

Sexual Brokenness

- Adultery
- Divorce
- Gender Dysphoria
- Lust
- Rape
- Sexism
- Sexual abuse
- Sexual addiction
- Unwanted Singleness
- Body Image

The vitality and power of Christianity is lost when we fail to integrate our bodies into its practice by intelligent, conscious choice and steadfast intent. It can't be any other way. If salvation is to affect our lives, it can do so only by affecting our bodies. If we are to participate in the reign of God, it can only be by our actions. And our actions are physical – we live only in the processes of our bodies. To withhold our bodies from religion is to exclude religion from our lives.

Dallas Willard

Context

What are bodies for?

Some Pharisees approached him to test him. They asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife on any grounds?” 4 “Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that he who created them in the beginning made them male and female, 5 and he also said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’?, 6 So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

Matthew 19:3-6

That same day some Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came up to him and questioned him: 24 “Teacher, Moses said, if a man dies, having no children, his brother is to marry his wife and raise up offspring for his brother. 25 Now there were seven brothers among us. The first got married and died. Having no offspring, he left his wife to his brother. 26 The same thing happened to the second also, and the third, and so on to all seven. 27 Last of all, the woman died. 28 In the resurrection, then, whose wife will she be of the seven? For they all had married her.” 29 Jesus answered them, “You are mistaken, because you don’t know the Scriptures or the power of God. 30 For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage but are like angels in heaven.

Matthew 22:23-30

Embodied spirituality:

To talk about our spirituality is to talk about our bodies, including our sexuality. To talk about our bodies and our sexuality is to talk about God.

