



The lips of a forbidden woman drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil.

(5:3)



[she] saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a <u>delight</u> to the eyes, and that the tree was to be <u>desired</u> to make one wise,

(Genesis 3:6)



in the end she is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword. Her feet go down to death; her steps follow the path to Sheol; she does not ponder the path of life

(vv.4-6)



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The Porn Myth

In the end, porn doesn't whet men's appetites-it turns them off the real thing.

By Naomi Wolf

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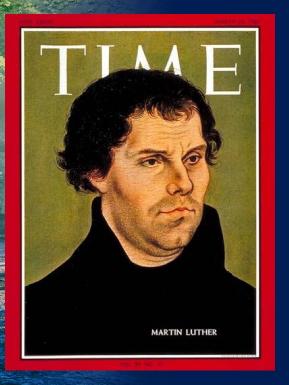
t a benefit the other night, I saw Andrea Dworkin, the anti-porn activist most famous in the A eighties for her conviction that opening the floodgates of pornography would lead men to see real women in sexually debased ways. If we did not limit pornography, she argued-before Internet technology made that prospect a technical impossibility-most men would come to objectify women as they objectified porn stars, and treat them accordingly. In a kind of domino theory, she predicted, rape and other kinds of sexual mayhem would surely follow.

The feminist warrior looked gentle and almost frail. The world she had, Cassandra-like, warned us about so passionately was truly here: Porn is, as David Amsden says, the "wallpaper" of our lives now. So was she right or wrong?

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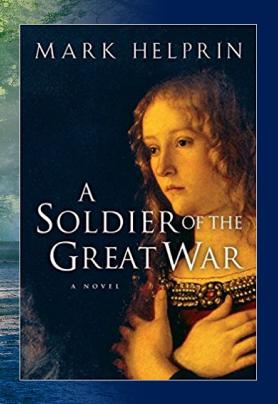
You can't keep birds from flying over your head, but you can keep them from building a nest in your hair.





Drink water from your own cistern,
flowing water from your own well.
Should your springs be scattered abroad,
streams of water in the streets?
Let them be for yourself alone,
and not for strangers with you.

(vv.15-17)



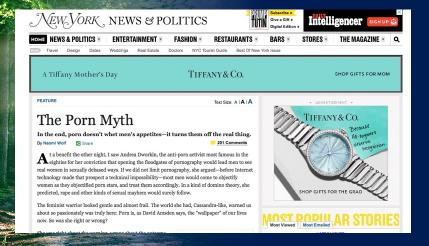
You don't do things by halves. If you love a woman you love her entirely. You give her everything. You don't spend your time in cafes; you don't make love to other women; you don't take her for granted. Do you understand?





Let your fountain be blessed,
and rejoice in the wife of your youth,
a lovely deer, a graceful doe.
Let her breasts fill you at all times with
delight;
be intoxicated always in her love.

(vv.18, 19)



The ubiquity of sexual images does not free eros but dilutes it. . . . the power and charge of sex are maintained when there is some sacredness to it, when it is not on tap all the time.

Naomi Wolf, "The Porn Myth"





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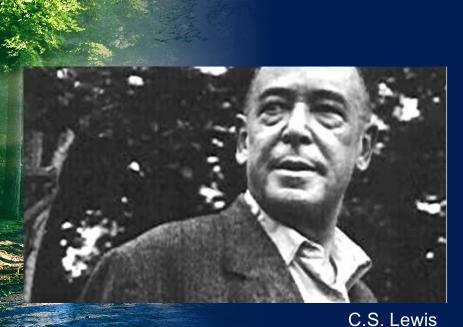
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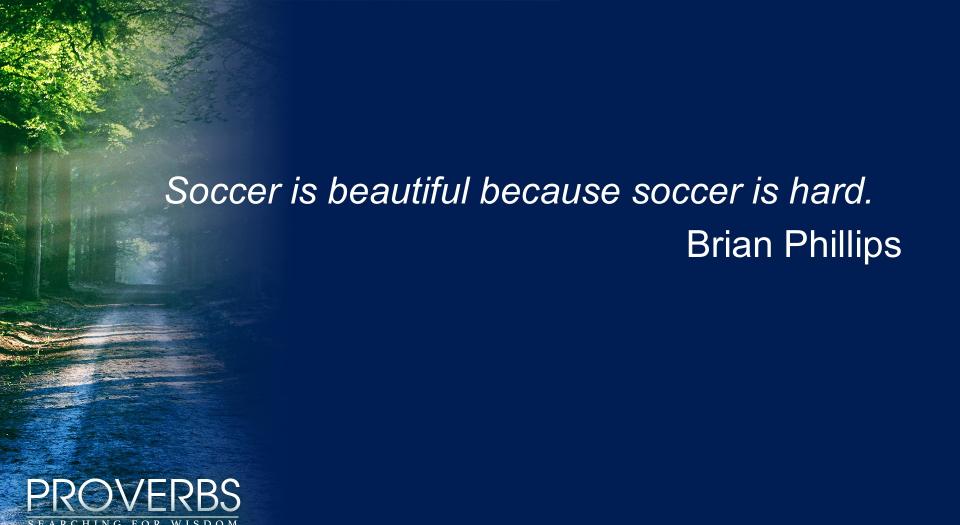






. . . You can't get second things by putting them first. You get second things only by putting first things first.





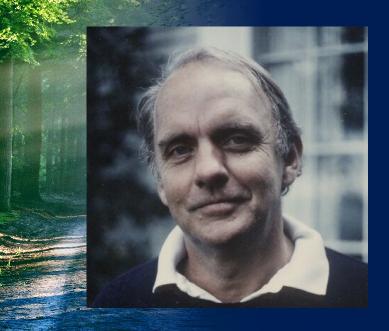


. . . the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. . . .



. . . Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again. . .

1 Cor 7:4-5



Frederick Buechner

Contrary to Mrs. Grundy, sex is not a sin. Contrary to Hugh Hefner, it's not salvation either. Like nitroglycerin, it can be used to blow up bridges or heal hearts.





and at the end of your life you groan,
when your flesh and body are
consumed,
and you say, "How I hated discipline,
and my heart despised reproof!
I did not listen to the voice of my teachers
or incline my ear to my instructors.

(vv. 11-13)



Why should you be intoxicated, my son, with a forbidden woman and embrace the bosom of an adulteress?

For a man's ways are before the eyes of the LORD,

and he ponders all his paths.

The iniquities of the wicked ensnare him, and he is held fast in the cords of his sin.

(vv. 20-22)



...with my body I thee worship.

Book of Common Prayer