

Housekeeping

- Promotional desk
- CW book – pick up your order from P. Desk
- Welcome Sunday 9:15 RCIA group
- Welcome non-BSP participants
- English quotes & English terms
- Golden rule for both speakers & participants: *Don't get personal! Don't put people on the spot!*

4-12-08

BSP TUTORIAL: REDISCOVER
SEX FROM GEN 1-3

1

Why This Tutorial

- BSP coverage of Gen 1-3
- Last few years, every theological topic => S&M
- God's plan: countering the distortions of the sexual revolution of the 70s with JPII's sexual revolution (*CW, Good News About Sex & Marriage*, p. 69 - George Weigel), transforming lust into love
- JPII/CW: Be all and end all of all theological studies; God's special way to reveal Himself to man

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Why This Tutorial

“The Church cannot therefore be [properly] understood...unless we keep in mind...the ‘great mystery’, which is the Church and humanity in Christ, does not exist apart from the ‘great mystery’ expressed in the ‘one flesh’ (cf. Gen 2:24; Eph 5:31-32), that is, in the reality of marriage and the family.” (*JPII, Letter to Families, n.19*)

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Why This Tutorial

“Virtually everything God wants to tell us on earth

- about who he is,
- who we are,
- the meaning of life,
- the reason he created us,
- how we are to live
- and even our ultimate destiny

is contained somehow in the truth and meaning of sexuality and marriage.” (*CW, Good News About Sex & Marriage, p.19*)

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Unworthy Person to Promote Chastity & Marriage

- God's track records: choosing unworthy people – Moses (can't speak), David, Peter, Paul, all apostles...
- My unworthy apostolate – Influenced by liberalism and values of the 1970s; saw family and marriage as enslavement
- Accept not because of worthiness but because of the fire in me & God's will

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“The NFP Team”

- Promotes NFP
- Chastity
- Proper understanding of sex and marriage
- Culture of life

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“The NFP Team” Members

- Jeannie Wu, jwu7@rogers.com - Billings instructor in training, NFP counseling
- Dr. Jason Kwok, dr_jason_kwok@hotmail.com - Medical counseling and fertility planning
- Cindy Kwok, cindykwok@rogers.com, registered nurse
- Dr. Theresa Hum, twanghum@yahoo.ca - Medical counseling and fertility planning
- Tony Chow, tonychow1@rogers.com - “Naked Without Shame” CDs Chinese translation
- Edmond Lo, edmondklo@yahoo.ca - M.T.S.

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Objectives of This Tutorial

- To rediscover the meaning of sex and marriage through Gen 1-3
- To be well-equipped to deal with questions about sexual morality in our daily life
- To promote chastity
- To fulfill our vocation of marriage
- To better understand the destiny and meaning of life

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Approach

- Reflect on TOB and Scriptures and then derive fundamental principles and concepts for dealing with sex and marriage. (Sources: Christopher West, Good News About Sex and Marriage, page # only; JPII; TOB.)
- Explore practical sex-related issues based on the derived fundamental principles and concepts

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Rundown and Format

7:50-7:55	Opening prayer & a word from Fr. Wan
7:55-8:10	Intro – Why, What (objectives), How
8:10-8:55	Underlying faith and moral principles
8:55-9:05	Break
9:05-9:15	Sharing – Angelism – Tony Chow
9:15-9:45	Apply principles to practical sexual issues
9:45-9:55	Group reflection – comments & questions
9:55-10:20	Panel Discussion – Fr. Wan and E. Lo

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Reflection 1: Our Body Speaks

“TOB” : Our body is prophetic; it speaks of God:

“’God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good’ (Gen 1:31). [Matter] is redeemed in the incarnation and becomes fully ‘theophoric,’ that is, capable of putting us in touch with the Father. The human body is disclosed in its inner nature as a temple of the Spirit and is united with the Lord Jesus, who himself took a body for the world’s salvation.” (JPII Orientale Lumen, n.11)

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Reflection 1: Our Body Speaks

- *“By means of marriage as a sacrament of the Church, man and woman are called explicitly to bear witness – by using correctly the language of the body – to spousal and procreative love, a witness worthy of true prophets” (TOB, general audience Jan 26,1983).*
- *“The body speaks the truth through fidelity and conjugal love. When it commits adultery it speaks lies; it is guilty of falsity” (TOB, General audience of Jan 12, 1983).*