Our bodies are theological, not just
biological

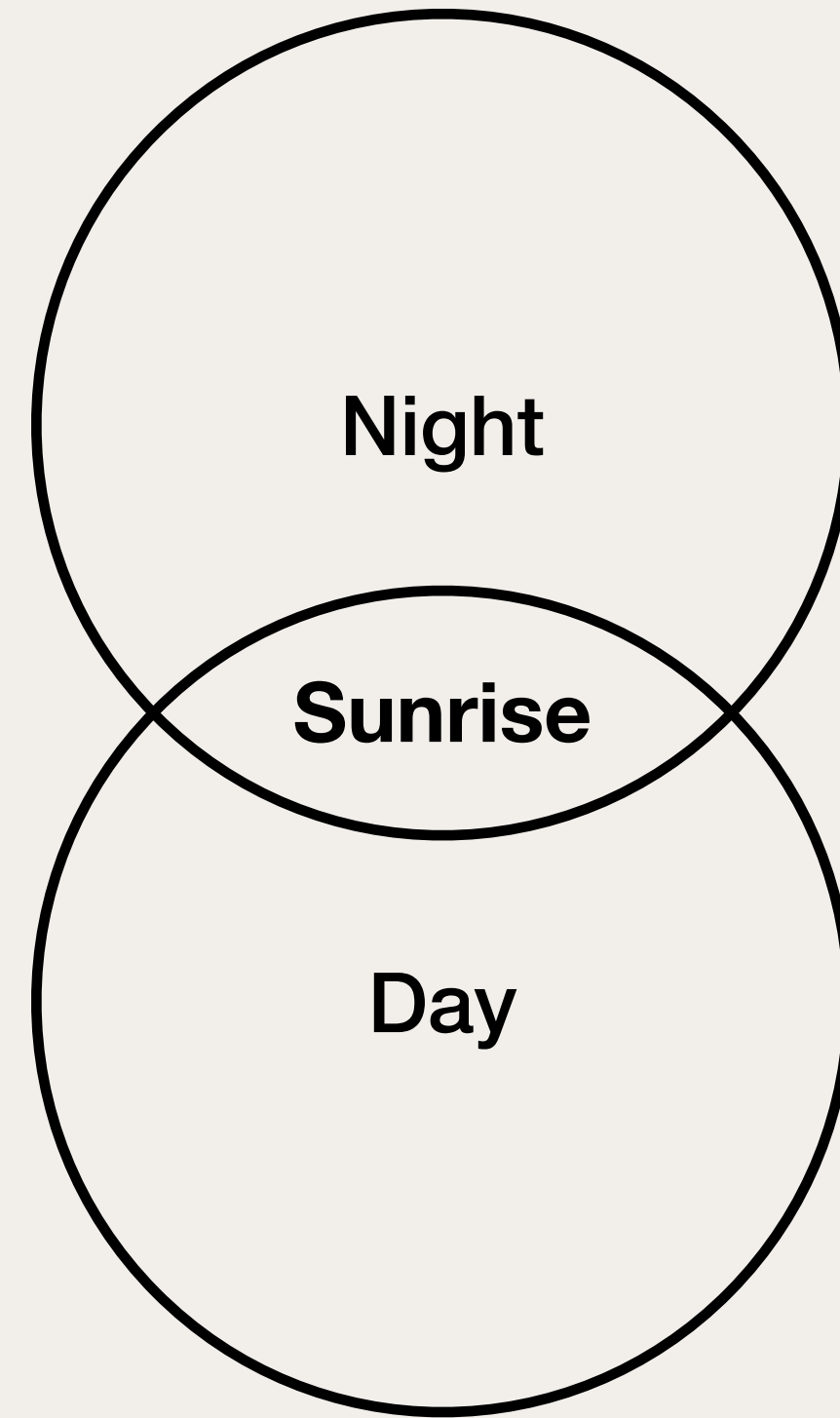
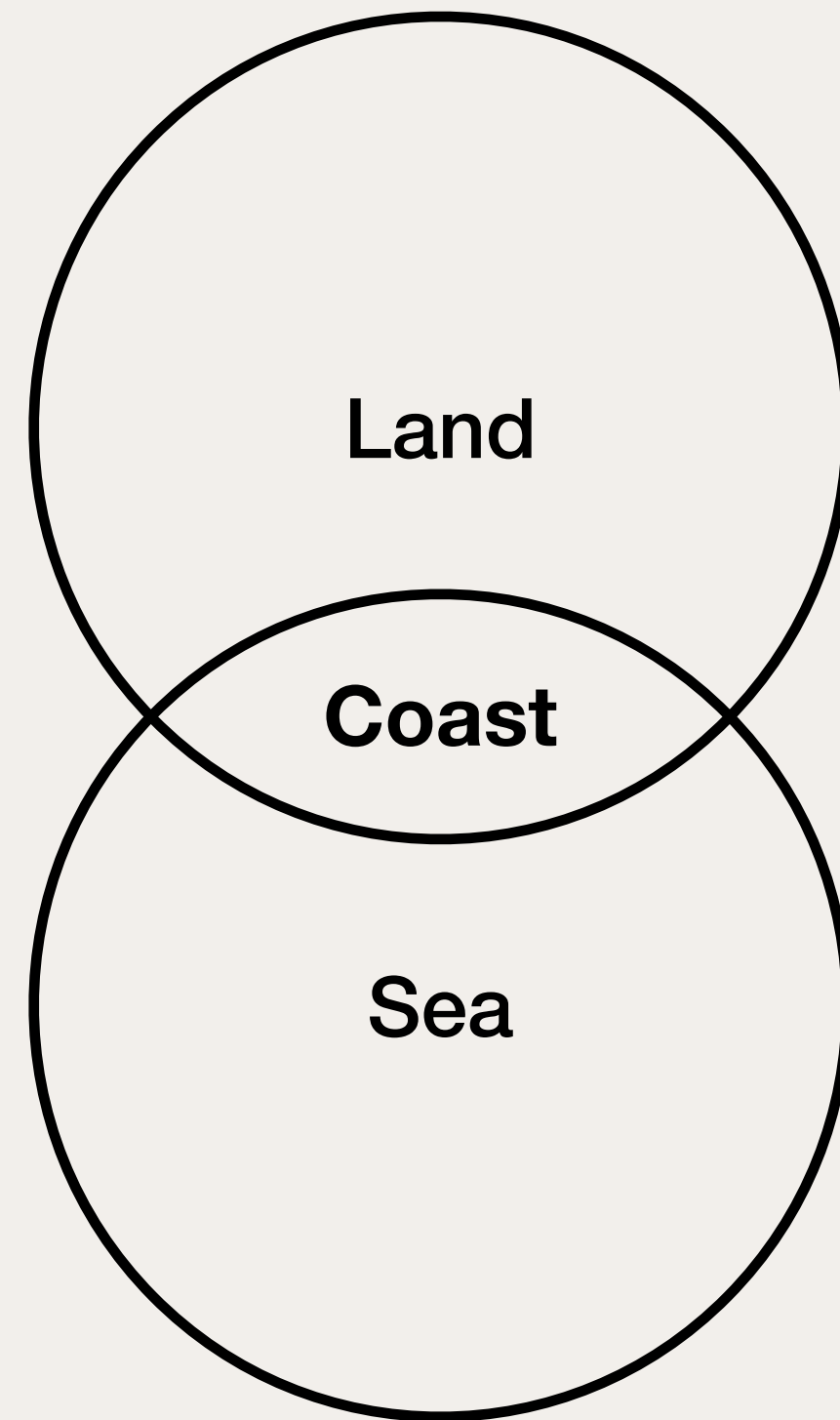
I can only answer the question 'What am I to do? ' if I can answer the prior question 'Of what story or stories do I find myself a part?'

