

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

TOB 31, General Audience of Jun. 25, 1980

# Shame and Domination

- Gen. 3:16's language of dominate shows a deeper dimension to shame
  - Shame cannot be explained in terms of the body alone, but has its explanation in the transformation of the human spirit
  - The human spirit is aware now that dominate indicates an insatiability of the conjugal union that takes away from the body its simplicity and purity of meaning found in original innocence
- Shame is a secondary experience
  - Shame reveals concupiscence
  - Shame is a weapon against concupiscence
    - Shame allows man to almost remain in original innocence because of the consciousness of the spousal meaning of the body and the intention to protect it from concupiscence

# Man and Domination

- Gen. 3:16 indicates two things
  - 1) The body does not cease to arouse desire for personal union
  - 2) Concupiscence directs these desires in its own way
  - Concupiscence of the flesh directs these desires to the appeasement of the body at the cost of the communion of persons
- Gen. 3:10: “I was afraid, because I am naked, and I hid myself”
  - Man feels his nakedness with a particular intensity
- Shame united with concupiscence leads to the impulse of man to dominate woman
- For the woman, the experience of being dominated leads to the insatiable desire for a different kind of union

# Domination and the Communion of Persons

- Domination replaces the communion of persons with the relationship of possession that defines the other as an object for one's desire
- This is an objectification of the man and woman at the cost of eliminating their personhood
- This concupiscent desire is the same kind of desire in the heart as the adultery in heart of Matt. 5:27-28

# Deformation of the Spousal Meaning of the Body

- The threefold concupiscence is a limitation on the spousal meaning of the body
- The meaning of the body entails
  - 1) the full consciousness of the human being, of every effective experience of the body as masculine or feminine
  - 2) not something conceptual alone
  - 3) a way of living the body, a measurement of the heart of man
- The deformation of the experience of the body through shame and concupiscence implies the deformation of the spousal meaning of the body
  - Reconstructing this deformation will help us understand the meaning of the concupiscence of the flesh

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