



The Seculosity of Romance

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Seculosity:

Religiosity that's directed horizontally rather than vertically, at earthly rather than heavenly objects.

If you had to guess, what percent of the music you enjoy is related to romantic love? TV? Movies?

What is your favorite love story?

Name one reason for marriage.

What are the reasons for marriage according to 1662 Book of Common Prayer?

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

According to the 1979 Book of Common Prayer?

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

The Soulmate Myth:

We come to one person and we basically are asking them to give us what once an entire village used to provide: give me belonging, give me identity, give me continuity, but give me transcendence and mystery and awe all in one. Give me comfort, give me edge. Give me novelty, give me familiarity. Give me predictability, give me surprise.

~**Esther Perel**

Real love

Real love does not recoil at weakness. That is where it begins... Real love is not something we decide on. Nor is it something we earn. Love is more than something we fall into; it is something we *fail* into.

~**Seculosity**

What is Christian love?

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

~**1 John 4:7-12**

Christian marriage

²² Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. ²⁸ In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, ³⁰ because we are members of his body. ³¹ "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." ³² This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. ³³ However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

~**Ephesians 5:22-33**

To ponder...

What is the difference between romantic love and sacrificial love?

Why is the marriage of Christ to his church such an important metaphor in the New Testament? Why use marriage to convey this message of love?