Alasdair McIntyre

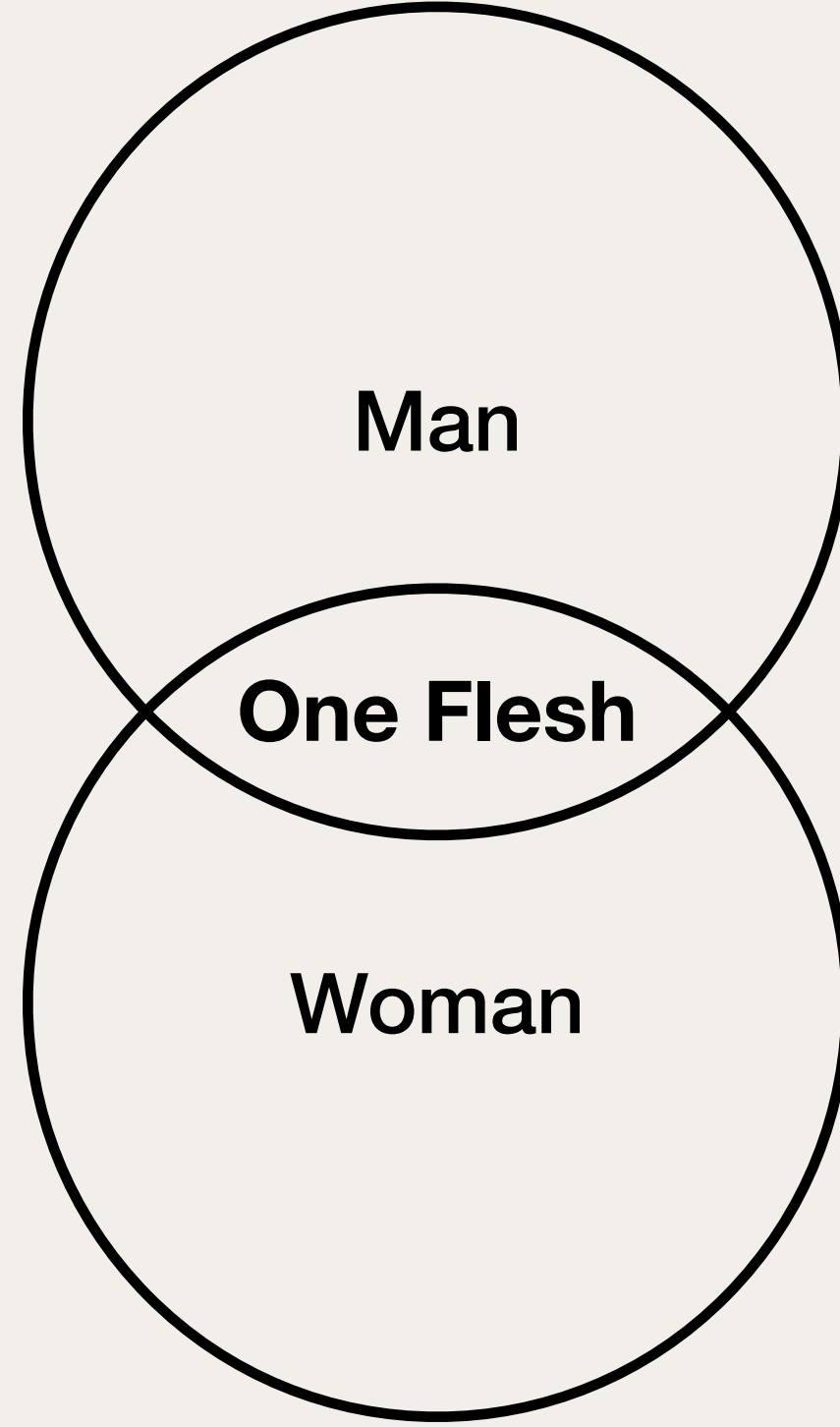
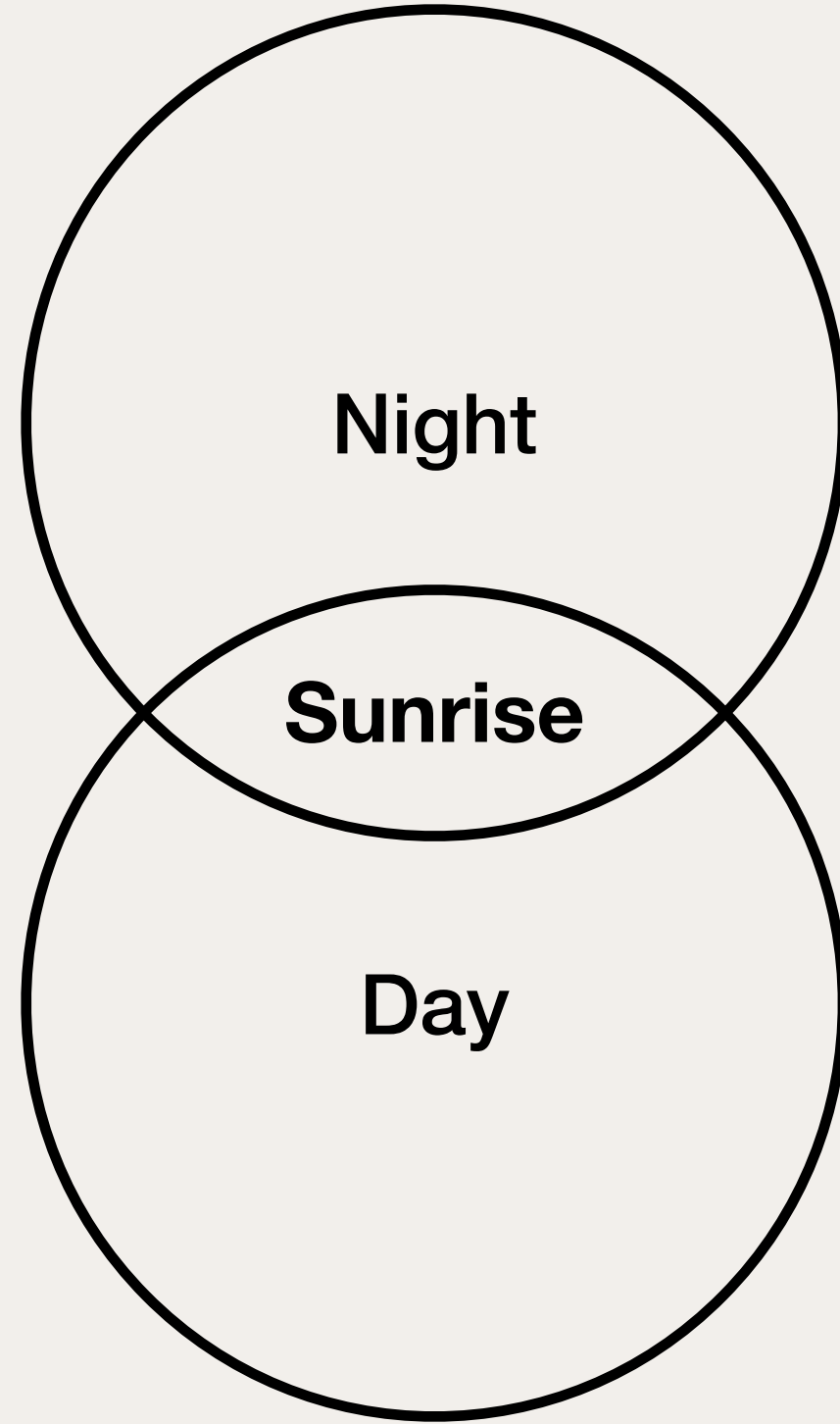
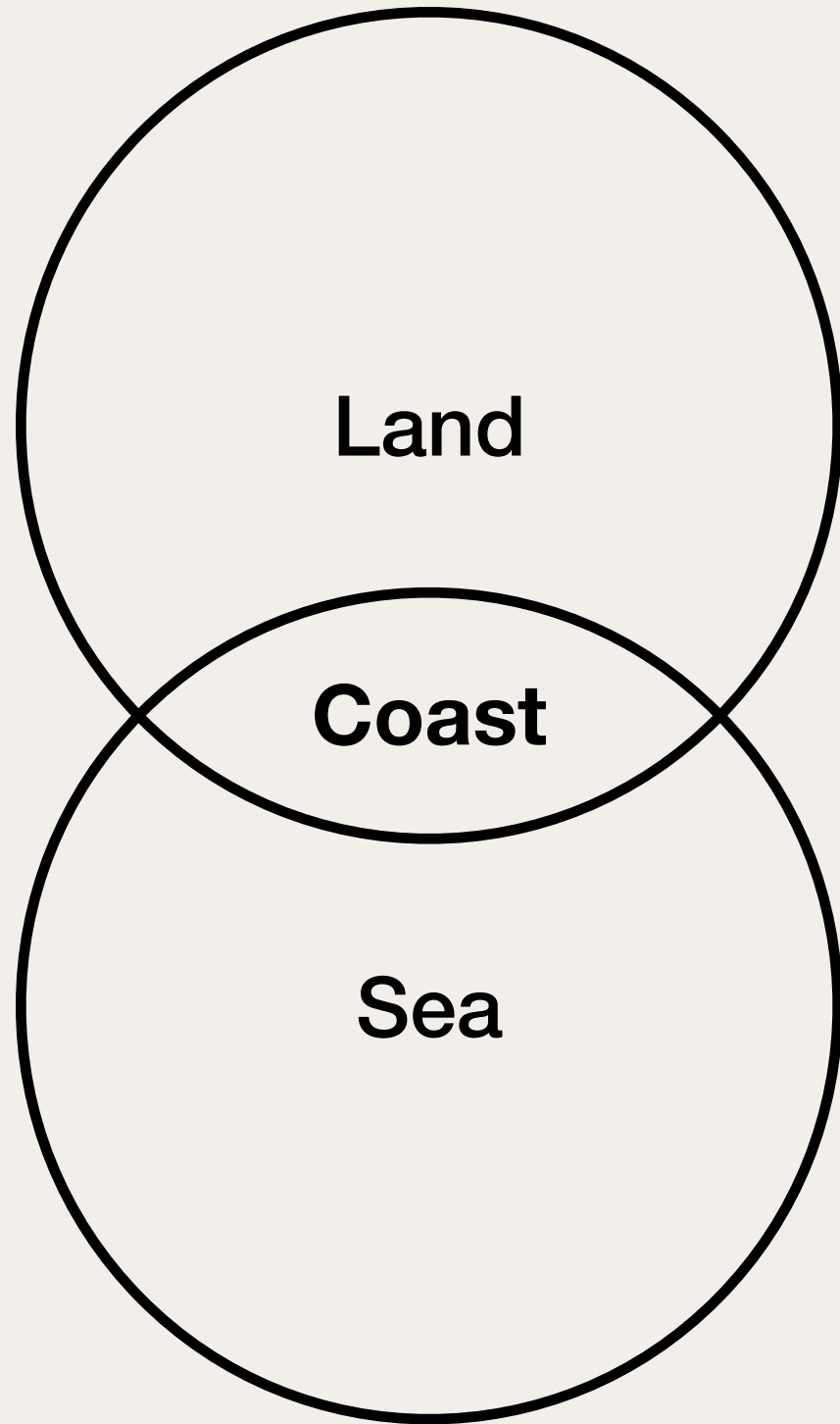
Secular	Shame	Sacred
Identity	Legalism	Formation
Rights	Moralism	Union
Ideology	Literalism	Theology
Pleasure	Fear	Grace
Consent	Secrecy	Transformation
Sociology	Hypocrisy	Belonging
Body/Person Split	Body/Person Split	Embodied Spirituality

