

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

TOB 69, General Audience of Jan. 13, 1982

Introductory Remarks

- “In the resurrection they will take neither wife nor husband but will be like angels in heaven”
 - Mark 12:25; Matt. 22:30; and Luke 20:36 complete the revelation of the body
- This revelation penetrates the heart of reality which we experience; and this experience includes our experience of the body
- This revelation passes beyond historical man’s experience in two directions
 - To the “beginning”, Matt. 19:3-8
 - To the future world, Matt. 22:23
- The truths of the beginning and the future are reconstructed on the basis of historical man’s experience
 - Not a product of empirical or rational study

Revelation of the Future World

- Christ's statement that not having a husband or wife in the next world is a development in the understanding of the theology of man and of the body
- Human identity is realized differently in eschatological experience versus historical experience or the experience of the beginning
- Yet man is still the same kind of being, man who is made in the image and likeness of God
- The meaning of the body with respect to masculinity and femininity in the future world is not defined in terms of marriage or procreation, but still belongs within the mystery of creation

Revelation of the Beginning

- In the beginning we learn that man's bodiliness is made for the conjugal unity of man and woman wherein man and woman discover their maleness and femaleness, the spousal meaning of the body, marriage, and procreation
- This unity also reveals the communion of persons
 - This communion is the fundamental meaning of the body, and is united to the fact that man is a person called to a life of communion
- Marriage and procreation
 - Are not the definitive original and fundamental meaning of the body nor being male and female
 - Yet this vocation gives concrete reality to this meaning within history
 - The resurrection marks the end of history

The Definitive Meaning of Man

- Neither husband or wife
 - Indicates what is not the case
 - The spousal meaning of the body corresponds to
 - 1) man as male and female is a person made in the image and likeness of God
 - 2) This image is realized in the communion of persons
 - The spousal meaning of the body is perfectly personal and communitarian at the same time
- The glorification of the body in the resurrection
 - Means that man is in full truth of his humanity with the eschatological experience of the God and the Beatific Vision
 - We will experience perfectly the spousal meaning of the body
 - This is a new experience not alienated from historical experience and experience of the beginning
 - This eschatological experience is a fulfillment of man's human nature
 - The glorification of the body reveals the definitive meaning of created persons as called to the gift of self and communion of persons

Concluding Remarks

- Christ's words are decisive for understanding Genesis and the entirety of the Bible
- These words allow us to reread the depth of man and understand the meaning of the eschatological dimension of the communion of persons from the beginning
- Next audience begins JP II's analysis of St. Paul's understanding of the theology of the body and the resurrection

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