

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

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Review of the “Beginning”

- Matt. 5:27-28 is analogous to Matt. 19:3-6’s appeal to the “beginning”
- Themes of the “beginning”
 - Original innocence
 - Man’s true vocation to marriage having its source in the mystery of the person as made in the image and likeness of God
 - This truth is the basis for the indissolubility of marriage
 - This truth is rooted in original innocence
 - Original sin
 - Hereditary sinfulness due to the breaking of the first covenant between man and God
 - Concupiscence is adultery in the heart
- The words of Christ are for all of humanity in all places, cultures, and times

Review of the 6th Commandment

- The 6th commandment against committing adultery has normative truth
- The norm: the evil to be avoided is the evil of the concupiscence of the flesh
- Purity of heart
 - The good which overcomes concupiscent desire is the purity of heart
 - This purity is being free from every kind of sin, which is more general than simply sins of the flesh
 - Purity is opposed to the adultery of the heart
- St. Paul gives us a complete image of the content of Christ's words
- The normativity of these words point us, direct us, to the good of purity and values which man should aspire to living out

Review of Christ's Words

- Christ's words contain essential, anthropological truth
 - These words are realistic, for they are not a return to the state of original innocence; this is impossible
 - Instead, Christ's words show a path forward to the purity of heart accessible by historical man
- Christ appealed to the inner man, to his heart, to conform it to the life according to the Holy Spirit
 - This entails a rediscovery of the value of the body freed from concupiscence by redemption
- The normative meaning of Christ's words are rooted in the dimension of human interiority

Review of Purity

- Purity involves both abstinence and temperance
- Purity is the opening up to the more perfect discovery of the dignity of the body that is connected to the freedom of the gift of self
- Purity as temperance matures the heart of the man who cultivates it
 - This man seeks to discover and affirm the spousal meaning of the body in its integral, whole truth
 - All men and women are called to know this truth interiorly, in their hearts
- The inner experience of temperance appears as a negative function
- The words of Christ and St. Paul shift this understanding to its positive function, the purity of heart

More on Purity

- Mature purity means man can enjoy the fruit of victory over concupiscence
- Mature purity shows the efficaciousness of the Holy Spirit's gifts
- One gift is piety, which gives back to the experience of the body in that man can experience the truth of the communion of persons similar to our first parents in original innocence
- The man who has purity of heart experiences a different spiritual climate and attitude versus the man of concupiscence who lives according to his lustful passion
 - This difference is due to the fact that purity leads to joy in possession of self and being able to give oneself as a gift to another person
 - The man of concupiscence is enslaved and cannot experience this
 - The man of concupiscence cannot experience true sexual joy, because he is unable to enter into the communion of persons

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