



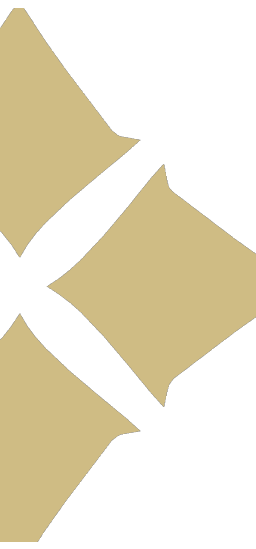


TEACHING HUMAN DIGNITY

Catholic Anthropology

Formed by Our Senses: The Impact of Pornography
on the Individual, Relationships, and Society




“The problem with pornography is not that it shows too much of the person, but that it shows far too little.”



To understand this quote, we need to “get inside”
the mind of St. John Paul II by learning about
Catholic anthropology

What is Anthropology?



SINCE 1828

GAMES & QUIZZES | THESAURUS | WORD OF THE DAY | FEATURES

anthropology

Dictionary Thesaurus

anthropology noun

 Save Word

an·thro·pol·o·gy | \,an(t)-thrə-'pä-lə-jē  \

Definition of *anthropology*

- 1 : the science of human beings
especially : the study of human beings and their ancestors through time and space and in relation to physical character, environmental and social relations, and culture
- 2 : theology dealing with the origin, nature, and destiny of human beings



What is Catholic Anthropology?

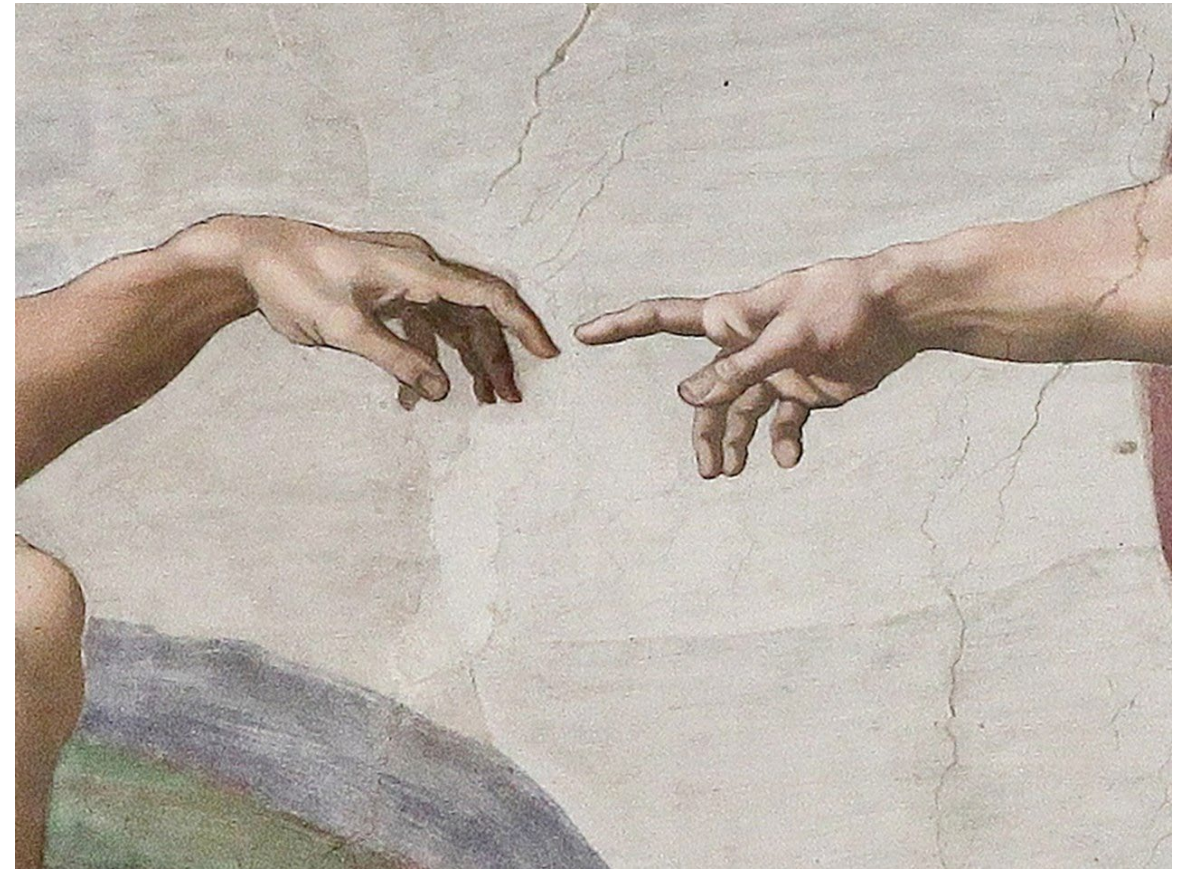
A way of responding to the question, “What does it mean to be a human person?” by studying:

