



THE HIGHEST GOOD

a series in the Sermon on the Mount

Intimately Acquainted, Part I



Toad eating Epomis Beetle
Gil Wizen
University of Toronto

You have heard it said, 'you shall not commit adultery'

v. 27

Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

Genesis 2:24-25

Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two will become one flesh.. . . Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body.

1 Corinthians 6:16, 18

As an apple tree among the trees of the forest,
so is my beloved among the young men.
With great delight I sat in his shadow,
and his fruit was sweet to my taste.
He brought me to the banqueting house,
and his banner over me was love. . . .

Sustain me with raisins;
refresh me with apples,
for I am sick with love.
His left hand is under my head,
and his right hand embraces me!
I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem,
by the gazelles or the does of the field,
that you not stir up or awaken love
until it pleases.

Set me as a seal upon your heart,
as a seal upon your arm,
for love is strong as death,
jealousy is fierce as the grave.
Its flashes are flashes of fire,
the very flame of the LORD.



Many waters cannot quench love,
neither can floods drown it.
If a man offered for love
all the wealth of his house,
he would be utterly despised.

Song of Solomon 2:3-7; 8:6, 7

You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

vv. 27, 28



Dietrich Bonhoeffer

*Our bond to Jesus Christ
permits no desire without love.*

A Tiffany Mother's Day

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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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At a benefit the other night, I saw Andrea Dworkin, the anti-porn activist most famous in the 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 Amis says, the “wallpaper” of our lives now. So was she right or wrong?

She was right about the women, wrong about the men.

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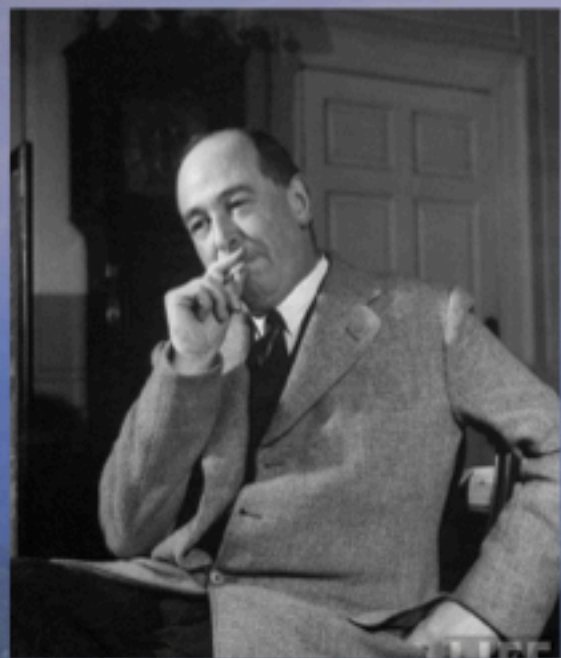
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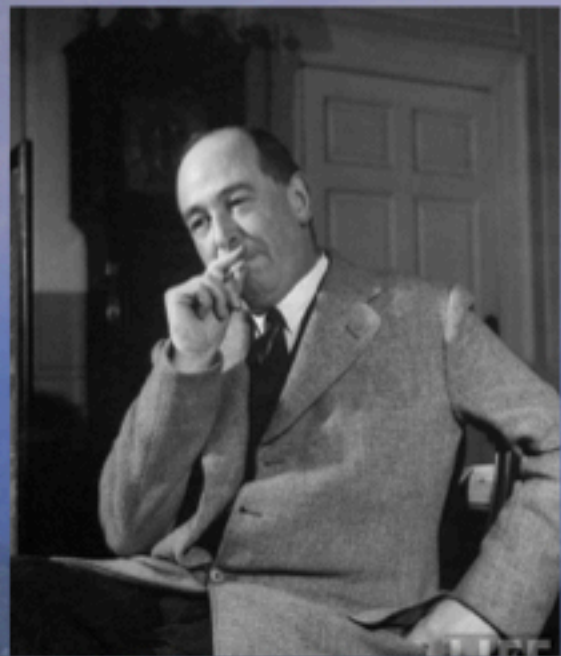


“Mystery?” He looked at me blankly. And then, without hesitating, he replied: “I don’t know what you’re talking about. Sex has no mystery.”



C.S. Lewis

...the real evil of [self-gratification] would be that it takes an appetite which, in lawful use, leads the individual out of himself to complete . . . his own personality in that of another. . .and turns it back: sends the man back into the prison of himself. . . .



C.S. Lewis

...[because] almost the main work of life is to come out of ourselves, out of the little, dark prison we are all born in.

If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell

vv. 29-30



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