

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

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# Unity and Duality

- The creation of the unity of male and female is the definitive creation of man
- Unity denotes identity in human nature
- Duality, based on identity, constitutes masculinity and femininity
- Axiological meaning: man is created to have a particular value for God and fellow man
  - Axiology means “the study of the nature of value and valuation, and of the kinds of things that are valuable.”  
Oxford Dictionary

# Communio Personarum

- The meaning of original unity is the overcoming of original solitude through masculinity and femininity
- **Original unity** is defined to be the *communio personarum*, **communion of persons**
- Man in solitude discovers his distinction from animalia, animals, leads to
  - 1) The opening of self to the discovery of another being like himself
  - 2) **Transcendence** proper to personhood through the opening of self to the communion of persons
- A helper fit for man implies the concept of communion
  - The human person exists for the person
  - Communion is based on the *double solitude* of male and female from animalia
  - Concept of “help” and double solitude implies reciprocity, no other living creature can be a help for man and woman, only man for woman and woman for man

# Imago Dei

- Genesis 1 revealed that man is made in the image and likeness of God; man is Imago Dei
- Image functions as the mirroring of a model, so man is modeled after God
- Genesis 2 revealed that the complete definitive creation of man is the communion of persons formed by male and female
- Man becomes an image through not only by human nature, but also through the establishment of a communion of persons
- Man more so images God in the communion of persons, since this communion of male and female essentially images the inner life of the three Persons of the Holy Trinity

# Flesh of my Flesh

- Flesh makes woman visible, identifiable, manifests woman
- The body reveals the human person
- The body is authentically human, determines man as a person being similar to God

# Masculinity and Femininity

- The theology of the body implies a theology of masculinity and femininity
- John Paul II restricts the term “sex” to mean only masculinity and femininity
- The unity of the body means the conjugal act
  - This is multidimensional with ethical (Matt. 19) and sacramental (Eph. 5) elements
  - The conjugal act incarnates the communion of persons
- Masculinity and femininity expresses
  - Same somatic constitution
  - A new consciousness and awareness of the meaning of the body as the reciprocal enrichment of persons
  - Male and female through the consciousness of the body leads to an inalienable norm

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