- The human person in the context of the created world
- What Scripture reveals about human nature
- What the teachings of the Church (Sacred Tradition) reveal about human nature



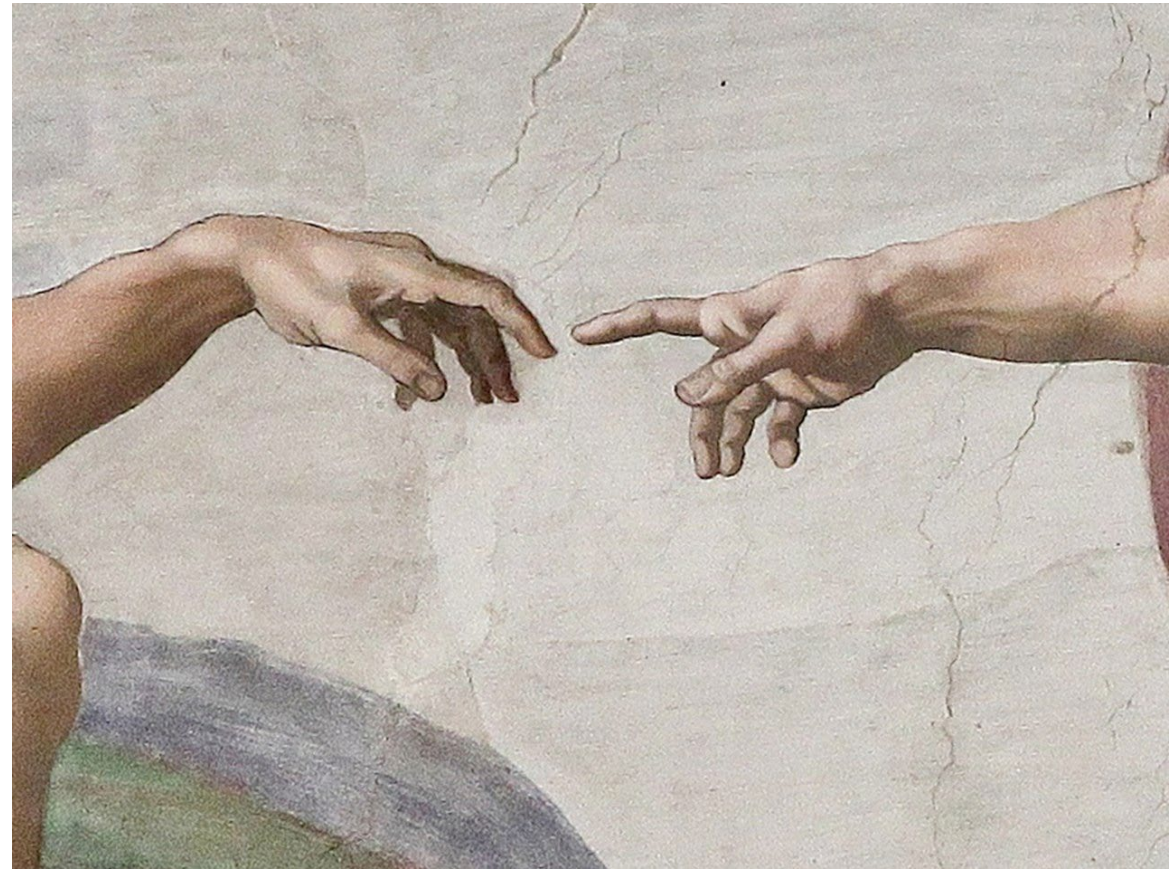
Top 3 Takeaways of Catholic Anthropology

