

### Lecture 3

- I. Clearly, as the first lecture showed, something has gone wrong with our understand of sexuality and the relationship between a man and a woman
- a. Of course, the desire for sex, for love, for the union with a member of the opposite sex are all good.
    - i. They are gifts from God, and reflections of our ultimate hunger for Him.
    - ii. The problem is that our hunger --- our hunger for sex, for companionship, even for God --- has been so skewed as a result of sin.
      1. These desires have been confused and distorted ever since evil entered the human experience.
  - b. So John Paul II takes us back before Original Sin in order that we might understand the true nature of love, sex, relationships, marriage, and our great call to union with God.
- II. Now, in the Garden of Eden, there were three “Original” human experiences, which will illuminate both who we are now, and who we are meant to be. Those three experiences are **Solitude, Unity, and Nakedness**
- a. **Original Solitude:** Man finds himself alone,<sup>1</sup> and this is not good. Man was designed, not for loneliness, but for *relationship*.
    - i. Relationship with God
      1. Adam’s solitude causes him to question his identity, his purpose in life
      2. Who am I? Why am I here? How do I fit into the world? How do I find happiness and fulfillment?
        - a. This are the sort of questions we ask when we are alone, by ourselves.
        - b. These questions show us that we long to understand ourselves.
          - i. But no one can know you as God knows you, and so only God can show you who you really are.
      3. This is the ultimate reason why it is not good for the man to be alone:
        - a. We are not meant for loneliness, but for friendship with God.
        - b. We have an ache within us for *Someone Else*, and only God is the satisfaction of that ache.
          - i. We pursue friendships, fun, romantic relationships, sexual intimacy, success in sports or business, etc...

---

<sup>1</sup> Gen 2: 18-20.

- ii. And yet, when we possess these things, we realize we still have the ache, the yearning for something more.
          - 1. even the best human relationship is just an imperfect sign of the relationship which waits for us with God
  - 4. And so, our relationship with God
    - a. Is the ultimate relationship to which all our human relationships point
      - i. It is the only relationship that will ever fulfill us.
    - b. Is the prerequisite to good human relationship
      - i. Unless God is first in our lives, we will never be happy with our family, friends, or lovers.
- ii. Man's relationship with the environment
1. The Lord created animals from the dust of the ground and brought them to the Man for him to name
    - a. By *naming* the animals Adam realized he was fundamentally *different* from them.
      - i. Remember, naming is an exclusively human activity.
      - ii. He finds no companion, no friend, and certainly no spouse.
      - iii. Though he too is a "mammal," yet the fact is he is more different than alike with regard to the rest of the material world.
  2. The point is: *Adam is alone in the visible world, not just because he doesn't have a woman, but because he is the only thing in the universe with a soul.*
    - a. The soul includes:
      - i. Will: freedom, choice, love
      - ii. Intellect: language, reason, logic, art
    - b. Other creatures have none of these things
  3. Man is grateful for the sun, moon, stars, trees, fish, animals, etc...
    - a. But he can't enter into communion with these things
    - b. Adam needs a person to love.
- iii. Man's relationship to the opposite sex
1. Man was made for the woman, and woman for the man
  2. This is obvious in the complimentary physiology of the man and woman
    - a. A man's body doesn't make sense apart from a woman's body
  3. Masculinity has an intrinsic reference to femininity, and vice versa

- a. Therefore, Adam is alone in his masculinity, and he suffers from the lack of femininity
- b. **Original Unity:** it is the overcoming of the solitude
  - i. First and foremost through relationship with God
    - 1. everything depends on this relationship
  - ii. But God has also built us for human community
    - 1. for other persons
  - iii. The Creation of Eve
    - 1. Gen 2:21-22: “So the Lord God put the Man into a deep sleep and took a rib from his side. The Lord God then built up into a woman the rib that he had taken from the man.”
    - 2. Adam wakes up, sees Eve, and exclaims, “At last!”
      - a. Here is an animal which is more than just a body... it’s a person with a soul!
    - 3. Gen 2:24: “Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and cleaves to his wife, and they become one flesh.”
      - a. The physical union of the man and the woman is unique in all of creation
        - i. Of course, on the purely biological level, it looks a lot like mere animal copulation.
        - b. But the fact is, sexual union is not simply a material reality; it’s a *spiritual* and *theological* reality.
        - c. Recall last week, when we discussed how the sexual act:
          - i. Forges a union of souls, of persons
            - 1. connects one person to another
          - ii. Reflects the life and love of the Trinity
            - 1. Is a created participation in God’s free, total, fruitful love.
          - iii. Reflects the love of Christ and His Church
            - 1. Through a giving of oneself to the other.
- c. **Original Nakedness**
  - i. Gen: 2:25 “The man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed.”
    - 1. JP II points out that this is critical for understanding God’s original plan for humanity.
  - ii. What is shame?
    - 1. Bodily shame is the self-defense of being treated as simply a material object.
      - a. In this context, shame refers to the reaction of being seen as merely a tool for sexual pleasure.
    - 2. For example, a woman doesn’t feel the need to cover her body when she’s alone in the shower
      - a. Why is that?

- b. Because there is no “other” who might reduce her to simply her body.
  - c. Experience teaches her that men, (because of the lust that resulted from original sin), tend to objectify women by reducing them to their bodies.
    - i. This is disordered: a woman is not simply an body to be objectified; she is a person to be loved.
- iii. But Adam and Eve didn’t experience any of that
1. They did not have *lust*, a selfish impulse to simply use the other person for mere personal pleasure.
    - a. They had perfect self-control, and were able to align their desires with what was good.
  2. Our first parents saw God’s plan of love inscribed in their naked bodies, and that is exactly what they desired: to love as God loves.
  3. They understood the ***nuptial meaning of the body.***
    - a. The purpose of life is to give oneself to another
    - b. This is what God does in his Trinitarian life, it is what Christ does for the Church, and it is what we are all created to do as well.
    - c. And this fact is not only inscribed on our souls, it is inscribed on our bodies
      - i. man and woman were designed, not only to take from one another, but to give unselfishly to one another
      - ii. This is the purpose of life as a whole, and it is also the purpose of our bodily life as male and female
        1. Until we understand this, we can never be truly happy.