The Story of Our Bodies

Goodness





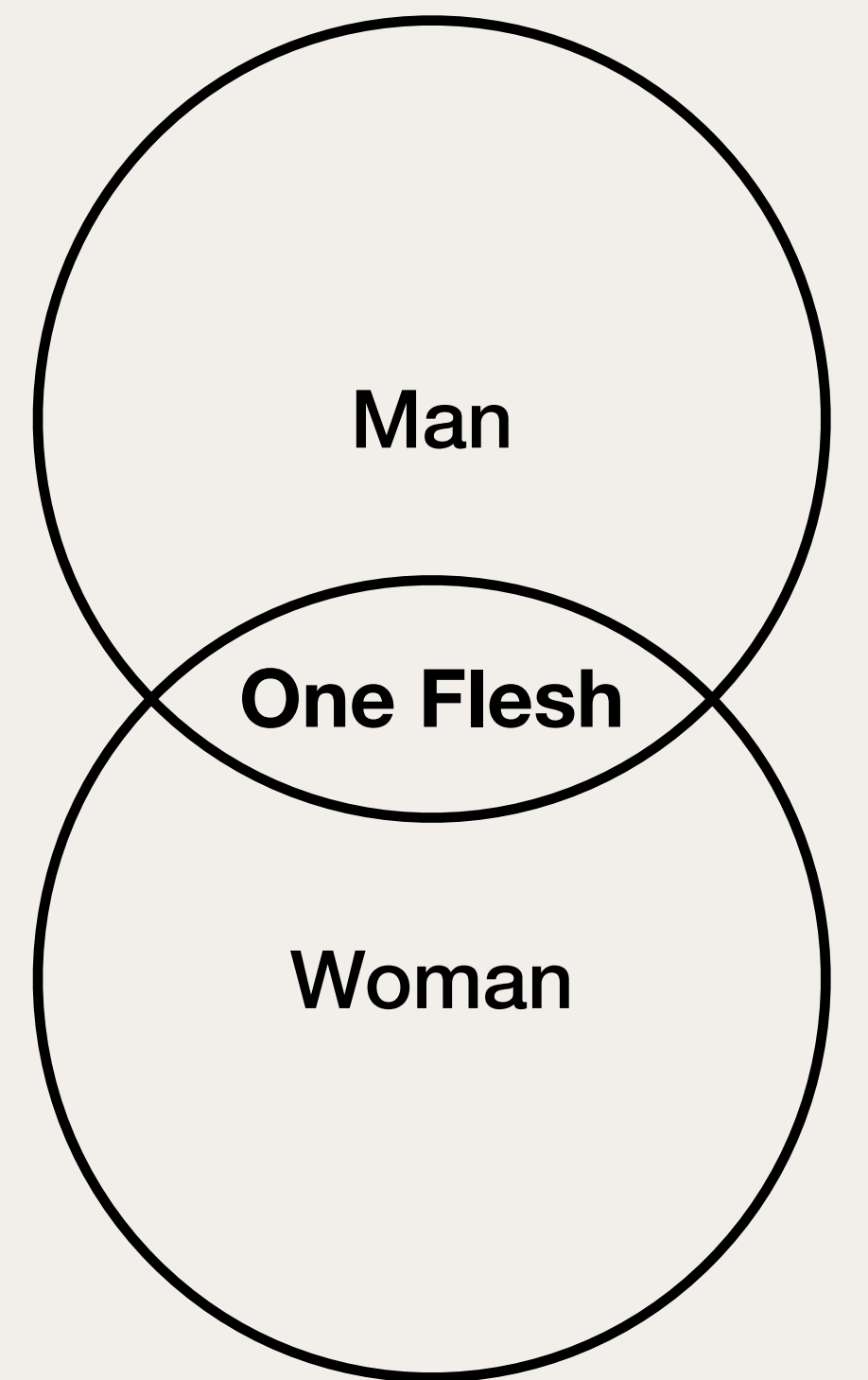