1. Human beings are made for intimate relationship with God and others.
2. There is a unity between body and soul.
3. Sexual intimacy represents a complete gift of self, both body and soul.



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The Human Person as *Imago Dei*

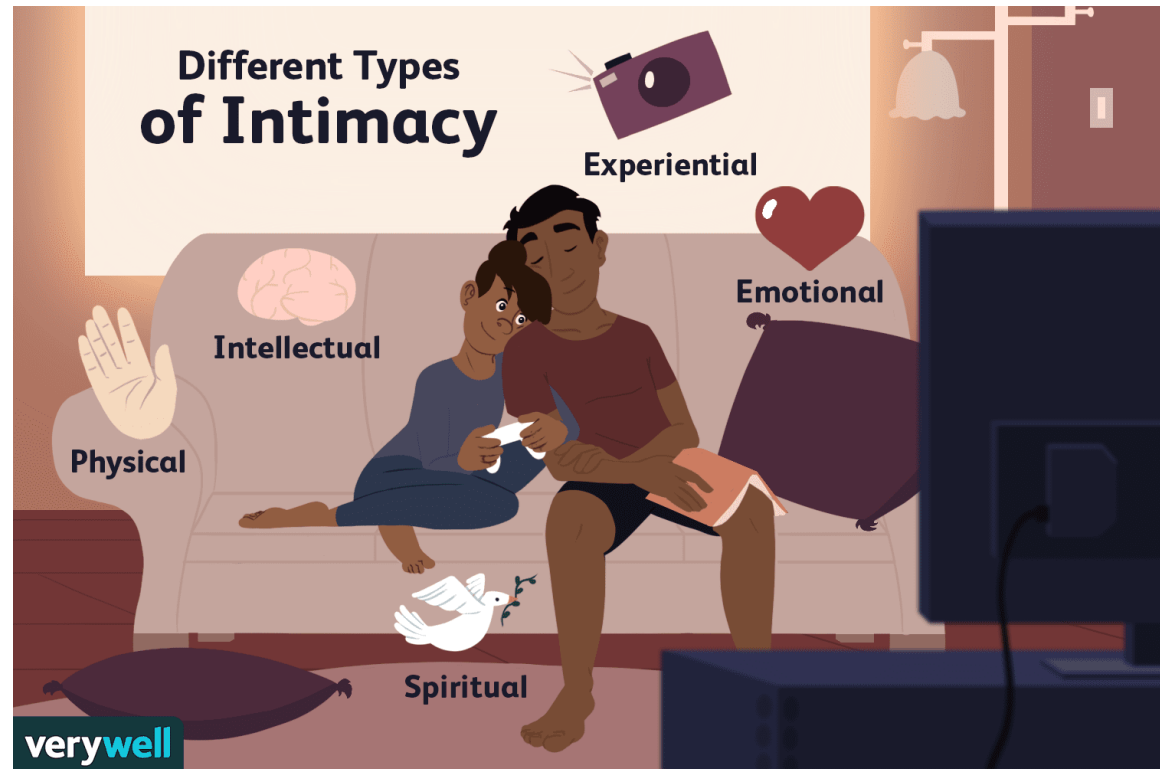
- To be human is to be made in the *image and likeness of God* (Imago Dei).
- “Then God said: Let us make human beings in our image, after our likeness... God created mankind in his image; in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them” (Gen. 1: 26-27).
- The Trinity is the *intimate* communion of Father, Son and Holy Spirit
 - We are made for *intimate* relationship with God and others

What is Intimacy?

