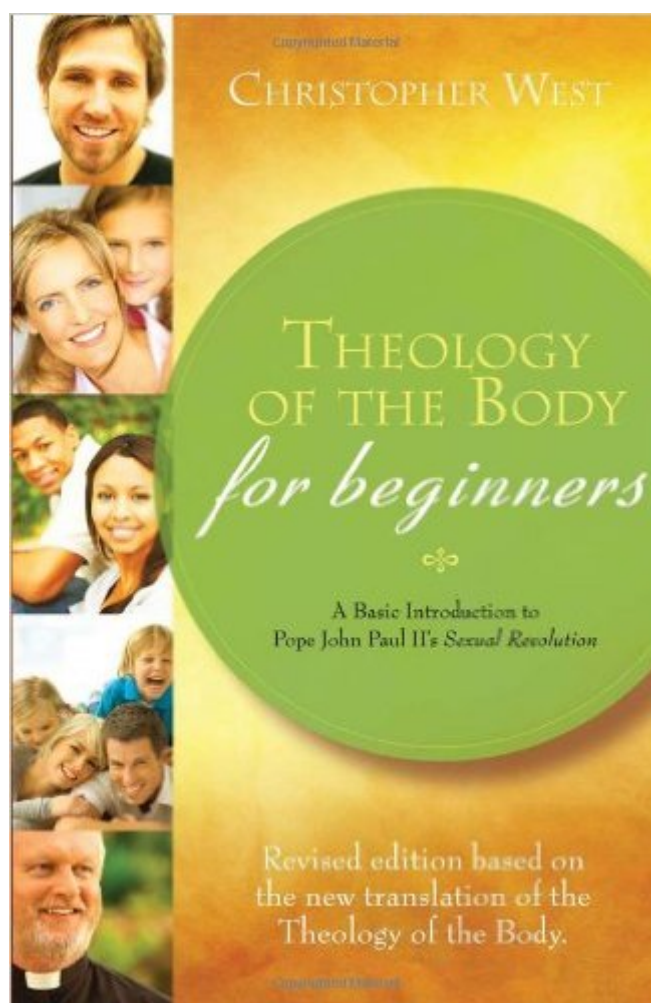


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# Theology Of The Body For Beginners: A Basic Introduction To Pope John Paul II's Sexual Revolution, Revised Edition



## Synopsis

Broken families, abortion, AIDS, Internet pornography, sexual abuse scandals, homosexual marriage, our Church and our world are in the midst of a profound sexual crisis. Is there a way out? For such a time as this have we been given Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body. Based on the words of Jesus, John Paul II's famous reflections on the body and sex take us to the root of the modern crisis and chart the path to an authentic sexual liberation. Yet the Pope's dense scholarship often intimidates the average person. In his book, *Theology of the Body Explained*, Christopher West offered a more detailed, six-hundred page commentary on John Paul II's Theology of the Body. Here, he provides a short and popular summary of the Pope's revolutionary teaching. What is the meaning of life? Why did God create us male and female? Why is there evil in the world and how do we overcome it? How do we attain true happiness on earth? What kind of joys await us in heaven? How can we experience the love we long for in the depth of our hearts? The first edition of *Theology of the Body for Beginners* (2004) quickly became an international best-seller. This freshly revised and expanded edition is based on Dr. Michael Waldstein's much improved translation of John Paul II's catechesis. New for this edition: All quotations have been updated with the new translation. Key insights discovered through Dr. Waldstein's access to the John Paul II archives have been incorporated. The outline of the text has been substantially reorganized to reflect the newly discovered outline of John Paul's original manuscript. John Paul's hidden and previously untranslated addresses are summarized.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

First, came Pope John Paul II's writings and Wednesday Audiences which he entitled, "Man and Woman He Created Them". Second, was Dr. Michael Waldstein's translation, "Man and Woman He Created Them; A Theology of the Body." Third, Christopher West's "Theology of the Body Explained: A Commentary on John Paul II's Man and Woman He Created Them." Fourth, is the present work by Christopher West: "Theology of the Body for Beginners." John Paul's dense theological tome is a difficult read which Christopher West does a nice job of making more accessible. This work 'for beginners' is the gateway which whets the appetite for the deeper, more thorough presentations. Mr. West's presentation is organized and entertaining. It is also powerful in its ability to motivate change in your life.

I started reading the English translation for Theology of the Body (TOB) and the read was slow because of the complexity of the material. I then read a review suggesting to start with this book. I agree this is a great place to start. This book should be a MUST read for every high school student, every young couple, every couple who is just married (or about to be), and everyone else who just wants to understand WHY we are here and the purpose for sexual relations. It had made my return to TOB more understandable.

This book is an absolute must read for anyone who struggles to understand sexuality and why God created us man and woman. Your jaw will drop more than once as the book unfolds the true meaning of our sexuality.

This a book that I recommend to everyone that doesn't understand the Catholic Church's stance on chastity and holiness that comes from a vow of celibacy. I understand the difference and holiness that comes with both the sacrament of marriage and a vow of celibacy. Honestly, this is great read for non-Catholics as well since John Paul II (soon to be saint) and Christopher West explain the values of chastity in today's secular/sexualized society. I wish I had read this when I was a teenager!

Why is our culture so sex-obsessed? Because what we truly want is God and the love of God and mankind is expressed in the free, total, faithful and fruitful embrace of man and woman in marriage. We want God, but we don't know how to achieve union with Him, so that desire is twisted into the sordid variety of sexual expression that fills every crevice of our modern way of life, thinking and

pursuit. This is not what God had in mind, this twistedness. As we come to recognize what our hearts yearn for, our sexual immorality will begin to heal and will be filled instead with deep joy and fulfillment. Some books are clunkers, like hitting a block of wood. No resonance. I'm certain that reading this book has been like ringing a bell and thoughts will continue to bounce around in my mind long after I've finished it.

Christopher West presents an easy way to grasp this profound topic: "The Theology of the Body" by Pope John Paul II. In our day, with all the sexual problems we encounter personally, and in the world around us, "The Theology of the Body" is a beacon of hope for us. We can be the wonderful, beautiful, sexual, chaste beings that God created us to be.

I have looked for books that explain the theology of the body in more human terms than the original though, pure philosophy of the original JPII teachings. This book does it perfectly. Even though it gives the spiritual catholic dimension a special place, the essence is really easy to grasp in much more human terms...I found it helpful and easy to read...I liked it so much, that after buying the Kindle version I also ordered the book to lend it to my friends... Definitely something worth knowing... :)

Boy, this was a tough one to read. It had some good concepts in it, and it changed my thoughts on the "real" reasons sex should only be after marriage (a lot of books tell you this, but they don't explain WHY God and scripture wants it this way like this book does). I think the hardest part for reading this was it didn't "flow." It wasn't easy to see where one of his ideas flowed into another. I read about 3 books a week, so for this one to take me a full week, it shows how I had to "work" at understanding what he was saying. Concept great, just difficult to follow.

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