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“GAPs” for Sex

1. By means of marriage as a sacrament, our body speaks of God whose love is Free, Total, Faithful, and Fruitful.

=> *Therefore, our body speaks lie when sexual union is not FTFF.*

Reflection 2: Male and Female Bodies Speak of the Mystery of the Holy Trinity

(pp.19-20)

“God created man in his image, in the divine image he created him, male and female he created them.” (Gen 1:27)

- In the complementarity of the sexes, we image God. As male and female, we make visible God’s invisible mystery, i.e love & Trinity

Reflection 2: Male and Female Bodies Speak of the Mystery of the Holy Trinity

(pp.19-20)

- God is a life-giving Communion of Persons: Father, Son, Holy Spirit.
- Sexual intercourse participates in God's life and love: giving, penetrating, receiving, loving, joyful, ecstatic, unitive, procreative

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"GAPs" for Sex

2. As male and female, our bodies make visible the invisible, life-giving communion of Persons in the mystery of the Holy Trinity.

=> Therefore, every conjugal act must be unitive and procreative.

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Reflection 3: Male and Female Bodies Speak of
the Love of the Holy Trinity

(p.22)

- “The Lord formed man out of the clay of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life...” (Gen 2:7)
- Breath = H.S.; God is breathing his love into the man (not the animals). Man is called to live in a relationship of love with God and with others.

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Reflection 3: Male and Female Bodies Speak of
the Love of the Holy Trinity

- “Man, who is the only creature on earth that God created for his own sake, cannot fully find himself except through the sincere gift of himself.” (*Gaudium et Spes* n24)
- It’s a gift of self – freely given and thankfully received as a gift (Eucharistic life), not to be grasped as an object (adultery)

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Reflection 3: Male and Female Bodies Speak
of the Love of the Holy Trinity

“Mutual donation creates the communion of persons. In this mutual relationship, which Gen 2:23-25 speaks of, the man and the woman become a gift for each other, through their own body in its masculinity and femininity. The opposite of this would be a privation of the gift itself. It would be a reduction of the other to an ‘object for myself.’” (TOB, General Audience Feb 6, 1980)

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Reflection 3: Male and Female Bodies Speak
of the Love of the Holy Trinity

- “Blessed are the pure of heart” (Mt. 5:8) – The pure of heart sees in the body a person.
- It sees the ‘conjugal meaning of the body’: in its masculinity and femininity, it expresses a love that sees the human person as a gift – like the Trinity.
- It sees sex as expressive of God’s free, total, faithful, and fruitful love (p.20, HV9).

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Reflection 3: Male and Female Bodies Speak
of the Love of the Holy Trinity

- Attraction – natural need and instinct, not sinful
- Lust – “a certain woman begins to exist for a certain man not as a subject of communion, but exclusively as an object for the satisfaction of the sexual need.” (*TOB, General Audience, Sept 24, 1980*)
- Adultery is committed “when lust has gained possession of the will and is dominant over the subjectivity of the person.” (*TOB, General Audience, Sept 24, 1980*)

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Reflection 3: Male and Female Bodies Speak
of the Love of the Holy Trinity

- “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart” (Mt 5:27-28)
- We see this – looks lustfully – as “normal” => flat tire syndrome
- Jesus’ teaching is seen as ‘harsh’ because of our distortions about sex

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“GAPs” for Sex

3. The Communion of Persons in the Holy Trinity is a complete and sincere gift of self, freely, totally, faithfully, and fruitfully given and FTFF-ly received. Attraction is a natural need and instinct; it is not sinful. Lust is a disordered desire that causes us to see a person as an object for self-gratification.

=> *Therefore, adultery is committed when lust dominates a person’s will, causing him/her to see another person as an object for self-gratification (JPII’s Personalistic Norm).*

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Reflection 4: M&F Bodies Speak of the J/C Unity

(p.21)

“It is not good that the man should be alone, I will make for him a helper fit for him... The man said, ‘This one at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh.’” (Gen 2:18,22)

- One flesh union – mirrors the marriage of Christ and the Church.
- The one-flesh unity of A&E foreshadowed the one flesh unity of the New A&E – the Body of Christ

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Reflection 4: M&F Bodies Speak of the J/C Unity

*“The ‘great mystery,’ which is the Church and humanity in Christ, does not exist apart from the ‘great mystery’ expressed in the ‘one flesh’ ...reality of marriage and the family.”
(JP II, Letter to Families, n.19)*

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Reflection 4: M&F Bodies Speak of the J/C Unity

- *“One flesh communion of man and wife foreshadowed the Eucharistic communion of Jesus/Church right from the beginning”(p.21).*
- *“Of all the ways that God chooses to reveal his life and love, JP II said, marriage – enacted and consummated by sexual union – is in a certain way the most fundamental” (p.21).*
- No wonder marriage is the primary theme that traces through the whole Scripture.

