

Theology of the Body



Lent

A Body of Desire

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“We thus have a sweeping and comprehensive set of doctrinal reasons and mainstream practices for regarding the body as having a central place in the purposes of God and the life of Christians. And yet, despite all this, there is a tendency to take a negative view of the body, sometimes to ignore it and try to rise above it.”

- Fraser Watts, *A Plea for Embodied Spirituality*



“Desire makes us act and when we act what we do will either lead to greater integration or disintegration within our personalities, minds, and bodies—and to the strengthening or deterioration of our relationship with God, others, and the cosmic world.”

- Ronald Rolheiser, *The Holy Longing*

“You have made us for yourself, and our heart is restless until it finds rest in you.” - Augustine

“In its truest sense, eros signals a desire and attraction that is a good feature of our creaturehood. Instead of setting up a false dichotomy between agape and eros, we could think of agape as rightly ordered eros: the love of Christ that is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit (Rom 5:5) is a redeemed, rightly ordered desire for God. You are what you desire.”

- James K.A. Smith, *You Are What You Love*

1. We need to realize our “ruined condition.”

“The challenge to the unqualified goodness of desire can only be voiced when we remain committed to the most realistic view of what it means to be human. Without the doctrine of sin, we are led towards being unusually optimistic about our humanity. We will refuse to face the viciousness of our capabilities and will trust our desires too much and fear ourselves too little.”

- Jen Pollock Michel, *Teach Us to Want*

2. We need a renovation of our desires.

