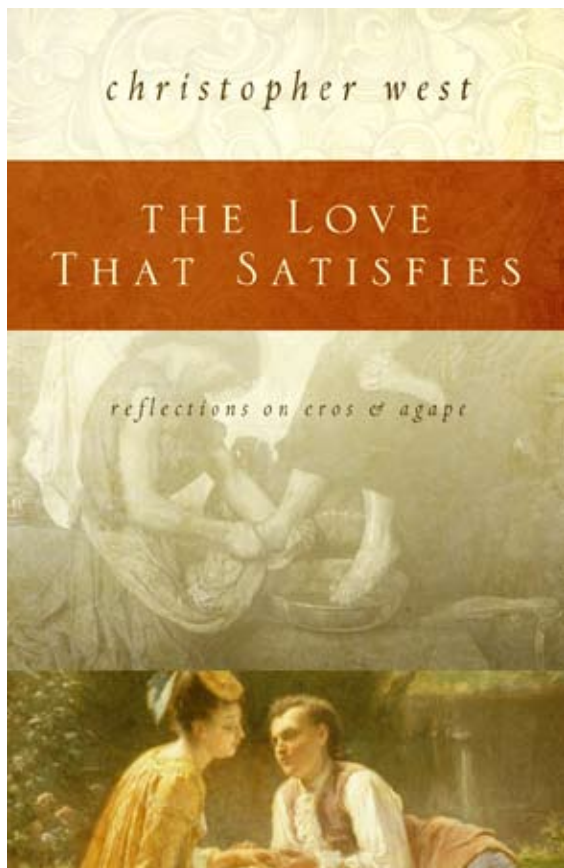


THE LOVE THAT SATISFIES

reflections on eros & agape



Author: Christopher West

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The celebrated author of *Theology of the Body Explained* and *Theology of the Body for Beginners* offers compelling insights into Pope Benedict’s profound teaching on human and divine love. *The Love That Satisfies* is for all—whether married, single, or religious—who are seeking the face of true love in a wounded world.

Those who give Pope Benedict’s teaching the attention it deserves will discover that the Catholic Church has a vision of sexual love far more glorious than anything Sigmund Freud, Hugh Hefner, Britney Spears, or Howard Stern could dream of or imagine. You doubt? This book will make you a believer.



“What is this book? Like the love it sings, this book is a gift. What does it give us? Not emotional manipulation but joy, genuine inspiration. Not intellectual manipulation but seeing, insight, the ‘big picture.’ This is a beautiful, beautiful book. Nothing in it is new, yet everything in it is new. Old, previously-‘known’ (but not known) truths suddenly light up in new ways and become arrows of light that pierce into the middle of your heart. This book is good news. It is the Gospel applied to the aching sore in the heart of modern man.”

—PETER KREEFT, PH.D.,
Professor of Philosophy, Boston College

“Christopher West’s talent for making the Theology of the Body accessible is equally matched in these moving reflections on Benedict XVI’s first encyclical. West explains the pope’s thought with insight, humor, disarming honesty, and a fire of conviction. No one who reads this book can fail to be captivated by the Christian vision of sexual love (eros) fulfilled and transfigured by self-giving (agape).”

—MARY HEALY, S.T.D.,
Fellow, St. Paul Center



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New Release by Christopher West Reveals the ‘Crown Jewel’ of the Theology of the Body

WEST CHESTER, Pa., September 28, 2007 – Christopher West, author of the best-selling books *Theology of the Body for Beginners* and *Good News About Sex & Marriage*, offers his insight on what he calls the “crowning of John Paul II’s rich and extensive reflections on the love between the sexes.” In *The Love That Satisfies*, West claims that *Deus Caritas Est*, the first encyclical of Benedict XVI, “contains one of the boldest statements I’ve ever read from a pope. Never, to my knowledge, has a pope stated so plainly and certainly that God’s love is not only *agape* but *eros*.” Indeed, the love of God is self-sacrificial and passionate.

