

THEOLOGY OF THE BODY SESSION 1

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. God looks at the Man and the Woman and says that ALL of Creation is VERY GOOD because of them. Why do you think that is?
2. Adam and Eve were created in the image and likeness of God. If that's so, why are we so different from one another physically? Is there a way in which all of us are the same?
3. How was a communion of persons formed when God created Adam and Eve?
4. St Pope John Paul II pointed to the *sacramentality of the body* as a tangible (visible/physical) image of the love between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Why?
5. Adam says, "FINALLY – this is flesh of my flesh and bone of my bone!" Why is this such a beautiful moment in his view of Eve? This statement is obviously about her body, but how is it proof that he sees MORE than just her body?
6. Name three reasons why you think we all want to experience REAL love.
7. What was God trying to teach us about our PERSONHOOD by giving us bodies? What do you think our society believes and teaches us about the meaning of our bodies? Do they seem to match? Why or why not?
8. Give an example of a *visible action* that someone around you did that proved their invisible love for you or for someone else.
9. Has there ever been a time when you felt someone REALLY saw you? He or she really looked at you and saw more than the surface of you and loved you just for who you are?
10. In what ways do you think men and women love UNIQUELY? (Is there a way that the men in your life express real love that is different from the women in your life or the other way around?)

THEOLOGY OF THE BODY SESSION 1 SMALL GROUP LEADER

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. God looks at the Man and the Woman and says that ALL of Creation is VERY GOOD because of them. Why do you think that is? God loves them, and He knows that the whole of Creation is there so that they might experience WONDER. STPJII said that Adam was the embodiment of WONDER – that he alone would ask in all of Creation, “Who am I? Why is all of this here?” People alone ask these question, and in that wonder, they begin the beautiful journey that points their chins UPWARD – GOD is the Creator of all these WONDERful things – including me! Creation is pointing us to the CREATOR – and we alone are capable of recognizing Him.
2. Adam and Eve were created in the image and likeness of God. If that’s so, why are we so different from one another physically? Is there a way in which all of us are the same? We all desire LOVE and TO LOVE. All the other creatures on the Earth may experience a desire to be part – but they do not long for love, nor do they give love uniquely. We may all look differently – but we all LOVE and want LOVE.
3. How was a communion of persons formed when God created Adam and Eve? Adam and Eve loved one another in a fullness of the other – EMOTIONALLY, PHYSICALLY, INTELLECTUALLY, and SPIRITUALLY. They did not see each other as bits and pieces – just a surface. They saw the beautiful unique INTEGRITY of the other’s PERSONHOOD. They did not withhold parts of themselves nor did they fear the other.
4. St Pope John Paul II pointed to the *sacramentality of the body* as a tangible (visible/physical) image of the love between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Why? The Church tells us that God is a PERFECT EXCHANGE OF LOVE – the Father pours Himself into His Son and the Son and the Father pour themselves out in the Holy Spirit. Uniquely different Persons whose love creates LIFE. In the love that exists in the heart of a family – we become *cocreators* with God – our love creates life – in biological children BUT ALSO in spiritual and emotional relationships like adoption or the spiritual fatherhood or motherhood of the religious life. *Homosexual love cannot do this – because this love is not about the gift of self for the sake of the other.*
5. Adam says, “FINALLY – this is flesh of my flesh and bone of my bone!” Why is this such a beautiful moment in his view of Eve? This statement is obviously about her body, but how is it proof that he sees MORE than just her body? Adam realized that none of the other creatures on the Earth could understand the nature of PURPOSE. He was created

to love her. She was created to love him. In the unique nature of her body, Adam could see THE BEAUTIFUL INTRINSIC NATURE OF HIS OWN LOVE. He becomes *not a being – BUT A MAN*. She becomes *not a being – BUT A WOMAN*. This is the sacramentality of the body that points to our COMPLIMENTARITY.

6. Name three reasons why you think we all want to experience REAL love. THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENT WAYS TO ANSWER THIS QUESTION – BUT THE MOST COMPLETE ANSWERS ARE – In our love for the other, we experience the nearness of our relationship with God. We want to belong, to be the giver of love. We want to belong, to be the receiver of love. We want to love forever – to be truly known as we are known INTEGRALLY (completely) to another.
7. What was God trying to teach us about our PERSONHOOD by giving us bodies? What do you think our society believes and teaches us about the meaning of our bodies? Do they seem to match? Why or why not? The body gives visibility to the invisible aspects of our complete selves. When I see my friend, I see the WHOLE of his or her unique person – the body allows us to experience in a very HUMAN way the outpouring of ourselves – the gift of sincere love for another person. THERE ARE VARIOUS ANSWERS FOR THE SECOND QUESTION.
8. Give an example of a *visible action* that someone around you did that proved their invisible love for you or for someone else. THERE ARE VARIOUS ANSWERS FOR THIS QUESTION.
9. Has there ever been a time when you felt someone REALLY saw you? He or she really looked at you and saw more than the surface of you and loved you just for who you are? **[Why do you think that happens so infrequently these days?]** THERE ARE VARIOUS ANSWERS FOR THIS QUESTION.
10. In what ways do you think men and women love UNIQUELY? (Is there a way that the men in your life express real love that is different from the women in your life or the other way around?) THERE ARE VARIOUS ANSWERS FOR THIS QUESTION. It's important to note that each person has gifts, talents, and feelings that are unique to them. Fathers express love in similar ways because they EMBODY the love of the Father. Mothers express love in similar ways because they EMBODY the love of the Holy Spirit.