Intimacy refers to familiarity or closeness in relationship

Different kinds of intimacy:

- Spiritual
- Emotional
- Intellectual
- Experiential
- Physical
- Sexual

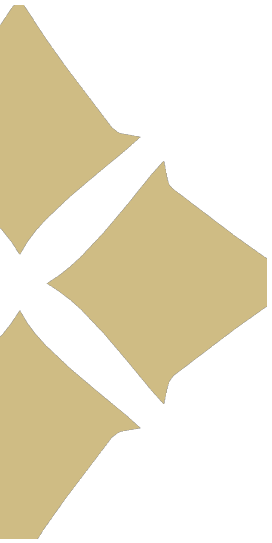


Sexual Intimacy

In a healthy marriage, sexual intimacy is present **alongside** the other dimensions of intimacy.

- Sexual intimacy involves a full gift of self to the other.
- This requires vulnerability, knowledge of one's authentic self, and the ability to recognize one's spouse as gift and mystery.





Given what we've learned so far, why do you think pornography might be considered an *illusion* of intimacy?



Illusions of Intimacy

Pornography tries to present sexual intimacy as the only dimension of intimacy.

- This gives a one-dimensional view of intimacy that ignores the human need for the other types of intimacy.

Pornography provides only an **illusion** of intimacy, since there is no real relationship between the persons on the screen and the consumer.





Quick Review

Answer these questions based on what you remember from our last class

1. What is anthropology?

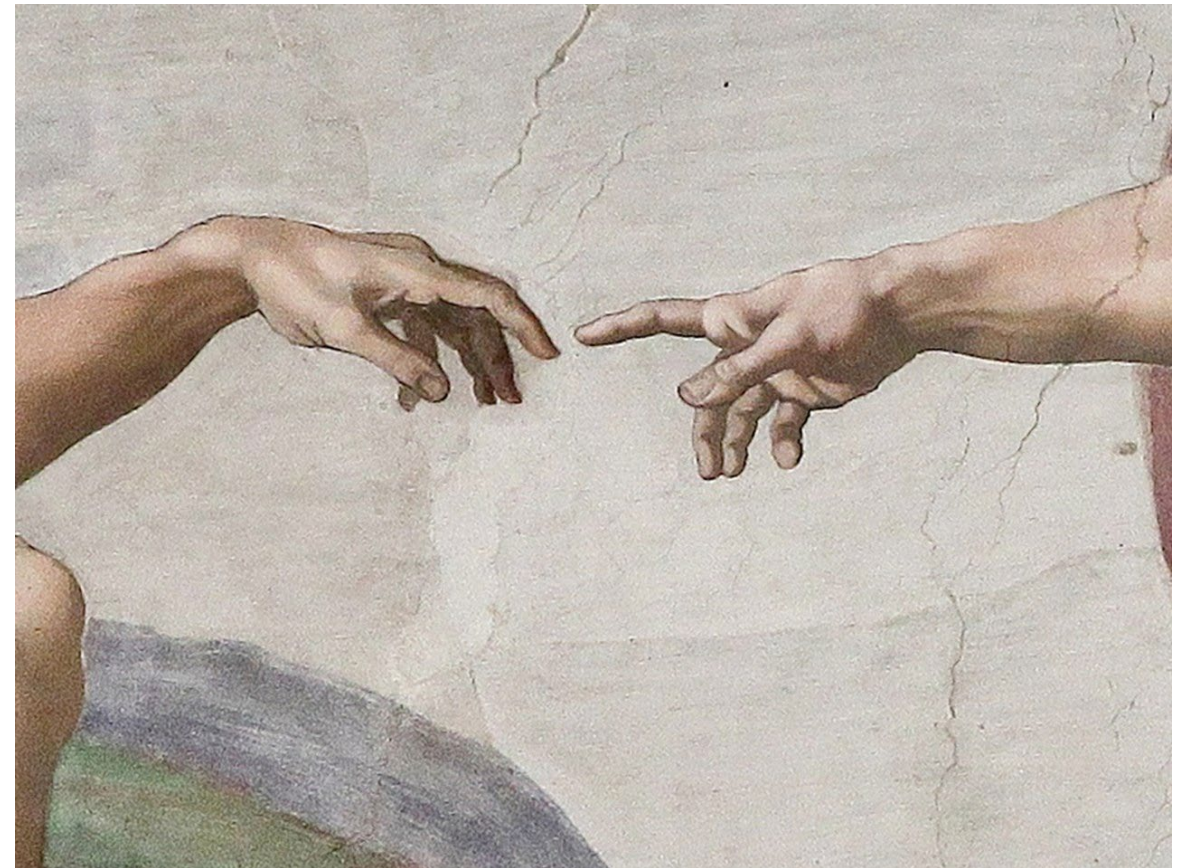
1. What are we studying when we explore *Catholic* anthropology?

