

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

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Review

- Original innocence: the body as masculine or feminine with its spousal and procreative meanings is the substratum for the reciprocal gift of persons
 - This belonged to mystery of creation
- Original sin: concupiscence deforms this in the heart of man
 - This reciprocal relationship no longer seems to express personal communion
 - The other becomes an object of attraction
 - The body constrains and acts against the spirit in some respect

Concupiscence, the Body and the Heart

- The body has almost lost its capacity to express love as self-gift
 - This is not entirely lost because the body is still able to express love from the heart
 - The spousal meaning of the body is not entirely suffocated by concupiscence, but is habitually threatened
- The heart is the battlefield between love and concupiscence
- Concupiscence and love are inversely proportional
 - The more concupiscence dominates man, the less he loves, and this means that he experiences less the spousal meaning of the body and is less sensitive to the gift of the other person
- The desire of heart in Matt. 5:27-28 is not always obvious
 - This desire can be concealed or even believed to be love when it is actually not
 - As such, this desire can change love, alter it, and obscure the gift of persons
- Question whether one can trust the heart?
 - JP II: yes, but it needs control

The Damage of Concupiscence

- Concupiscence
 - Attacks the sincere gift of self
 - Deprives the dignity of gift
 - Depersonalizes man, turning him into an object for the other
 - Opposes the sacramental unity of the communion of persons
 - Casts doubt that each person is willed by God for his own sake; subjectivity is given over to a kind of objectivity
 - Signifies that man-woman relationships are one-sided, reduced to body and sex
 - Fails to treat masculinity and femininity in the full depth of subjectivity
 - Signifies a loss of the interior freedom of gift and self-mastery
 - Regards the person only as a body to be appropriated
 - The relation of gift becomes the relation of appropriation

Thank You for Watching

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