

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

TOB 23, General Audience of Apr. 2, 1980

Review

- In Matt. 19 Christ appealed to the “beginning” in order to understand the teaching about divorce
- The task of JPII’s analyses in TOB 1-22 is understanding the meaning of “beginning”
- The questions about divorce and marriage are asked at all times of history
 - Everyone today is involved in this question, including Vatican II, Pope Paul VI and contemporary man
- Christ’s answer to the Pharisees is the same as today, that to contemporary man he would again appeal to the “beginning”
 - In the “beginning” lies the answers to modernity’s questions
 - This demands an “integral vision of man”; Paul VI’s *Humanae Vitae*
 - 1) Dive deeper into human identity and the mystery of creation
 - 2) Needs to take into account the perspective of the mystery of redemption

The Integral Vision of Man and Modernity

- Christ's appeal to the "beginning" gives us an integral vision of man and is valid for modern man
- Modernity, in general, rejected this integral vision in favor of partial conceptions
 - These half-truths create cultural tendencies and proposals for human behavior
 - This implies that man is the **object of technology** and has less responsibility for his own actions
 - Christ's answer here indicates that man as male and female has the power to self-determine himself, decide his actions in light of this integral vision

The Role of the Theology of the Body

- The Theology of the Body is a rediscovery of this integral vision of man and hence necessary for modernity
 - Its usefulness lies in its personalism based upon the texts of Genesis and the truth of the human body in the structure of the person as subject
- The questions here are also questions for Christians preparing for or are already married
 - Christ's answer is important here in order to find fulfillment as a person and in the vocation of marriage
 - The Theology of the Body is indispensable and opposed to **materialism** and **utilitarianism**
- Christ's appeal to the beginning is a command to retrieve the dignity and truth of the meaning of the body

Vocabulary

- Intersubjectivity:
 - “existing between conscious minds”, Oxford Dictionary
 - “the sharing of subjective experience between two or more people”, APA Dictionary of Psychology
 - “involving or occurring between separate conscious minds; accessible to or capable of being established for two or more subjects”, Merriam Webster Dictionary
- Materialism
 - “the doctrine that nothing exists except matter and its movements and modifications”, Oxford Dictionary
- Utilitarianism
 - “the doctrine that actions are right if they are useful or for the benefit of a majority”, Oxford Dictionary

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