

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

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Neither Husband nor Wife

- “When they rise from the dead, they take neither wife nor husband”, Mark 12:25
 - Key meaning for the theology of the body
 - The three Synoptic Gospels attest to a regaining of the fullness of perfection proper to man being made in the image and likeness of God
 - Synoptic Gospels, refers to Luke, Mark, and Matthew, which are grouped together because of similar narrative style, stories, and wording, in contrast to John’s Gospel
- This statement tells us that marriage and procreation
 - Belong strictly to this world
 - Is not a part of man’s eschatological future
 - Eschatology, refers to the theology of the last things, heaven, hell, purgatory, and death
 - In the resurrection these lose their reason for existence
 - The other world is the definitive fulfillment of the human race

Life through Covenant

- The other world
 - Man's definitive and eternal fatherland, the Father's house
 - This new fatherland comes forth definitively through the resurrection
- The resurrection
 - A recovery of bodiliness, a reestablishment of integral human life, a new state of human life
 - Contains the character of a promise
 - The "beginning" is a point of reference

The Bodiliness of the Resurrection

- This statement of neither husband nor wife affirms the human body in the resurrection
- Masculinity and femininity are preserved
- The meaning of male and female will be different in the other world
- Gen. 2:24 describing man leaving his family to join in unity with wife and become one flesh defines masculinity and femininity as conjugal and procreative
- Christ's statement indicates that masculinity and femininity will be newly constituted in the resurrection

They are Equal to Angels

- This speaks of a spiritualization of man according to the dimension of the other world
 - This is different from earthly life
- The resurrection means the restoration of the truth of the human body and bodiliness that has been subjected to death in earthly life
- This statement of St. Luke's does not mean a disincarnation, that man loses his bodiliness, but rather that there is a new degree of man's spiritualization
 - There is a new submission of the body to the spirit

Anthropology of the Resurrection

- Plato, references in fn 77
 - happiness requires freedom from the body, liberation from matter
 - The body and soul are accidentally united and separated by death
- Aristotle, references in fn 78
 - The body is the matter and the soul is the form
 - Matter: what a thing is made of
 - Form: what a thing is, its nature
- St. Thomas Aquinas, references in fn 76
 - Uses Aristotle's distinction of form and matter in addition to the New Testament revelation of the resurrection to understand that the soul is united to the body for the soul's greater good
- The resurrection
 - Informs us that the body and soul constitutes the unity and integrity of the human being
 - Affirms the eschatological perfection of man as an integral whole in the other world

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