

The Power of the Theology of the Body

God made this world with purpose and out of Love. God so loved us that He made humanity in His image and likeness who lives as one with 'Body and Soul.' The natural marriage approach is for man and woman to be legally bound as one unit for the purpose of forming a family in their love and having children. The theological mystery of Christian marriage is that this becomes a sacramental affair and the unitive meaning of husband and wife is united with the Love of God. This makes this union holy and till death can they part. Couples become more than individuals when they become 'One' serving each other in the Love of God. Some couples express when they put away self and substitute their emotion with love, they serve as an instrument that their better half may imitate. So one hears the deepness of their Love in words such as: "You make me want to be a better person." With our bodies, as we have the ability to express our self identity, we can also choose to follow the sacred spirit of God of truth, goodness and Love. (Pope John Paul II) Our beloved Heavenly Father wishes our love in return as He grants us in steps the knowledge to know Him through Love. When we are baptized, and receive the Holy Eucharist appropriately, this means the unity is with Jesus, our Savior and God, a miraculous and holy unity with His unconditional Love.

How does our current culture view the body? We tend to think that our troubles come from the body and only our Spirit is the good thing. But Catholics know that 'Sin' is at root, a spiritual problem, it doesn't come from the body. The expression of the logos and the Holy Spirit in us humans is immeasurable. Sin works itself out of the body and natural science looks at the body as a mechanism and machine that has no intrinsic meaning. (Dr. Michael Waldstein).

In the Old Testament, before Cain has sinned and killed Abel, his brother, God said to Cain: "If you did well, you can hold up your head; but if not, sin is a demon lurking at the door: his urge is toward you, yet you can be his master." (Book of Genesis 4:1-15) When man seeks God's presence to fight temptation and sin, it is good to recall God's Words: "Be still and know that I am God" and we can call off our temptation to sin. In the New Testament, the sign of " the Cross and Resurrection " is indeed the definitive revelation of Christian Hope.

Whilst we are all awaiting and longing for the saving of our bodies, we reflect to think of the human Body of Jesus. In the gospel, John the Baptist presents Jesus as the eternal Word of God, the only son of God who "became a human being, full of grace and truth, living among us." The Word became "Flesh and Blood" (John 1:14) and was made Man. To fulfill God's Salvation Plan, Jesus' human body was tortured, crucified and died on the Cross for our sins. Our human bodies shudder at the thought of man's brutal inflicting of suffering on the body of Jesus, the Promised savior. But with Jesus' absolute obedience to the Father, their Love and the power of God's Love saved all mankind from perishing in sin and hell. After Jesus' resurrection, He appeared to His disciples in his body. He ascended into Heaven with His Body, opening the opportunity for all of

us to be faithful followers on earth. Jesus gave us the Holy Spirit to help the early Church and disciples and to be guided by the Holy Spirits' love and wisdom on the right course to Heaven. Jesus established the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, and left us the opportunity to eat His Body and drink His Blood, we can then become one with Jesus and our souls will be saved with our bodies. Man must repent and change our evil ways and remember Jesus' teachings: "I am the Way and the truth and Life," says the Lord; "no one comes to the Father except through Me". (John 14:6)

From (Pando)'s Nature of the Wild 2015, the forest of +40,000 trees, all of 'one similar DNA.' Men in a big group appear to be like trees in a forest, all of a kind. God created us bodies of substance and matter that can determine our 'self' with 'ego.' As our bodies are inseparable from our brain, we can be seen and recognized in this world as an individual with all different DNAs. God is patient, so after we are born and maturing, He opens our eyes and ears and teaches us in stages to know and love Him. Children are innocent and good to wait in silence learning from parents, society and the Church of God. The Lord will rescue us as humans learn to repent, repair and love, growing in faith and love for God and Man.

The sculpture of Hsieh Tung Liang of a 'Heart' hanging in a steel human frame called 'Unable to Let Go' depicts that human bodies have needs : To have, to not have, to live, to die, to give up, to depart, to part and leave behind...However Hsieh encourages men to be brave and learn how to move forward into the wonders of this life, and not be stopped by danger, worries, unluckiness, problems and fears.

(Liaozhai zhiyi) Strange Tales from a Chinese Studio, a collection of classical Chinese stories by Qing dynasty writer Pu Songling. These were 'marvel stories' of horrible, unusual and unreal things, where nothing is as it seems, with fox-spirit, often equated with a vampire or supernatural being. Zenko are the good foxes who are kind and act as messengers, and Yako are field foxes who are the trickster type. Oftentimes, the stories are of love between human and flower demon with fox charm, where the desire of owning a human body is so great that the immortal spirits rather give up their immortality for the chance to live as a human. In this respect the dead wishes for life and the living is begging for death. As it is so difficult to gain a human body, we humans should treasure that we have a body to live with.

