

THEOLOGY OF THE BODY - An Introduction

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What did you find most interesting about this talk on Theology of the Body?
- Theology of the Body was developed over 129 Wednesday homilies by St. Pope John Paul II, and tonight's talk only scratched the surface. Are you interested in learning more about it?
- St. John Paul II said, *"The human body includes right from the beginning... the capacity of expressing love, that love in which the person becomes a gift - and by means of this gift - fulfills the meaning of his being and existence."*
 - What are the ways in which a person can become a gift?
 - What is unique about the capacity humans have for expressing love?
 - How do love and the expression of love fulfill our meaning?
- *Imago Dei* means Image of God - Rather than being made in the Image of God as Individuals, St. John Paul II intimates that we are made in the Image of God in the life giving communion of persons that is *family*. Can you see how this is a step beyond? How is this in the image of God?
- *"Self-control is not needed because the body is evil—the truth is just the opposite. The body should be controlled with honor because it is worthy of honor."* (St. JP II) Many people think Theology of the Body is just about being chaste because sex outside of marriage is morally "wrong." In reality it's about understanding the dignity and intent of the body as created by God. What insight does the above quote give?
- *"A person's rightful due is to be treated as an object of love, not as an object for use."*— (Pope John Paul II, *Love and Responsibility*)
 - This is true not only with sex, but also in the way we are treated or treat others in the workplace, in the family, in friendships....have you ever felt used in any way?