The Love That Satisfies points out the astonishing reality that God is a “lover with all the passion of true love” for humanity and helps to correct two competing errors in our modern culture. West says the first error can be summarized in the words of the fictional character, Yoda, who claims, “We are not this crude matter, luminous beings are we.” The second and arguably more prevalent of the two is the modern culture’s insatiable pursuit of bodily pleasure, so much so that one could say “sex has become the modern world’s religion.”

West proposes that both of these errors reduce humanity to purely spiritual or purely animal beings, thereby rejecting the ultimate purpose of our bodies. Thus, while our airwaves and magazines are filled with an insatiable desire for sex, many still feel starved for love. It is only in pursuing and participating in the passionate and selfless love of God that a person can truly find the love that satisfies.

Renowned Catholic philosopher Peter Kreeft says, “*The Love That Satisfies* is a beautiful, beautiful book. Nothing in it is new, yet everything in it is new. Old, previously-‘known’ (but not known) truths suddenly light up in new ways and become arrows of light that pierce into the middle of your heart.” It is precisely the beauty of these timeless, yet relevant truths that moves Kreeft to say, “This book is good news. It is the Gospel applied to the aching sore in the heart of modern man.”

Christopher West is available for interviews. Please contact Christine Schicker at The Maximus Group, 404-610-8871.

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THE LOVE THAT SATISFIES

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What is the significance of the title, *The Love That Satisfies: Reflections on Eros & Agape*?
2. Can you please provide a basic definition of the words *eros* and *agape*?
3. What does it mean to say that Christianity has “purified and infused *eros* with *agape*?”
4. In what sense is Pope Benedict XVI’s *Deus Caritas Est* said to be a ‘crowning’ “of John Paul II’s rich and extensive reflections on the love between the sexes?”
5. Why is it that the spousal image, the union of the bridegroom and the bride, is the most favored image used by the Bible and the saints to illustrate God’s love for humanity?
6. You propose that Christ was so compassionate to “sexual sinners” because He knew they were looking for Him. Can you please explain what is meant by this?
7. You mention that the “Biblical entrance of shame marks the beginning of lust” and “the separation of *eros* from *agape*.” Can you explain the relationship between shame, lust and this separation of the two types of love?
8. Because the spousal image is arguably the best image to describe the love of God for humanity, how can it be said that celibacy is an appropriate calling for some Christians?
9. You make the shocking claim that, “Wherever modern men and women worship – the mall, the TV, the computer, the movie theater, the sports stadium – the ‘temple prostitutes’ are there to seduce us with offers of ‘supreme happiness.’ Sex has become the modern world’s religion.” Who or what are these ‘temple prostitutes’ you speak of, and how is it that the sex they peddle is to be considered the ‘modern world’s religion’?
10. You take objection to the statement from the fictional character Yoda when he says, “We are not this crude matter. Luminous beings are we.” You even jokingly call him a heretic. What is the essence of the heresy being expressed here, and what is the truth it contradicts?
11. If, as you say, true freedom “is not found in indulging our compulsions,” then what is it that makes a person truly free?
12. You juxtapose Puritanism and the pornographic culture as two extremes that both reject the ultimate purpose and meaning of the body. What steps can we take to help restore the body and soul integration that John Paul II and Benedict XVI have called Christians to reclaim?
13. What is the most important message you want readers to take from *The Love That Satisfies*?
14. Where can our viewers/listeners get a copy of the book *The Love That Satisfies*?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Christopher West is widely recognized around the globe as a leading commentator for his work promoting an integral, biblical vision of human life, love, and sexuality. He serves as a research fellow and faculty member of the Theology of the Body Institute near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He has also lectured on a number of other prestigious faculties, offering graduate and undergraduate courses at St. John Vianney Seminary in Denver, the John Paul II Institute in Melbourne, Australia, and the Institute for Priestly Formation at Creighton University in Omaha.

In addition, Christopher is the best-selling author of four books and one of the most sought after speakers in the Church today, having delivered over 1,000 public lectures on four continents, in ten countries, and in nearly 200 American cities. His popular column, “Body Language” is syndicated to diocesan newspapers around the country. Christopher and his wife, Wendy, live with their four children near Lancaster, Pennsylvania.