Laozi (571 BC) semi-legendary Chinese philosopher and author of Tao Te Ching has said that our troubles and sufferings come because humans have a body. He stresses the need to let go, and again let go, so problems will become much less when we finally let go of "Self and Ego."

Mencius, Chinese Confucian philosopher (372 BC-289BC) In ancient times, the philosophy spoke of “man is born with worries and diseases and reaches peace only when he dies.” Today’s culture would add that competition creates betterment. Suffering through the force of circumstances cannot be avoided, and should be taken up as an open chance for choosing to overcome and progress with the changing times. It is not absolutely correct that living is to worry with many troubles and dying is to seek final peace. The resilience of human’s facing formidable turbulence shows itself as powerful and positive living. By letting go, life withers in time without purpose, trials and results.

Professor Wang zhi-mei from Taiwan, known for research expertise of Taoism, Buddhism, expressed that “to understand the life of the living is through a body..”

Albert Schweitzer (1875-1965) physician, philosopher, musicologist, theologian
A Controversial Christian who saw himself as being on a “civilizing mission” in Africa.
Some of his Quotes about Life:

- “The purpose of human life is to serve, and to show compassion and the will to help others”
- “Knowing all truth is less than doing a little bit of good”
- “The interior joy we feel when we have done a good deed is the nourishment the soul requires”
- “There can be no Kingdom of God in the world without the Kingdom of God in our hearts”
- “At that point in life where your talent meets the need of the world that is where God wants you to be”
- “The greatest thing is to give thanks for everything, He who has learned this knows what it means to live. He has penetrated the whole mystery of life: giving thanks for everything.”
- “The result of the voyage does not depend on the speed of the ship, but on whether or not it keeps a true course.”
- “The true worth of a man is not to be found in man himself, but in the colours and textures that come alive in others”.
- “As we acquire knowledge things do not become more comprehensible, but more mysterious.”
- “Just as white light consists of colored rays so reverence for life contains all the components of ethics: love, kindness, sympathy, empathy, peacefulness and power to forgive.”

C.S. Lewis (1898-1963) British writer, literary scholar and Anglican lay theologian:

C.S. Lewis reveals how God will turn tough situations into Great Blessings.

- "Surrendering fully to Christ means letting go of trying to maintain control over one's life. He asks for everything because only when we give everything, can He give us what we've always desired, true Joy, Peace, Strength and Purpose. The paradox is this, by losing our life for His sake, we find true life. Christ never asks for a partial surrender, but to a total surrender because only in this way can He transform our hearts and lead us to the rest we so deeply seek."

Saadat Hasan Manto (1912-1955) A controversial Pakistani writer

Quotes from Why I write:

- "A man remains a man no matter how poor his conduct. A Woman, even if she were to deviate from one instance, from the role given to her by men, is branded a whore. She is viewed with lust and contempt. Society closes on her doors and it leaves ajar for a man stained by the same ink. If both are equal, why are our barbs reserved for the woman?"
- Hindustan had become free. Pakistan had become independent soon after its inception but man was still slave in both these countries slave of prejudice slave of religious fanaticism, slave of barbarity and inhumanity
- "If you find my stories dirty, the society you are living in is dirty. With my stories, I only expose the truth."

Jun'ichi Watanabe (1933-2014) Japanese writer, known for his portrayal of the extramarital affairs of middle aged people. His 1997 novel 'A Lost Paradise' became a bestseller in Japan and over Asia.

Karl Rahner (1961) German Jesuit priest and theologian

He is one of the most influential Catholic philosophers of the mid to late 20th century

The doctrine of the Trinity does not divide God into three parts, Each Person is fully God.

Rahner defines grace as the self-communication of God.

Conclusion, Rahner says that grace is given to man gratuitously. This theology of grace made the supernatural as soothing which is beyond human experience

Rahner expressed in theology that the incarnation was the moment in which the divine Word emptied itself and became flesh, emptying the Word into human nature and so recreating it anew.

The doctrine of the soul now expresses our partnership with the God who took human nature as the vessel of divinity.

- His famous quote:
- "To be oriented towards God is what makes us human, then the one who is so oriented towards God that he is utterly given over to God, and utterly taken over by God, is actually the one who is at the same time the most fully human".

Conclusion

The Theology of the Body

- In essence the title means "the study of God through the body" In other words, if we come to understand our bodies, we can understand God better.
- This subject presents an interpretation of the fundamental significance of the body, and in particular of sexual differentiation and complementarity, one which aims to challenge common contemporary philosophical views.
- The teachings help us to see others as human beings who have the right to be loved and respected.
- Theology of the Body is meant to explain to the faithful, and the world, the Trinitarian understanding of : the union of one man and one woman, the union of Christ and the Church, as well as the communion and union of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- In living the Theology of the body, man and woman cannot contracept their union without violating thor dignity as persons and the dignity of the conjugal act itself.