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“GAPs” for Sex

4. The one-flesh unity of husband and wife is a sign pointing towards the one-flesh unity of Jesus and the Church – the Body of Christ.

=> *Therefore, sexual union fails to mirror the conjugal relationship between God and man when consummated purely at the animalistic level.*

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Reflection 5: Chastity Defined

- Chastity means “no...no...no...”?
- *“Chastity is first and foremost a great yes to the true meaning of sex, to the goodness of being created as male and female in the image of God. Chastity isn’t repressive. It’s totally liberating. It frees us from the tendency to use others for selfish gratification and enables us to love others as Christ loves us” (p.66)*

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“GAPs” for Sex

5. Whether single or married, we must live in chastity. Chastity is not repression; it sets us free!

=> *Therefore, all our sexual thoughts, desires, and behaviors must be freed from self-seeking and ordered toward the truth of authentic love.*

AWAKENING AND CONVICTION!!

(p.74)

“Without the perspective of God’s plan in the beginning and our redemption in Christ, almost all we know are the distortions that sin has caused in us. We consider it completely ‘normal’ to use others for our own physical or emotional pleasure, so much so that we call it ‘love’.”

AWAKENING AND CONVICTION!!

(p.74)

“If we are ever to discover and experience true love, we must win the battle in our hearts over lust, over any desire to use people for our own gratification.”

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10-MINUTE BREAK

After the break:

- **Personal Witnessing:** The disordered experience of angelism – body bad, spirit good
- **Guided Discussion:** Contraception, masturbation, non-marital sexual union, homosexuality, wet dreams.
- **Practical Challenges:** Scantly dressed girl appears – how to react? Dating intimacy – where to draw the line?

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ANGELISM

Sharing personal experience – Tony Chow

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“GAPs RECAP’D FOR GUIDED DISCUSSION

1. FTFF - Our body speaks lie when sexual union is not FTFF.
2. Unitive & Procreative – Makes visible living giving communion of the Holy Trinity
3. Don’t see a person as an object – Adultery: lust dominates a person’s will, causing him/her to see another person as an object for self-gratification (JPII’s Personalistic Norm).
4. Must mirror J/C unity - Sexual union fails to mirror the conjugal relationship between Christ/Church when consummated purely at the animalistic level.
5. Be chaste, free, toward authentic love – Chastity: all our sexual thoughts, desires, and behaviors must be freed from self-seeking and ordered toward the truth of authentic love

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GUIDED DISCUSSION

Provide at least 2 GAPs violated by the following sexual behaviors?

- Contraception
- Masturbation
- Homosexuality
- Non -marital sexual intercourse
- Wet dreams (?)

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GUIDED DISCUSSION

What are the appropriate behaviors to take when an attractive and scantily dressed woman appears?

- Close your eyes and turn away
- Avoid putting yourself in such situations
- Acknowledge the attraction but refuse to use the person as an object for self-gratification

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GUIDED DISCUSSION

“My boyfriend and I are very intimate, but we stop short of ‘going all the way’.” – What’s wrong with such a relationship?

- Playing with fire – may end up “going all the way”
- Should not arouse to the point of craving for intercourse when it’s not a moral option (p.76)
- Danger of adultery – GAP 3
- Failure to develop true love – patience, self control & sacrifice are needed to make marriage last (Jason Evert, ‘Pure Love’)

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A PRAYER FOR PURITY OF HEART

(p.84)

Lord, you have created me in your image and likeness as a man/woman.

Help me to accept and receive my sexuality as a gift from you.

You have inscribed in my very being, in my sexuality, the call to love as you love, in sincere self-giving,

And you have made the “one-flesh” union of man and woman in marriage a sign of your own life and love in the world.

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PRAYER

(p.84)

Grant me the grace always to resist the many lies that continually assail the truth and meaning of this great gift of sexuality.

Grant me purity of heart so that I might see the image of your glory in the beauty of others, and one day see you face to face. Amen.

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Personal Reflection

- You have a few minutes to complete questionnaire and write down comments or questions on paper slip
- Our helpers will collect all comments & questions

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Panel Discussion

- Fr. Wan and Edmond Lo will answer a few questions from the floor - line up at the microphone - and then a few randomly selected questions written on the slips
- May read out some comments if time allows
- All questions and comments will be summarized and posted on the BSP web site: www.cmcbasp.org