One Flesh: Paradisal Marriage and Sexual Relations in the Age of Milton

James Turner
Was sexuality the 'true Paradise' or the destroying serpent? These questions came to a head in Milton, torn between eroticism and hatred of the flesh, between patriarchal and egalitarian gender politics. Won the James Holly Hanford Award, 1988. back to Faculty Books. Log in. Resources. For the department. Academic resources. Teaching resources. Same-Sex Relations in the Biblical World. The Construction of Gender in the New Testament. Desire and the Body in the Patristic Period. Duns Scotus on the Female Gender. After a brief overview of the social context and role of marriage and sexuality in Jewish and Greco-Roman cultures, the chapter traces the impact of the Genesis creation narratives, positively and negatively, on how marriage and sexuality were seen both in the present and in depictions of hope for the future. Why did God created sexual relation in marriage? What is the meaning of intimacy in marriage? Find out here the answers! For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. (Ephesians 5:30–32) (NASB).
One Flesh: Paradisal Marriage and Sexual Relations in the Age of Milton. Book. Jan 2011. J.G. Turner. This is an acclaimed study of the understanding of sex and gender in the early modern period, examining in particular Milton's interventions in these debates. Focusing on contemporary readings of the Eden-myth in Genesis, the book shows that the reconstruction of Paradisal marriage raised many problems of interpretation. How can the cryptic and contradictory elements of Genesis be reconciled? Was sexuality the 'True Paradise' or the destroying serpent? Milton nonetheless is a conflicted person. He is divided between his conservative and radical mentality. As such he is confused with his feelings that abjectly detest the flesh; conversely, he is deeply fascinated with eroticism. Milton is also conflicted in his concepts regarding the egalitarian and patriarchal believes that derived Paradisal marriage. The aim of this paper is to critically analyze and evaluate James Turner's book titled 'One Flesh: Paradisal Marriage and Sexual Relations in the Age of Milton'.

Voltaire. La Henriade. Chez Veuve Duchesne, 1787.