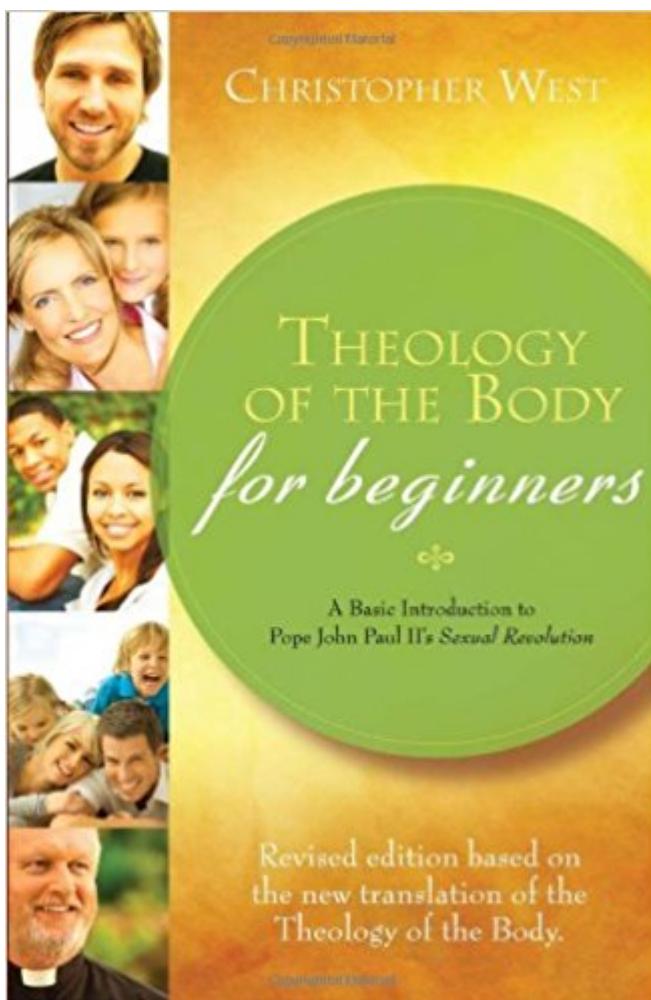


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# Theology Of The Body For Beginners: A Basic Introduction To Pope John Paul II's Sexual Revolution, Revised Edition



## 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

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.

Y'all. I was SKEPTICAL of this book when I first purchased it. I am not catholic, nor do I know too much about the catholic religion. I bought it because 3 people recommended it to me and when 3 people recommend something you should probably do it. I honestly had to google some terms that most people would laugh at. A sacrament? I didn't know what that was. The Catechism? Nope. But that is besides the point. I have made some mistakes in my past relationships, I am nowhere near perfect but I was raised in a home that understands grace and understands how deeply the Father loves me. I (wrongly) expected this book to be condemning. I expected it to be judgmental and to turn me away from what it was saying. That is not what I experienced. I experienced an author coming from a place of love and boldness. An author without fear of pleasing people and a desire to break down the bible to it's very truths. This book is REAL. It's raw, it hits the tough stuff. This book challenged everything society has taught me and forever shaped the way I view sex and relationships. I started this book thinking "I want a marriage that makes me happy and NO I do NOT want kids" and I finished by praying the Lord would lead me to a relationship that is deeper than happiness, to a relationship that glorifies the Lord and I understand that, Lord willing, I will have children (and I will raise them to serve the Lord and to serve the people around them). I highly recommend this book to ANYONE and EVERYONE (married, single, divorced, walking off the path with the Lord, in high school, out of college...everyone) who is mature enough to discuss sex and relationships. Parents, read this with your teenage children. Discuss what it means, and be ready to have some tough conversations that will shape your child's future. I wish my parents had been willing to do that with me.

"Theology of the Body for a beginner" is a great book that summarized the full Theology of the Body written by Pope John Paul II. The content of the book is based on Roman Catholic theology. However, although I myself is reformed theologian, I think Pope John Paul II provide great biblical insights on human sexuality which can provide us helpful thoughts on current sexual revolution

movements of our time. It is really easy book to read as well so if you want to know Roman Catholic stand on human sexuality, you will gain good insights from it.

If you ever want to read a book to help you understand the Catholic beliefs and values of the human body in its gender and sexuality, read this one. It is a faithful primer of John Paul II's challenging opus. Every young person should study this before they engage in serious dating. Every adult Catholic should read it to help them answer challenges to the Faith's doctrine.

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.

This book easily explicates on the topic of the human body, the divine element and sacredness of humanity and sexuality. Christopher west did a great job at making Theology of the Body comprehensible to the normal readers. Understanding the book can create a paradigm shift, for both Christian and non-Christian readers. Someone working in psychiatry told me that he never has seen so many women below 30 with a depression, the reason is very often 'disappointments'. i am convinced that this book can lead people to a happy life.

This is a clear, concise review of St. John Paul II's Theology of the Body. I'm too old to benefit on a practical level, but it's a must for anyone who takes marriage seriously, is living in a troubled marriage, plans to marry, or is influential on any of these categories. If you are not familiar with this work, you are in for a description of marriage more beautiful than I have words to describe. It also puts to rest generations of misunderstanding about what a woman's "submissiveness" to a husband means and does not mean. This clarification is, of course, long overdue. If this sounds good to you, you can also consult the former Pope's book Sex and Responsibility.

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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