

Theology of the Body
Lecture 1: State of the Dis-union Address

Before beginning the course, we have to look at just how far awry the culture has gone with regard to love, sex, and romantic relationships. Although we will have to get somewhat explicit, the point here is not to be raw or sensationalist, but to understand the depths to which we have fallen. We must be aware of what's going on in order to address the problem prudently.

- I. The Youth (much of the following is taken from the excellent text: *Unhooked* by Laura Sessions Stepp)
 - a. Jamie and Jake
 - i. Jamie's friends: Lauren and Alison
 - b. Lindsey and Adam
 - c. The "hook-up" culture
 - i. Dating is out
 1. Not boyfriends and girlfriends, just "friends"
 - ii. Sexual activity is increasingly disconnected from marriage, or even any monogamous relationship that requires commitment, love, selflessness or sacrifice
 1. Maximum freedom from commitment and responsibility
 2. Now, they know sex without love and commitment is meaningless; but hey, it's still a lot of fun.
 - d. Dialogue between a guy and a girl in a sexuality class
 - e. Larger studies
 - i. "hooking up" first surfaced as a sexual concept in porn magazines in the early 90s.
 1. Within a few years, the term had made its way onto college campuses across the US, starting with the pricey private schools.
 2. A freshman at Columbia U. told National Public Radio in '96: "Everyone here seems intent on hooking up as fast as possible."
 3. A year later, '97, a Brown University student told the *New York Times*: "In a normal relationship, you meet, get drunk, hook up."
 - ii. Duke research project, 2002-2003
 1. "Students rarely go on formal dates, but instead attend parties in large groups, followed by 'hook-ups' – unplanned sexual encounters fueled by alcohol."
 - iii. Survey by Elizabeth Paul, professor at the College of New Jersey:
 1. Surveyed 555 undergrads
 - a. 4 out of 5 had hooked up

- b. Half said they started their evenings planning to have some form of sex, but with no particular person in mind
- iv. James Madison University reported similar proportions in 2002
- v. University of Wisconsin, slightly less
- vi. 2005 study by the CDC on High School sexual activity
 - 1. The percentage of high school students having intercourse is declining slightly
 - 2. But kids are starting at a younger age
 - 3. And are engaging in oral sex at an astounding proportion

II. What about the impact this is having on marriage and family?

- a. Childstats.gov
 - i. Births to unwed mothers = 37% of US births
 - ii. kids living with less than two parents = 57% of US kids
- b. USCCB.org/laity/marriage
 - i. Approximately 50% of marriages fall apart
 - ii. Approximately 50% of marriages are a remarriage for at least one of the partners