1. The first takeaway of Catholic anthropology was, “Human beings are made for intimate relationship with God and others.” Why is pornography an *illusion* of intimacy?



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The Human Person as Body and Soul

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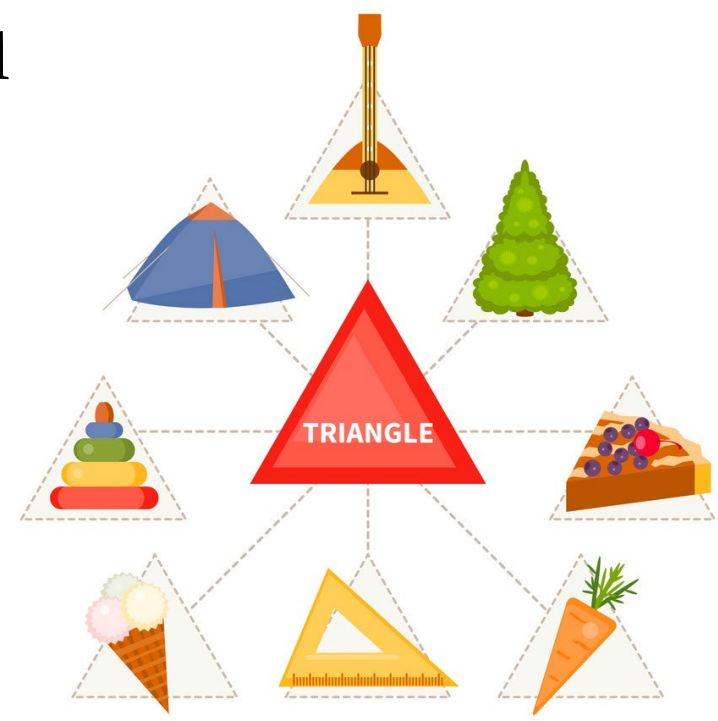
- “God formed the man out of the dust of the ground”
 - Indicates the bodily formation of the human person
- “[God] blew into his nostrils the breath of life”
 - Indicates the creation of the soul