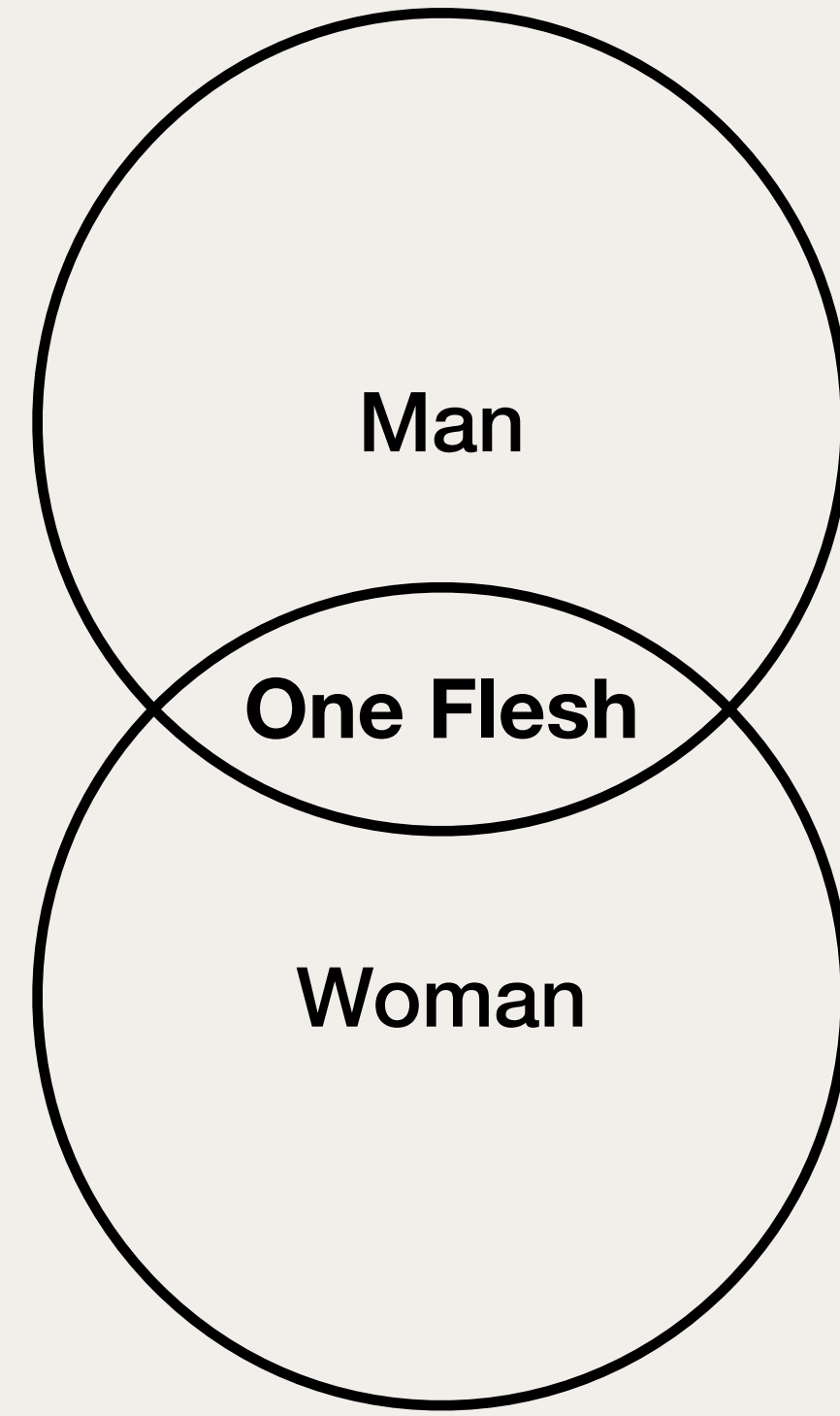
