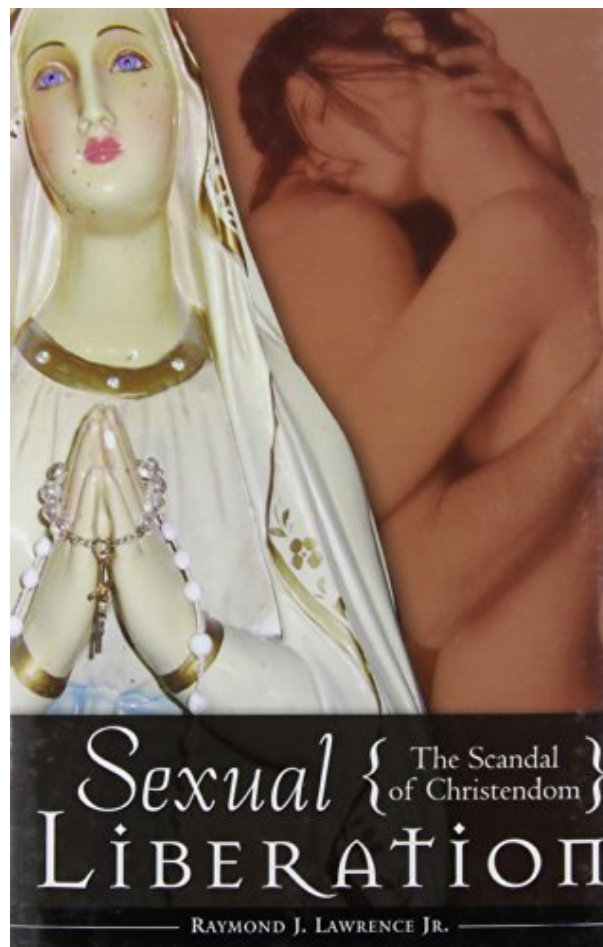
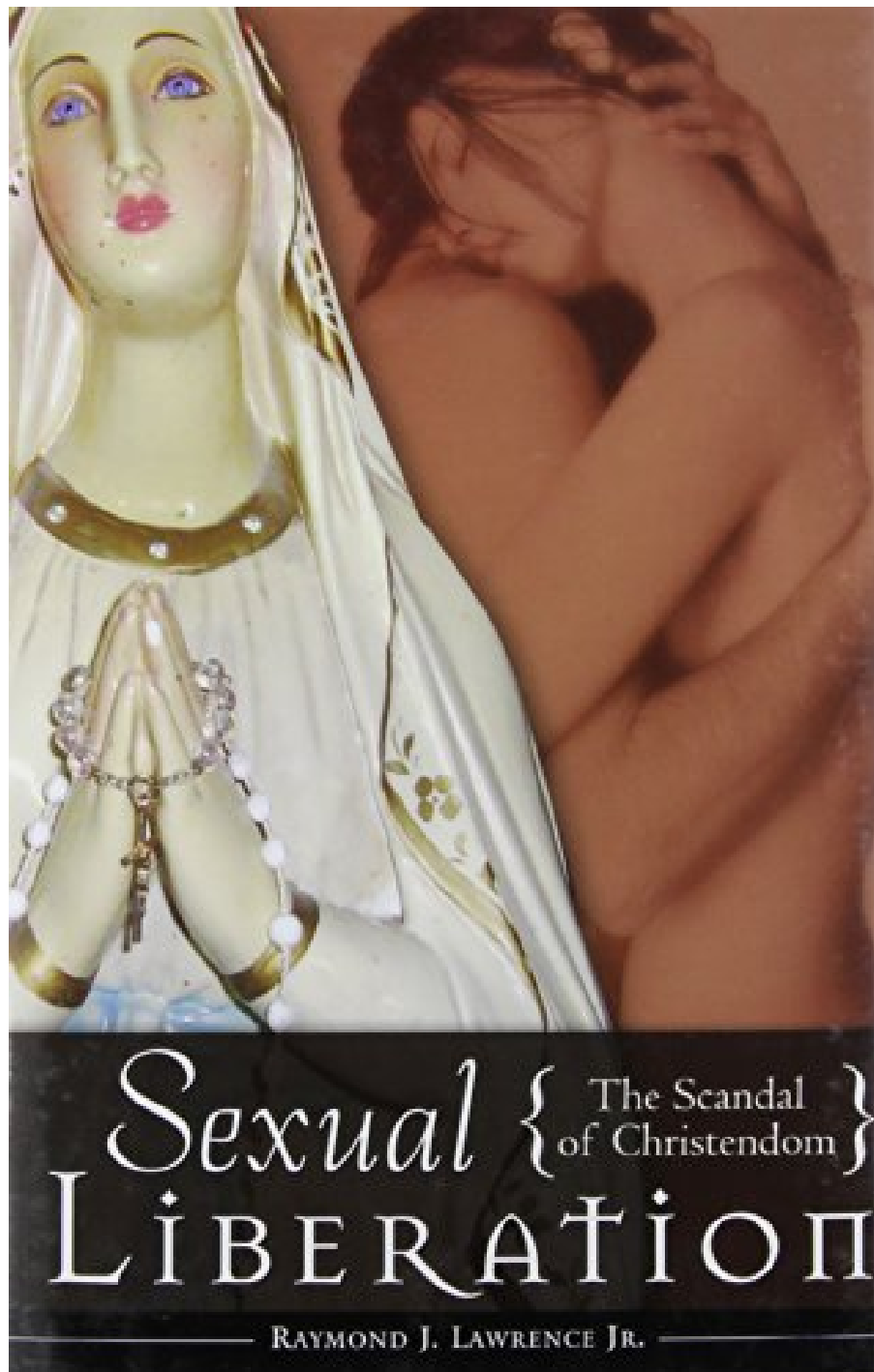


