

## LOVE THAT LASTS

How forcefully was I misled  
By foolish lines my culture fed  
To me, while yet naive and young,  
Short songs of *puppy love* unsung.

Insistently, they taught a norm:  
All men will fall for face and form  
And long with lust at curves and hips.  
Such lies were preached from many lips.

If beauty, body parts and shape  
Are “pitfalls” we cannot escape,  
It fancies God, who crafted skin,  
“A Teaser” tempting us to sin!

Against these sacred social lies,  
The Maker of our inner eyes  
Ordained *relationship* to be  
The crown of sexuality.

The lesson worldly wisdom lacks  
Is that a sweeter realm attracts:  
When youth and figure’s charms are gone  
And wrinkles come, true love lives on.

The Lord designed two souls to wed—  
One flesh within a marriage bed—  
To build a home and live their vow,  
For love’s a choice, both then and now.

And so, my dear and lovely spouse,  
Still mistress of our aging house,  
Fret not about the fads and fears  
That trouble hopes, engender tears.

The world’s deceit can’t touch the truth  
That lasts beyond the bloom of youth.  
Your beauty grows, as does my thrill  
In loving you! It always will!

— David L. Hatton, 2/13/2016