

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

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# Introduction of Concupiscence

- The desire of the heart in Matt. 5:27-28 seems to invoke the concept of concupiscence
- 1 John 2:16-17: “All that is in the world, the concupiscence of the flesh, the concupiscence of the eyes, and the pride of life, comes not from the Father but from the world. And the world passes away with its concupiscence; but the one who does the will of God will remain in eternity.”
  - Presupposes the concept of concupiscence, but does not explain what it is
  - Origin of concupiscence is from the world, not God

# Concupiscence and the Beginning

- The concupiscence of the flesh and eyes and the pride of life are fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the heart of man
- Concupiscence came into the world with the breaking of the first covenant with God in the heart of man
- Concupiscence is a consequence of original sin
- Sin is the source for concupiscence and it is through sin it enters the world
- 1 John 2:16-17 refers us back to the “beginning”, and so we must return to Genesis
- The validity of applying 1 John 2:16-17 to Matt. 5 is the integral vision of man

# The Man of Desire

- The task now is understanding who is the man of desire
- Gen. 3:1-5 is the key moment in human history when doubt is first cast upon Gift in man's heart
- The picking of the fruit is man's choice and persistence in that choice of acting against God's will
- The temptation "You will be like gods, knowing good and evil" is the casting of doubt upon Gift and Love
- When man casts God from his heart, what is left comes from the world

## Genesis 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.”
- Gen. 3:6 is the first statement about man’s new situation in original sin
- Shame now enters as the first manifestation of what comes from the world
- The concept of shame connects Gen. 3:6 with Gen. 2:25 when the man and woman were naked without shame
- This verse describes the beginning of concupiscence in man’s heart

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