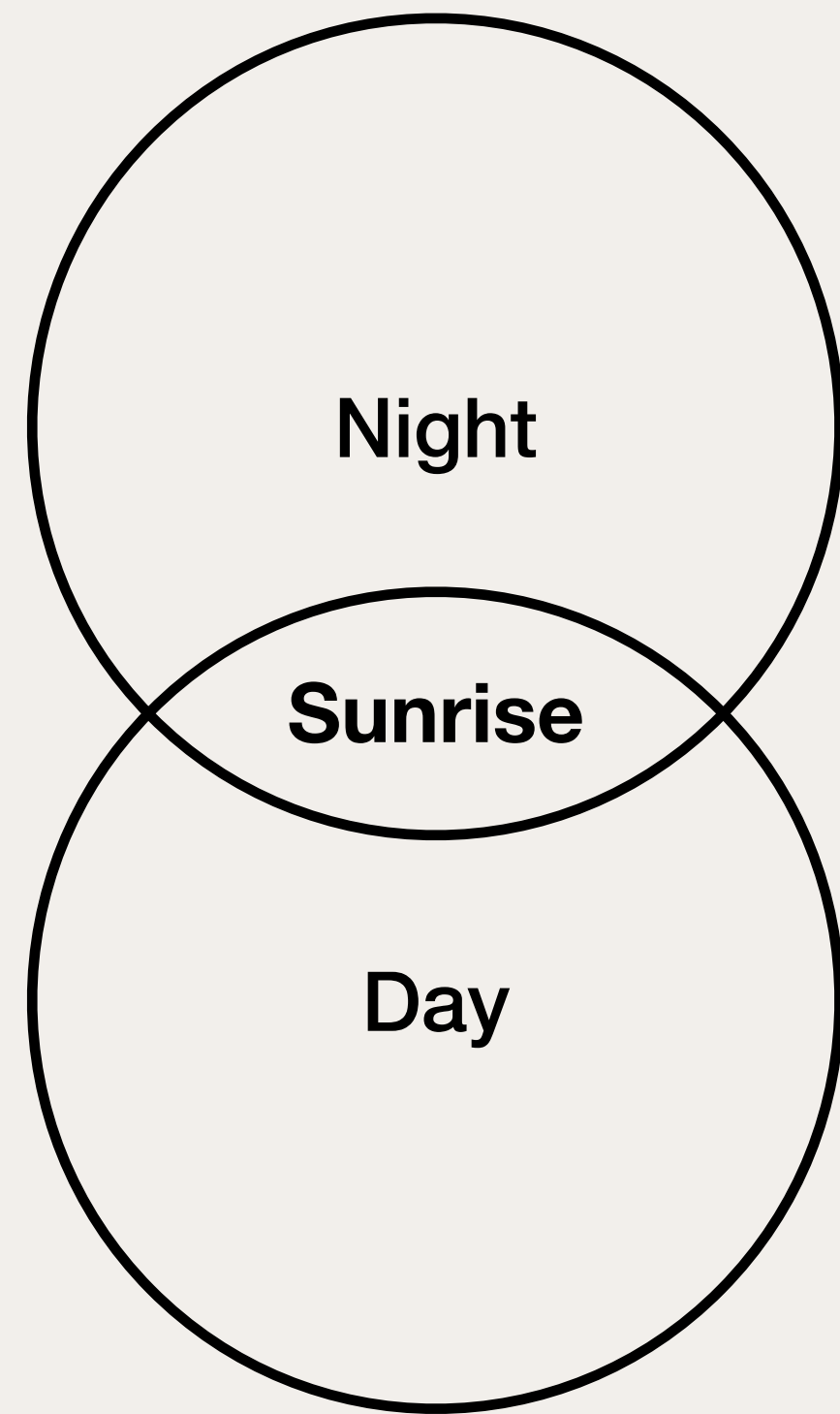
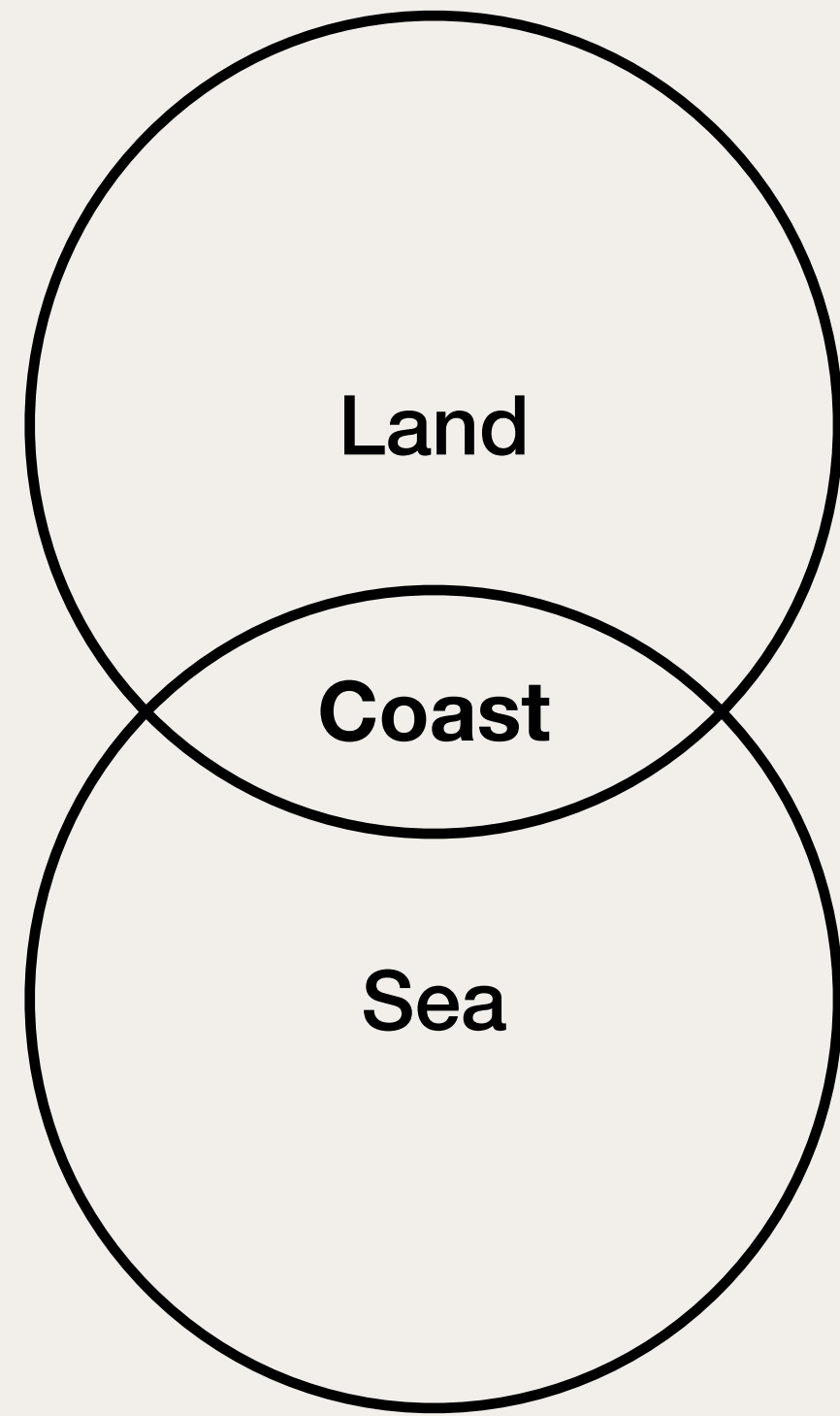


