

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

TOB 57, General Audience of Mar. 18, 1981

1 Cor. 6

- “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you do not belong to yourselves? For you were bought at a great price”, 1 Cor. 6:19– 20
- “Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ?”, 1 Cor. 6:15
- Observations:
 - We must keep our bodies holy because they are temples of the Holy Spirit
 - The redemption of the body is connected to the virtue of purity in 1 Thess. 4:4
 - This virtue of purity is the keeping of the body with holiness and reverence

The Charismatic Dimension

- The Holy Spirit enters the body as His own temple
- He dwells within and works with spiritual gifts
- The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit
 - Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, Fear of the Lord; Cf. Is. 11:2
 - The gift of piety is the most congenial with the virtue of purity
 - Two general meanings of piety, fn. 64
 - 1) veneration of the divine
 - 2) “reverence for the vital structures of life”, TOB 57:2fn64, (p. 352)
 - This second meaning is more general
 - It applies to the mutual behavior of relatives, spouses, and described the relationship of the Roman soldiers to Caesar and of slaves to their masters

The Role of Piety

- Piety as a gift of the Holy Spirit serves purity by making man more sensitive to the dignity of the body in virtue of the mysteries of creation and redemption
- Piety gives the words of St. Paul their convincing power in human experience as a lived and living truth in human action
- Through piety man becomes open to fuller receptivity of the value of the spousal meaning of the body and the freedom of gift of self

The Body and Glorification

- Keeping one's own body formed through abstinence, avoiding unchastity bears fruit in the deeper experience of love
- This love is inscribed in the whole of humanity since man's creation according to the fact he is made in the image and likeness of God
- 1 Cor. 6:20 tells us to glorify God with our bodies
 - Purity as a virtue, the keeping of the body with holiness and reverence plus the gift of piety plus the indwelling of the Holy Spirit causes such fullness in interpersonal relationships such that God is glorified
 - Through pure the husband and wife glorify God
- “Purity is the glory of the human body before God. It is the glory of God in the human body, through which masculinity and femininity are manifested. From purity springs that singular beauty that permeates every sphere of reciprocal common life between human beings and allows them to express in it the simplicity and depth, the cordiality and unrepeatable authenticity of personal trust.” TOB 57:3, (p. 353)

The Wisdom Tradition

- St. Paul's concept of life according to the Holy Spirit is in continuity with the Wisdom Tradition of the Old Testament; cf. Sir. 23:4-6
- Purity is a condition for finding wisdom; cf. Sir. 51:20; Wis. 8:21
- Wisdom is a condition for purity as gift
- Two dimensions of purity, virtue and gift
 - 1) Virtue of purity serves wisdom
 - 2) Wisdom disposes oneself to receive this gift from God
 - Wisdom strengthens purity as a virtue and allows the enjoyment of life according to the Spirit, of living in wisdom the fruits of pure behavior, attitudes and life
- The Wisdom Tradition prepared the way for St. Paul's listeners to understand the meaning of life according to the Spirit
- Life according to the Spirit is an anthropological rebirth in the Spirit that is rooted in the redemption of the body achieved by Christ

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