

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

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## Sirach 23:17-22

- “Desire, blazing like a furnace, will not die down until it has been satisfied; the man who is shameless in his body will not stop until the fire devours him; to the impure man, all bread is wheat, he will not grow tired until he dies. The man who is unfaithful to his own marriage bed says to himself, “Who can see me? There is darkness all round me, the walls hide me; no one can see me, why should I be afraid? The Most High will not remember my sins.” What he fears are human eyes; he does not realize that the eyes of the Lord are ten thousand times brighter than the sun; they see all the acts of men and penetrate into the most secret corners... Likewise the woman who abandons her husband, who provides him with heirs received from a stranger.”

## Elements of Sir. 26

- Comparison between concupiscence of the flesh and fire
- Concupiscent passion suffocates man's conscience in the heart and his sense of responsibility before God
- Concupiscence is described as a restlessness of the body and senses
- The inner man is silenced by the outer man, which is to say that passion has the freedom of action towards satisfying the body and senses
- Concupiscent man tries to find rest by satisfying his passions, body, and senses, but instead finds restlessness
  - He becomes worn out through consuming himself
  - Use is connatural with this way of living, leading to exhaustion

# Christ and the Look

- Christ's words in Matt. 5:27-28 expresses
  - The fact that each man and woman understands the meaning of to look with desire
  - This knowledge is interior, within the heart and conscience
  - This desire in the heart is expressed in the look
  - The look expresses man as a whole
- The look to desire is an experience of the value of the body such that its spousal and procreative meaning cease
  - This leads to a detachment from the spousal meaning of the body and the ability to establish the communion of persons
  - This is an inner detachment within the heart of man

## Side Note on Jean-Paul Sartre

- Hidden interlocutor of JP II
- French existentialist philosopher
  - Atheist, believed everything is absurd
- Being and Nothingness, 100 page section on “The Look”
  - Concupiscent man is the model for human relationships
  - Do not recommend reading the book

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