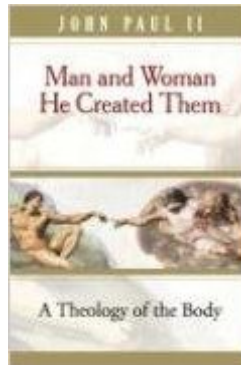




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# **Man And Woman He Created Them: A Theology Of The Body**



## Synopsis

A new critical translation of Pope John Paul II's talks on the Theology of the Body by the internationally renowned biblical scholar Michael Waldstein. With meticulous scholarship and profound insight, Waldstein presents John Paul II's magnificent vision

## Book Information

Paperback: 735 pages

Publisher: Pauline Books & Media; 2006 edition (October 1, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0819874213

ISBN-13: 978-0819874214

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1.5 x 9.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.4 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 76 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #96,957 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #34 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Theology > Anthropology #1994 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Religious Studies > Theology

## Customer Reviews

Heavy reading, but if you can, go straight to the source of all the ToB trends. This is a great book and very thoughtfully written; there's lots of wisdom here, and I thought also a fair amount of conjecture and confirmation bias as well. It must be noted, however, that with respect to the use of this or other similar works as justification of "Defense of Marriage" legislation regarding civil marriage rights, we need to be mindful that when something of beauty turns into a battering ram or a weapon, it is a sad day. I actually found many words of wisdom here that would apply to any two people who love each other deeply and make a gift of self to one another. Finally, as a very influential professor once told me, "Any book worth reading is worth re-reading." *—A Peace*

I believe this is the most important teaching of our time, next to JP II's earlier work "Love and Responsibility". And there are good points to note about this edition, such as the wide margins (nice for jotting down notes), and the thick pages (so ink does not bleed through the paper). However, I did run into an issue with the binding. Just half way through reading it (after 2 months ownership), the binding cracked in multiple locations and pages fell out. None of my other books have this problem,

including books I've owned for years from other publishers, but perhaps my copy was just defective. If publishers are reading this, an offering of hard cover would be nice. A work of such great importance for our time deserves a high quality binding. Thank you!

Actually I met the author and found out that he got to READ the Pope's notes. From doing that, he was able to add 6 additional lessons/chapters that Pope JP2 didn't cover in his Papal Audience. He thinks it would have been too hot to cover during an audience with young family members. It happens to be about the Book of Songs. The book covers why men and women compliment each other, why women can't be priests - the Bride and the Bridegroom analogy, sex as a procreative and unitive act (for babies and bonding) in the context of marriage and that people don't want to be used. We are to be a gift to each other (male and female) in marriage. Outside of marriage, sex is counterfeit - for using each other only.

This is a compilation of a series of lectures given by Pope John Paul II on the true meaning of sexuality and spousal union. It is a rather lengthy book, with lots of repetition because they are his lectures. At the beginning of each lecture, expect that he will "recap" what he discussed the previous time. It is good to read his actual words, but it requires patience to filter through the "new" material he presents because after a while you realize he is saying the same thing in different words; but, this may be required to get his message through to some readers/listeners. Each of us learns and grasps concepts differently, so his presentation of the material is geared toward universality in teaching the meaning of true spousal union as mutual self-gifting as given to us by God in the beginning before the fall in Eden. Using Scripture, JP II explains God's divine plan for human sexuality and its purpose; and he explains how objectification and selfishness in sexuality has led to a multitude of problems for society. He sees the sacramental aspect of marriage between man and woman through the eyes of Scripture. It is worth the time to read, but be patient with his repetitions, realizing that this was originally a lecture series. This book includes the "transcripts" of those lectures. Every Christian person--Catholic or not--should read his book to understand how sacred human sexuality is and how deviance destroys relationships.

Pope JP II's masterwork has been described as a time bomb ticking away in the heart of western civilization, and not likely to go off at least until the middle of the twenty-first century. It is, in fact, quite probably the most important book to be written in the past four hundred years. It directly challenges the path on which Descartes set the thinking of western civilization when he began the

work (carried on by others) of separating the person into the exterior, the less important body as opposed to the truly important interior where the real me resides. The result has been a Manichaeism quite unlike anything seen since the end of the ancient world, and proving to be just as destructive of modern culture as was that antique (in both senses) system and its denigration of the physical. At times Pope JP II's masterwork casts brilliant light on everything from scriptural exegesis to philosophy to physical love, but it is at very heavy going. For that reason, to the reader unfamiliar with some of these themes I recommend Christopher West's book on the theology of the body for beginners.

Blessed John Paul II shared with the whole world the fruit of years of lived life and deep reflection, prior to being elected Bishop of Rome. Anyone who wishes to delve into this work is in for a hard-earned yet worthy treat, as it is not always an easy read, but deeply satisfying. John Paul II's understudy and friend, Stanislaw Grygiel, once challenged the pope saying that few would actually understand what he taught. The Pope replied, "Some things just have to be said!" Thanks to Prof. Michael Waldstein, we have an excellent introduction and much-improved translation of this monumental work. As I said in the title, there is the pope's catecheses on the theology of the body much food for thought (and life...and love!) for ages to come. Blessed John Paul II, thank you and pray for us!

I got this for my aunt who has middle schoolers. She loves the book. I think this should be a staple in all Catholic households. The book is up there with the Catechism.

The vision of the human family presented by John Paul II in this work is stunning! For a believer the pope's account will dramatically change the way we see our Creator. Furthermore, this view of our sexuality can't fail to change our own understanding of ourselves and clarify much of the confusion so common in our world today.

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