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## Review

"This book is an account of the ways in which sexual pleasure has been devalued and demonized in the West by the historical forces of Christendom. It tells the story of how sex came to be regarded by societies throughout the ages as perverse, sinful, and wrong, and how the centuries-old motivations of a few have persisted into modern times, coloring our view of sex and sexuality to this day." - Caps Connect

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Sex sells, they say, but even today, it is considered forbidden, wrong, or sinful by many in the Western world. This book is an account of the strange ways sexual pleasure has been devalued, even demonized, in the West by the forces of Christendom and its legacy in the modern world. It tells the story of how sex came to be regarded by societies throughout the ages as perverse, sinful, and wrong, and how the motivations of a few have lasted centuries and colored our view of sex and sexuality even today.

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For good or ill, Christianity has been, since before the ebbing of the Roman Empire, the principal bearer of public values in the western world. This book traces the changes that have shaped and reshaped what is considered moral sexual behavior (and immoral sexual behavior) by Christians and non-Christians alike. Lawrence's account of the perversion of sexual values begins with the intersection of the early Jesus movement and the morality of the Greco-Roman culture and empire. He goes on to point out the ways Christianity and its moral code were reshaped under the impact of Constantine's adoption of Christianity as the imperial religion, and how key figures of the Middle Ages generally succeeded in promoting a religion whose chief goal was the obliteration of sexual pleasure. The story continues on through the ages until now. This controversial look at sex and Christianity sheds new light on our views of pornography, homosexuality, adultery, and other issues of sex and sexuality.

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- 192 pages

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Another Sex Scandal Exposed!

By Ralph Henley

In *Sexual Liberation, The Scandal of Christendom*, Raymond J. Lawrence, Jr., catches Christianity with its pants down regarding its failure to deliver a positive sex ethic. He traces the roots of sex-negativity in the Greco-Roman culture and how it was adopted by the early church fathers, then perpetuated over the centuries in both the Catholic and Protestant churches. He also traces the sex positivity of the Jewish culture and how it has been drowned out by the powers that have been, and why. *Sexual Liberation* is a well-written, well-researched, well-documented re-working of Lawrence's earlier book, *The Poisoning of Eros*. His new book is loaded with insightful stories that make for thought-provoking and enjoyable reading. I couldn't put it down. The dust-jacket illustration deserves mention as it not only undergirds the central message of the book, but it is also a delightful expression of the beauty of sex. *Sexual Liberation* offers much-needed balance against the sexual addiction bandwagon that Christendom is currently riding. Every clergyman, indeed, every thinking believer, should read this book and then "declare the year of the Lord's favor" regarding sex.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

A Contribution to a Needed Conversation

By Amazon Customer

A determined critic will find adequate opportunity to challenge certain of the author's conclusions, but this work offers a perspective and historical context for a thoughtful dialogue on the views of Human Sexuality in Western Society in general, and Christianity in particular. As a lay student of church history, I have long thought that the influence of St. Jerome and St. Augustine on church doctrine with regard to original sin and human sexuality was particularly destructive. Early church practices (pre-4th century) as evidenced in writings from the period exhibited a much more supportive and integrating attitude toward women in the church, which changed drastically with Jerome's extremely negative view of women, and Augustines pessimistic view of man.

This work goes back to the historical context of emerging Christianity, to attempt to re-discover the truth about what these two "Saints" corrupted. Additionally, Lawrence brings us insights by others that were attempts to restore a degree of rationality to an essentially irrational attitude concerning sexuality by Christianity. It is a valuable contribution to a thoughtful conversation about human sexuality in our Western Civilization.

9 of 11 people found the following review helpful.

I want all the churches to answer this book but I know they can't!

By Luis

Raymond J. Lawrence, Jr. had the guts to tell the true story of Christianity. It is a very strong book full of not so many nice things but enlightening. I take my hat off and congratulate this gentleman. He simply had the guts to set the record straight. When someone has the stature and valor to state things such as, The central conclusion of this book is that Christianity made a catastrophic turn early in its development, a turn largely fixed in the fourth century C.E. and cemented in the eleventh, and adopted a sex-phobic Platonist posture toward sexual pleasure. In the process it jettisoned its Judeo-biblical origins. Christianity has been profoundly damaged by this radical reversal, a reversal from which the West has never recovered. Consequently, we Westerners are now part of a Christianity that is the most sex-negative of all the major world religions. You know that you are for a tough ride.

This book is not for the faint hearted person. This is a revolutionary and a liberating book with the mission of setting the record straight!

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