The Soul

The soul provides human beings with **rationality** and **will**

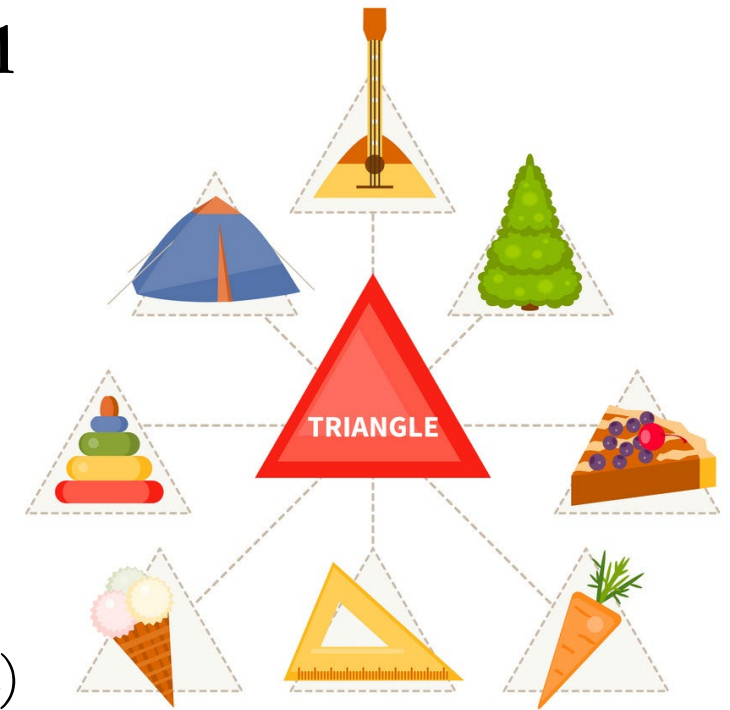
- **Rationality:** allows us to *conceptualize* what we take in through our senses
 - Ex: Conceptualizing ‘triangle’ based on observing many triangular objects



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- **Rationality:** allows us to *conceptualize* what we take in through our senses
 - Ex: Conceptualizing ‘triangle’ based on observing many triangular objects
- **Will:** allows us to make *free choices*
 - Ex: *Choosing* to eat a cheeseburger for lunch (free choice) vs. digesting my food (not an act of the will)



The Body

- “The soul...is not an entire man, and I am not my soul.”
 - St. Thomas Aquinas
- The body is essential to a person’s identity
- The dignity of the body is fully revealed through the Incarnation
 - God considers the body so good that He chooses to take on human flesh in Jesus Christ





Unity of Body and Soul

- Both Catholic doctrine and natural reason suggest that there is a **unity** of body and soul. What happens to my body affects my soul, and vice versa.



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- Both Catholic doctrine and natural reason suggest that there is a **unity** of body and soul. What happens to my body affects my soul, and vice versa.
- In his teaching known as “Theology of the Body,” St. John Paul II speaks of the “language of the body.”
 - Language of the Body: The idea that bodily gestures carry meaning
 - A person’s *intentions* should match the meaning conveyed by their *bodily actions*, but this is not always the case.
 - Ex: If I shake someone’s hand but I actually hate them, there’s a contradiction there. This would be an example of “telling a lie” through the body.