So God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female.

Genesis 1:27

24 This is why a man leaves his father and mother and bonds with his wife, and they become one flesh. 25 Both the man and his wife were naked, yet felt no shame.

Genesis 2:24-25



Our bodies & our sexuality are an icon

Our bodies are a temple where God's loving presence wants to make his home.

The very word sex comes from a Latin verb that means to cut off or sever, and sexual impulses drive us to unite, to restore somehow the union that has been severed. Freud diagnosed the deep pain within as a longing for union with a parent; Jung diagnosed a longing for union with the opposite sex. The Christian sees a deeper longing, for union with the God who created us.

Philip Yancey

Curse

Redemption

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We observed his glory,
the glory as the one and only Son from the Father, full of grace and
truth.

John 1:14

Marriage Feast

Then I heard something like the voice of a vast multitude, like the sound of cascading waters, and like the rumbling of loud thunder, saying, Hallelujah, because our Lord God, the Almighty, reigns! 7 Let us be glad, rejoice, and give him glory, because the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his bride has prepared herself.

Revelation 19:6-7

Honor God with Your Body

Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship.

Romans 12:1

Flee Sexual Immorality

Porn sites are the window to the modern soul; they're glimpses into the twisted minds of a faceless society. All the deviancy Freud tried to deduce through decades of analysis is complexly exposed in seconds (though porn search data). When Carl Jung introduced the concept of the "collective unconscious," he was trying to explain why all humans are inherently scared of things like darkness and vampires - but net porn is the collective conscious. It's where we all see the things people would never admit to wanting. What's most disturbing is the amount of internet porn that has absolutely nothing to do with sexual desire and everything to do with cartoonish misogyny...this has about as much to do with sex as hitting someone in the face with a frying pan.

Chuck Klosterman

The first longitudinal study on porn found that men who start watching porn after they marry are twice as likely to divorce. Other studies found that watching porn actually shrinks the brain and reduces neural activity. There is now firm data showing that porn is addictive (releases dopamine and changes brain chemistry), it leads to violence, it destroys relationships, it feeds sex trafficking and prostitution.

Nancy Pearcy

For this is God's will, your sanctification: that you keep away from sexual immorality, 4 that each of you knows how to control his own body in holiness and honor, 5 not with lustful passions, like the Gentiles, who don't know God. 6 This means one must not transgress against and take advantage of a brother or sister in this manner, because the Lord is an avenger of all these offenses, as we also previously told and warned you.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-6

Sex cannot deliver the goods; it alleviates our loneliness too little, especially our moral loneliness. Sex that isn't sublime doesn't bring us a soul mate. What it brings is a fix, a hit, a drug, that helps us through a lonely night or lonely season, but that, deep down, we know cannot give us what we need, and sex cannot be sublime without first living a deep chastity..The person who sleeps with somebody he or she hardly knows, has no real commitment to, and has never lived a chaste tension with, will not have a sublime or profound experience. Short-circuiting chastity is like trying to write a masterpiece overnight. Good luck, but it isn't going to happen! Great love, like great art, takes great effort, sustained commitment, and lots of time.

Ronald Rolheiser

How do we deal with our desires?

- Repress (Starvation Diet)
- Indulge (Fast Food Diet)
- Redirect (Wedding Feast)

Sexual wholeness is the prayerful integration of our spirituality and sexuality resulting in deep, satisfying relationships with others that roots out shame, cultivates vulnerability, and leads to healthy bonding.

Rich Villodas

The sex issue demands a new and vigorous response. It cannot be a negative or reactionary response; rather, it must be active, creative, positive. We need response that bears witness to the rich, positive attitude of Scripture toward human sexuality...And we need a response that deals compassionately and forthrightly with our distortions of sexuality's God-given functions.

Richard Foster

The joys of Heaven are, for most of us in our present condition, “an acquired taste”—and certain ways of life may render the taste impossible of acquisition. Perhaps the lost are those who dare not go to such a public place.

CS Lewis