

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

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# Review

- The Sermon on the Mount is an appeal to the heart for purity
  - This applies to media, art, mass culture, pop culture, etc
- Shame places a limit upon cultural products in defense of the human person
  - Pornovision and pornography occurs when personal sensibility is overstepped in regards to the naked body
  - This overstepping is a violation of the body's right to intimacy rooted in the order of gift and the spousal meaning of the body
- The body in its masculinity and femininity has this order of gift inscribed into it
  - This inscription is decisive for the spousal meaning of the body and a call for the communion of persons
  - This inscription is violated only in the intentional order of reproduction and representation in cultural products

# The Violation of Shame

- Shame and personal sensibility are offended because of their transfer from what belongs to the domain of the communion of persons into the dimension of social communication, becoming public property
- Some argue that depicting nakedness or the conjugal union is only natural, that everything human can be depicted, that art has a right to everything
  - Claim this for the sake of realism
- JPPII's reply: the whole truth of man requires us to consider the intimacy of the body and order of gift connected to the body's masculinity and femininity
  - These must be taken into consideration in order to speak of full realism
  - To claim realism in violation of shame is a false realism since the whole truth of man is not taken into account

# The Truth of Man is the Norm

- The body in its nakedness becomes the source of personal communication proper only within the communion of persons
- Due to this, of the sexual value of the body and its role in the interpersonal communication within the communion of persons, the ethical and aesthetic question of the role of the naked body in art arises
- The order of gift can be threatened by art when the body becomes an anonymous object of appropriation
- The integral, whole truth of man is the norm, creating limits art cannot go beyond

# Norms of the Artist

- The artist must respect the limits of shame rooted in the whole truth of man
- No one has the right to demand, propose, or allow others to look at images which violate these limits
- The violation of these limits is the transformation of the object of gift into an anonymous object of social communication
- The problem of pornovision and pornography
  - These are not problems because of Manichaeism or Puritanism
  - These are problems because they violate the sphere of values rooted in the dignity of the human person, to which no one can be different of
  - Art, film, and photography can help form or destroy these values in man's heart

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