

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

TOB 27, General Audience of May 14, 1980

Gen. 3:6

- “Then the eyes of both were opened, and they realized that they were naked; they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths”
- Describes the reciprocal shame of the man and the woman
- This experience shakes both down to the foundation of their existence

Gen. 3:8

- “Then they heard the sound of the Lord God, who was walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves among the trees of the garden from the presence of the Lord God.”
- The need to hide reveals the depth of shame before each other as an immediate fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil
- Fear of God appears, which was unknown before in the state of original innocence
- A kind of fear, therefore, belongs to the essence of shame
- This shame over their nakedness is not strictly over the fact they are naked, but this is an effect of a deeper cause that they try to hide
- Nakedness now reveals man’s deprivation of his participation in Gift and alienation from Love

Dogmas Concerning the First Man and Woman

- See fn 44 for references, p. 239-240
- The first couple were given supernatural and preternatural gifts before the Fall
- They possessed innocence, free will, integrity
- Before the Fall they were free of the necessity of death
- These were gifts of graces that was gratuitous, unmerited, and not owed to man
- Sin led to the loss of what did not pertain to human nature, man's integrity, holiness, innocence, justice
- The first couple suffered damage to what belongs to human nature

Concupiscence as a Lack

- Concupiscence damaged human nature and placed limitations upon it after the fall
- Concupiscence is therefore a lack which does not correspond to him being made in the image of God
 - In scholastic terms, concupiscence is a privation since it is a lack of something that was originally present
- Nakedness
 - In original innocence expresses a fullness, the full acceptance of the body
 - This original acceptance included man's acceptance of the world and his stewardship to rule over it
 - In original sin expresses a lack in this acceptance

Gen. 3:10

- “I was afraid, because I am naked, and I hid myself.”
- This text indicates a radical change in the self-understanding of the first man
- The verse expresses
 - A loss in certainty of the body expressing the image of God
 - A loss of the sense of the right to participate in the visible world
 - This right is rooted in man’s innermost being, a participation in God’s original vision of creation
 - A breakdown in the original acceptance of the body as a sign of the person in the world
 - A breakdown in the original acceptance by the world of man
 - There is now hostility between man and the world, Gen. 3:17-19
 - This hostility and struggle ends in man’s death, Gen. 3:19
 - The awareness of man’s defenselessness and insecurity over his own body in the face of nature
 - JPPII called this “cosmic” shame

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