

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

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Ethos of the Redemption of the Body

- Sermon on the Mount
 - The inner man is the subject of this new ethos
 - Two meanings of new
 - 1) New with respect to the Old Testament ethos
 - 2) New with respect to historical man, the man of concupiscence
 - This newness is universal, new to every human person in the ethos of the redemption of the body

Rom. 8:20-23

- “creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the glorious liberty of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in travail together until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.”
- Key points
 - Dialectic between the slavery of corruption and the resurrection, redemption of our bodies
 - The entirety of creation shares in this desire for the redemption of the body
 - Our adoption as sons of God leads to the aspiration for redemption

Christ the Point of Reference

- Must look elsewhere than Matt. 5:27-28 for further details on this ethos
- Christ is the fundamental point of reference for morality
 - His appeal to the beginning only makes sense with the reality of redemption
 - The redemption of the body is the reason justifying Christ's appeal to the "beginning"
 - The "beginning" possesses an indestructible meaning of man, and this meaning is the thread of continuity from the "beginning" to redemption
- The goal of Christ is to lead us to the fullness of justice through the inner criteria of the heart
 - This leads to the new man, the man of redemption
 - The way to accomplish this is through the mastery of desires, temperance, and continence

Temperance and Continence

- Some believe that temperance and continence entails that one will be left hanging in a void of values and of personhood, but this is not the case
- Response to having in void of value
 - Self-mastery
 - Is a continence of desire
 - Bounds the heart to value; desire distances the heart from value
 - Confers and restores the value of the spousal meaning of the body
 - Hence self-mastery leads to the full experiencing of value

Response to the “Person Left Hanging in the Void”

- The impression that the person is left hanging in the void
 - 1) Occurs when one first performs an act of self-mastery
 - 2) When one has a habit of vice, habituated to yielding to the concupiscence of the flesh
- The exercise of continence and temperance leads to the experiencing of one’s own dignity and is an attestation of man’s self-dominion
 - This fulfills what is essentially personal in man
 - This leads to the experience of the freedom of the gift
- The ethos of redemption is realized through self-dominion and temperance of desires
 - The heart must ally itself with this ethos through integral subjectivity
- This ethos of redemption is an aspiration to virtue, the purity of heart, and perfection
- The task now is understanding this concept of purity of heart

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