



**Song of Songs - The Divine Romance // Peter Ould
Session 3 // 22 May 2017**

Sex and Marriage as icon of the union of Christ and the Church

Binaries of creation exist from the beginning

Genesis 1:27

First Command

Marriage

Genesis 1:27

Genesis 2:23

So God created man in his own image This at last is bone of my bones

in the image of God he created him and flesh of my flesh;

male and female he created them she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

Naked

Fall

Gardens and Prophecies

Theme	Serpent	Woman	Adam
Guilt	Because you have done this,		Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, "You shall not eat of it,"
Curse	cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.		cursed is the ground because of you;
Impact	I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.	I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.	in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Curses

Making Sense of Sex and Marriage

“Let her treasures be not silks or gems but manuscripts of the holy scriptures; and in these let her think less of gilding, and Babylonian parchment, and arabesque patterns, than of correctness and accurate punctuation. Let her begin by learning the psalter, and then let her gather rules of life out of the proverbs of Solomon. From the Preacher let her gain the habit of despising the world and its vanities. Let her follow the example set in Job of virtue and of patience. Then let her pass on to the gospels never to be laid aside when once they have been taken in hand. Let her also drink in with a willing heart the Acts of the Apostles and the Epistles. As soon as she has enriched the storehouse of her mind with these treasures, let her commit to memory the prophets, the heptateuch, the books of Kings and of Chronicles, the rolls also of Ezra and Esther. When she has done all these she may safely read the Song of Songs but not before: for, were she to read it at the beginning, she would fail to perceive that, though it is written in fleshly words, it is a marriage song of a spiritual bridal.”

Jerome, Letter 107 (To Laeta), 12