

Le Nouvel Esprit:
A Video Series on the Theology of
the Body

TOB 44, General Audience of Oct. 15, 1980

Is the Heart Accused?

- The adultery of the heart led us to the dimension of human interiority, the proper dimension for ethics and the theology of the body
- There are many ethical questions the analyses raise, such as
 - 1) Is the heart accused or called to something?
 - 2) How are to live by Christ's words in the Sermon on the Mount?
- Praxis, “practice, as distinguished from theory”, Oxford Dictionary
 - Think action
 - Many interpretations of praxis, both intellectual and individual living from the heart, different responses to the ethical questions raised by the Sermon on the Mount
 - One solution: Manichaeism

Manichaeism

- We discussed it briefly in TOB 36, it is also mentioned in TOB 41
- In general, Manichaeism teaches
 - A dualism between good and evil
 - Evil is associated with matter
 - The body, sex and procreation are hence evils
 - Cf. fn 53 for more information, TOB 44:5
- A materialistic interpretation of the Sermon on the Mount appears to agree with Manichaeism
 - It seems to affirm a conflict between body and spirit
- The Gospel affirms the masculinity and femininity of the body as belonging to man's person
 - The value of the person must guide our understanding of the New Testament Ethos
- More to come in the next audience, TOB 45

Thank You for Watching

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