

The Mystery of the Divine Romance

John E. Thomas

Introduction: Every one of us desires to know true love. Where does that desire come from? Why is romance the source of the greatest joy yet also for some, the deepest pain? Why has this longing for love captured our hearts throughout history in various cultures and every epic of human history? What's the source? More importantly, what will the fulfillment be like?

Before anything ever was, there was love. God the Father entertained a knowledge of Himself that was so full and complete and pure, that the knowledge itself became another—the _____ or the Word.

- The thought that He had of Himself—being the fullness of the divine nature.
- Distinct, yet one. Unique, yet undivided. This is the Son.
- This same God recognized His own beauty and glory and loved Himself.
- He saw the Father, and love exploded from His being.
- This love had no beginning just as the knowledge of Himself had no beginning. But it proceeded from Himself.

The love that the Father and the Son had for each other, being so full and complete, had to stand outside of the source—even though it was one with the source.

- The love shared was another—absolute and pure, distinct, yet one. The love was the Spirit—the substance of the high opinion that the Father shared for the Son.

And these were One.

They chose to prepare a _____ for the Son.

What created thing could ever give the Son the love that He deserved?

- The one being brought into this relationship must be like Him.
- It must carry His essence, reflect His glory.
- Be made in His image.

The plan was made to create.

- Light
 - From the One who said “Let there be light.”, and there was; all of creation came into being.
 - Galaxies were formed, stars were named, balanced perfectly to sustain life on one, little piece of dirt on the edge of a small galaxy, somewhere in the universe.
 - The One who was light, who created all things, took dirt and formed it into the form of man, and breathed His Spirit—the very love He had for Himself—into that man and he became a living being.
- In time, it became evident to that man that something was missing.
 - By himself, he was incomplete. The fullness of God could not be realized.
 - God put the man to sleep, took one of his ribs and formed woman from it and brought her to Adam.
 - And the two became _____.
- The first love story was told—or was it?

To understand this mystery, we must look beyond the surface.

- The One who spoke creation into existence did it by breathing His own Spirit into it, just as He created the woman out of man; out of something of his own existence—his rib.
- When God formed the Earth, He was foretelling what was coming.
- When He formed the man, He continued that story. When He brought the woman to the man, the story continued. The promise was being communicated.
- He was taking from Himself a part of Himself that would be fully Him, and yet, not all of Him. Making another who would complete the desire of His own heart to share the overflow of love that He had from the beginning.

The Tension in the Love Story

- The man chose another love. He put something else above God.
- He ate of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.
- He doubted God’s good intention for him and he tried to take care of himself.
 - Real love can’t be manipulated.
 - It can’t be coerced or forced.
 - It must be given or it’s not real.
 - It requires participation

- So God did not force Adam and Eve to stay. He let them make their choice.
 - They lost the source of life.
- But God did not give up. He called to them.
 - He spoke to Abraham, His friend.
 - ◇ He promised him that all of his descendants would be blessed through him.
 - ◇ He set his descendants free from oppression and slavery.
 - ◇ He gave them the prophets and circumstances to give them _____ to show the love that He longed for.
 - ◇ He never gave up.
 - ◇ He chose out a people to be His bride but they kept turning away from Him. His heart was breaking repeatedly.
 - ◇ He told Isaiah to marry a prostitute to reveal to the people how God felt. Then He told him to pay the fee of a prostitute to try to get her to come home again.
 - She returned to the life of a prostitute so she wouldn't have to rely on anyone else.
- Can you hear His divine heart crying out to you time and again? People continuously ignore His cries.
- They sell their affections for the praise of man, the glory of success, the safety of wealth, or just the comfort of the familiar.

At the perfect time, God sends His Son—the object of His love— to come and call His people back to His heart.

- But they rejected and killed Him.
- Once more a man was put to sleep; a hole was made in His side. And once more, God took what came out of that hole—blood and water—and created a bride.
- That blood makes restitution for as many as will respond.
- The church was born out of that sacrifice.
- Jesus sings over you, His bride. This one at last is bone of My bones and flesh of My flesh!
- This is why He left His home to come to us—so that we will leave our home to come to Him.
- This is the divine romance.

The apostle Paul talked about the _____ of women to their husbands. This was an illustration of the submission the Church carries towards Jesus.

He also explained that husbands should put the needs of their wives before themselves. He must live for her—even die for her. He needs to always wash her, cleanse her with what he _____ about her and to her, like Jesus did.

“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” “This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the Church” (Ephesians 5:31-32).

God’s plan for marriage was that the relationship of the husband and wife would be a prophetic picture of the relationship that He longs to have with the Church.

- It’s said that in marriage a man and a wife become one flesh. “For it is said, “The two will become one flesh.”

‘But whoever is united with the Lord is one flesh with Him in Spirit’ (1 Corinthians 6:16-17).

- We take His name
- We share His possessions
- We’re brought into His _____.
- We get everything that He has, and He gets everything that we had. We leave life the way that it was before, and begin to live for Him.

The whole point of creation was so that the Son could have a bride. It was all done so that you could respond to the divine heart and come into the love that the three shared from before time began.

- We were created for love—it cries out in our hearts because our hearts were formed for that very purpose.

But not everyone has a happy ending. Some have broken hearts. Their trust was betrayed.

- We try to hide our hearts from any desire to love.
- Like a rose, love is attractive but you have to watch out for the thorns.
- God knows the pain that comes from opening up your heart to love. He knows the pain of betrayal.
- Isaiah’s wife betrayed him repeatedly, so he finally gave her a certificate of divorce.
- God Himself knows this pain. But He still reaches out.

He is ready and willing to heal you of your pain and restore _____ in the divine romance.

- Because He knows what it feels like, He is the only you can trust with that pain.
- He is the only one who can heal you and set you free.
- It's time to let go of the past and believe again.
- It's time to say yes to His invitation and completely commit your heart and life to Him. He's waiting.

Only God can love God the way He deserves. So God sent God to die so that God could be given God as a reward. It's all about God. He poured Himself out on those who shared in His death, giving them the life that He purchased, filling them with His own Spirit so that He could have a bride that would love Him as He should be loved. So we have to become one with His Spirit so that we can love like God loves.

Where are you at? Are you hiding from His presence because of shame? Are you afraid you'll have to trust? Are you testing the water, trying to see if His love is safe?

It's a marriage He's looking for; will you commit? This is the love story you've been looking for all your life! This is the reason you exist. God is pursuing you.