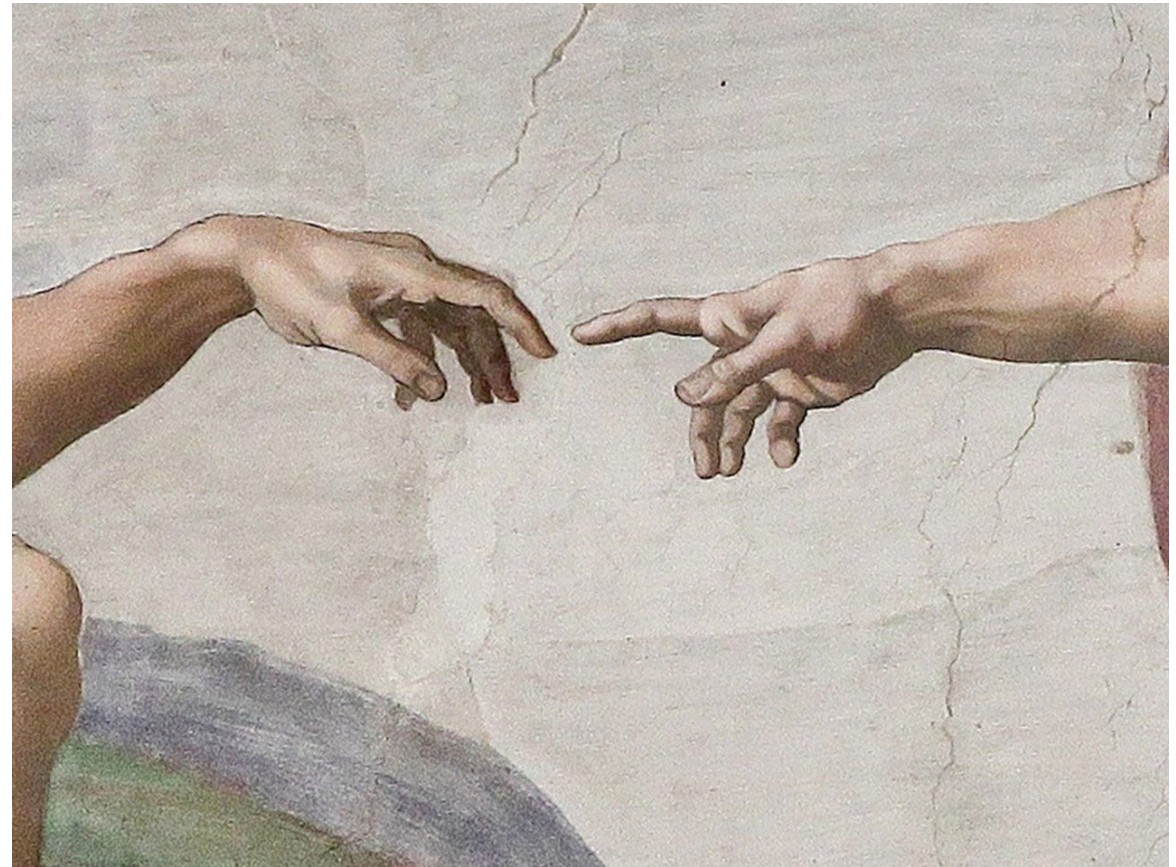


How does pornography deny the unity between the body and the soul?



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Made for Love

The LORD God said: It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suited to him...The man gave names to all the tame animals, all the birds of the air, and all the wild animals; but none proved to be a helper suited to the man. So the LORD God cast a deep sleep on the man, and while he was asleep, he took out one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. The LORD God then built the rib that he had taken from the man into a woman. When he brought her to the man, the man said: **“This one, at last, is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; This one shall be called ‘woman,’ for out of man this one has been taken.”** That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one body. The man and his wife were both naked, yet they felt no shame. (Gen. 2:18-25).

Made for Love

- Adam and Eve are designed to receive one another as gifts
 - They do not just receive one another's bodies, but they receive one another as whole persons, both body and soul.
- This shows that authentic love is to will the good of the whole person, both body and soul. This is the kind of love we are made for.





Embodied Love

Since there is a unity between the soul and body, our intentions should match the meaning conveyed by our bodily gestures.



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- In marriage, a husband and wife declare their **intention** to be faithful to one another and welcome children into their lives.
- For a married couple engaging in sexual intercourse, the **meaning** conveyed through their action matches their **intentions**. They are “telling the truth” through the language of the body.



Embodied Love

For the married couple, sex represents:

- A complete gift of self
- A reverent receiving of the spouse, both in body and soul
- A willingness to sacrifice for the good of the spouse (and children that come from their union)





When someone is viewing pornography what do they **NOT** know about the person they're viewing on the screen?



Embodied Exploitation

- While authentic love honors the whole person (body and soul) pornography *reduces* a person to their body alone.
- Pornography leaves no room for sacrifice. Instead, it suggests that sex is only about pleasure, and that persons are valuable only for the sexual gratification they can provide the viewer through exploitation.





What Pornography Fails to Provide

- The stories, emotions, and life experiences of the persons engaging in sexual activity
- The personal communion formed between spouses
- The joy that is found in giving oneself as a gift to another
- The security and validation that comes from being fully known and loved by another person
- While pornography can provide the viewer sexual pleasure, it fails to provide real intimacy, which is often the very desire that leads someone to seek out pornography in the first place.



“The problem with pornography is not that it shows too much of the person, but that it shows far too little.”

- Pope St. John Paul II