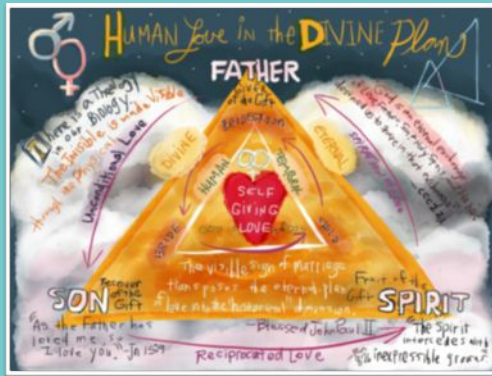


## WHAT TYPE OF LOVE?



## WHAT TYPE OF LOVE?





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## NUPTIAL MEANING OF THE BODY

In effect, our body says to us, "You were made for another who will complement and complete you, and make your love fruitful."



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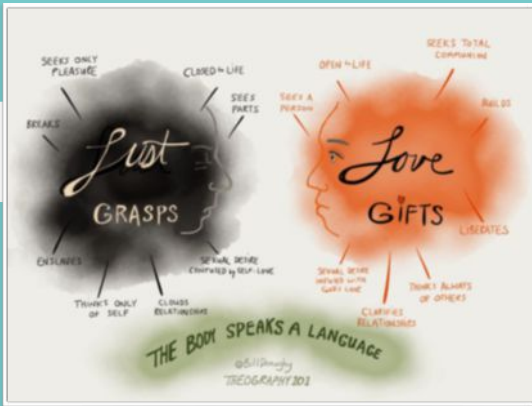
## DENYING THE GIFT

GENESIS 3

"...when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."



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# HUNGRY FOR LOVE

"The world today is hungry not only for bread but hungry for love; hungry to be wanted, hungry to be loved."



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# RESPONDING TO OUR HUNGER FOR LOVE



How Frozen Should Have Ended  
<https://youtu.be/Dach1nPbsY8>

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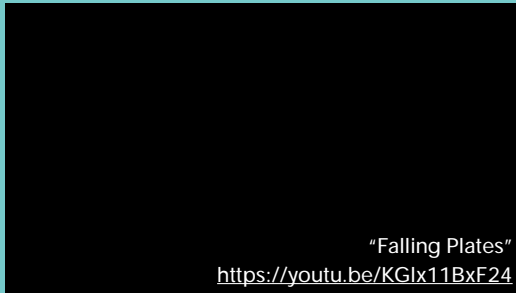
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## WE NEED JESUS



## HOW DO WE RESPOND TO THE INVITATION TO LOVE?

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The desire for God is written in the human heart, because man is created by God and for God; and God never ceases to draw man to himself.

Only in God will he find the truth and happiness he never stops searching for.

-Catechism of the Catholic Church, 27

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## RESPONDING TO EACH OTHER

Can you think of a time you wanted to show love to someone in your life, but it seemed as if they simply could not understand or receive that love? What happened?

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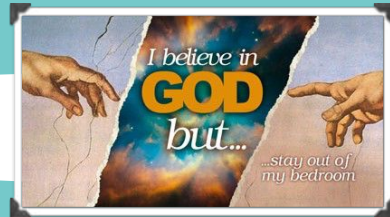
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## WHY DO WE STRUGGLE WITH CATHOLIC SEXUAL MORALITY?

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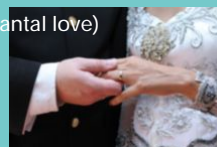
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## JESUS REFINES OUR LOVE FOR OTHERS

- to express Christ's love
- to be procreative (life-giving expression of the Trinity)
- to be unitive (draw into communal life of the Trinity)
- to be faithful (a reflection of God's covenantal love)

IS IT...  
FREE? TOTAL? FRUITFUL? FAITHFUL?

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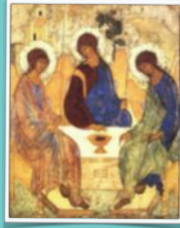
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## KEY QUESTIONS

WHAT INVISIBLE REALITY  
IS BEING MADE VISIBLE?

HOW AM I LIVING MY  
CALL TO BE A SELF-GIFT?



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MORE RESOURCES

[BURNINGHEARTSDISCIPLES.ORG](http://BURNINGHEARTSDISCIPLES.ORG)

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