

## “Love is a Many-Splendored Thing”

Gen 3:16; 4:7 — A woman’s desire for her husband can be either good or evil, to run after him or over him. Her desire can be positive, coming from her love for him, or negative, to overrun his rule.

*Eros* is the Greek word for sexual love or desire, the arousing of sexual feelings, which in its best expression is toward a wife or husband. A woman’s desire for her husband kindles the fire of his *eros* for her. These feelings are the aggregate of life-preserving instincts that are manifested as impulses to gratify a basic need. They are stimulated impulses motivated by the same needs in the other party, impulses serving to protect and preserve the body and mind, and affecting humankind as a whole, either for good or evil. *Eros* is intended only for one’s spouse — a life-preserving instinct.

Sexual feelings are from the Creator, to propagate other human beings who are made by Him in His image and likeness, in order to fill up His universe with His highest creation. Sexual feelings are from God, although a person must use his will to rule over these sexual feelings according to Gen 3:22 in the right perspective — according to Gen 3:16 and Jms 1:14-15.

Every man has the capacity to rule and to be *like God* in all aspects of his personality — to be like God in degrees that still represent the goodness of God and not the evil of the Adversary.

The number one purpose of sexual feelings is to populate the Earth and then to colonize the universe by those who control their sexual feelings or compulsions and who direct or sublimate these feelings to their proper channel. *Sublimate* means to express potentially violent or socially unacceptable impulses in a modified, socially acceptable manner; to change from the negative to the positive direction; to tear down or build up according to the control that one’s will and heart has over the potentiality of his personality in social, mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual ways.

Gen 3:22 gives all people the potential without excuse or justification. Rom 1:18 – 2:16 — God has given man the capacity to do good or to do evil, to reach his highest or lowest level of both. This life in this age is a test to determine the eternal destiny of man, to determine his human worth according to what he chooses to discover and expose. God wants fallen man to reach his fullest potential as a human being under the testing of His arch-enemy, the adversary, Satan (Gen 3:16-19,22; 9:1-7).

Sexual feelings can be directed toward true love of a man and a woman. As the old song goes:

*Love is a many-splendored thing,  
It's the April rose that only grows,  
In the early Spring,  
Love is nature's way of giving,  
A reason to be living,  
The golden crown that makes a man a king.*

The purpose of Gen 3:16 is for man to love a woman, not just to have sexual feelings toward the opposite sex. It is for a woman to do her part in the duet. It is for man to love as her king or protector and to express his sexual love toward her. She must allow him to know her willing desire *for* him. “For” must be in a positive sense. This womanly desire stimulates his love for her and directs his sexual energies toward her. It protects both her and him from all other evil desires, even from Satan himself.

In matrimony a “duet” is God’s intention for man, as Gen 1:26-28 expresses, and also after the Fall in Gen 5:2. His purpose for the sexual urges was to populate the Earth first, and then the universe. God’s intention was *not* that marriage would be a *duel*, a combat between warring parties, each striving to overcome the other. Gen 3:16 — To *desire* and to *rule* are both in a positive sense. All evil desire in woman to duel with man, and all evil desire in man to dominate or suppress woman is from Satan, but the *sublimation* of these passions can be godly in every way, working toward the *good* in Gen 3:22.

Those who do the good retain God’s likeness, not taking on Satan’s likeness to desire mastery over his Ruler. But as God’s intention, submission makes for a good ruler to enjoy and makes for pure matrimony between God and man — and also, how much more for the redeemed (Rev 21:9) in creating or propagating rulers over all (Rev 22:5).

So love is not *splintered* and is not just *splendid*, but as God intended, love is a many-splendored thing which goes on for eternity without end, both in the nations between husband and wife, and in the Holy City between Husband and Wife.

*Splendor* is even greater than *splendid*. *Splendid* is grand and magnificent, but *splendor* is a great light of brilliance to the whole universe, of grandeur to shine upon the nations eternally with the great light of love. Rev 21:22-27 tells us about the eternal age, but even in this age, Jn 13:35 is the light of love.

So since “God is love” He wants, of course, to fill His universe with His love (Eph 4:10). *Yes, true love is a many-splendored thing!* (Rev 21:9-21)

And we know love by this: 1 Jn 3:16