

## ***Men and Women are from Eden***

### **Dr. Mary Healy**

#### **Chapter Eight: Love is Fruitful**

1. Love: Unitive and Generative
  - a. The entire *Theology of the Body* points to the inseparable connection between the union of spouses and the generation of life
  - b. This connection is at the heart of God's plan by which human beings image the Trinity
  - c. Analogy of Saint Augustine: Lover, Beloved, Love
2. *Humanae Vitae*: Response to a Crisis
  - a. New factors: Fears of overpopulation, changing role and status of women, new technologies, humanity's control over forces of nature
  - b. *Casti connubii* (1930) of Pius XI reaffirmed the traditional teaching of Christianity
  - c. Expectations of Revision in Catholic teachings
  - d. Widespread dissent after publication: "Washington Statement"
  - e. Emergence of "contraceptive mentality": views fertility as disease, and children as a burden; sex is reduced purely to pleasure and recreation
3. A Prophetic Response
  - a. *Humanae Vitae* taught that love has its origins in God's design and is fully human, total, faithful, and fruitful
  - b. Cardinal Wojtyła was a member of the "Birth Control Commission"
  - c. The *theology of the body* gives the Church's sexual ethics a profoundly personalistic and biblical dimension: total self-gift
    - i. A "total gift of self" in love includes the potential fatherhood and motherhood intrinsic to masculinity and femininity
    - ii. A contraceptive sexual act falsifies the "language of the body"
4. A New Act of Creation
  - a. Scriptures speak of the mysterious divine presence that occurs in each sexual union
  - b. A new person is a gift from God, who reflects God's image uniquely, and is a visible sign of the love of the spouses for one another
  - c. The natural law can be known by all, and human cultures have long recognized that separating the life-giving potential from sex is always something wrong
  - d. Divine Fatherhood: the more one comes to know God, the more one trusts Him; the trust of God's loving plan must be at the foundation of acceptance of the teachings that are "hard to accept"
5. Natural Family Planning vs. Contraception
  - a. Natural Family Planning (NFP) accepts fertility as an intrinsic good, integral to the human person
  - b. NFP requires effort on the part of the spouses
    - i. Shapes the character of the couple; deepens their respect for each other as persons; strengthens mutual love; helps them grow in chastity; develops other forms of intimacy
  - c. NFP is a practice that builds virtue and deepens authentic love; requires self-mastery
  - d. Couples are called to responsible parenthood

6. Reproductive technologies
  - a. Many technologies separate the unitive and procreative dimensions of human sexuality
  - b. Production of children in a laboratory demeans the beauty of human sexuality, and offends the dignity of children conceived in this manner
  - c. View of children shifts from gift to commodity
  - d. Church does not oppose medical interventions that assist in normal sexual union
  - e. Pope Paul VI Institute at Creighton University
  - f. Infertility calls for understanding and compassion; can be a heavy cross to bear
7. True freedom
  - a. Full truth and meaning of human sexuality offers happiness
  - b. Trinity invites each human being into a mysterious communion of love: by God's mercy and grace we are able to share in this love

### **Chapter Nine: Building a Culture of Life**

1. Battle of Culture
  - a. Many cultural influences are undermining marriage, family, dignity of human person, sanctity of life
  - b. As the family goes, so goes humanity
2. The Gospel of Life
  - a. *Gospel of Life* published in 1995: call to rediscover the great mystery of God's creation and redemption of human life
  - b. The *Gospel of Life* is a prophetic document: pope speaks on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves
  - c. Rejection of utilitarian approach to humanity
  - d. Human life is beautiful, despite frailty and sufferings
3. Murder
  - a. Nobody can decide the moment of a human person's death: each individual is called by God, who has a plan for him or her
  - b. Humans must accept responsibility for their brothers and sisters
  - c. We live in a culture of death: death is a solution to many problems
4. God's Love for the World
  - a. The mystery of the cross reveals that death does not have the final say
  - b. Love is at the heart of transformation from death to life
  - c. Hope: there is not sin against life that is so immense that it cannot be forgiven
5. Evangelization
  - a. The theology of the body brings out the truth about humanity in a clear and concise way
  - b. The cultural battle can only be won through truth and through love
  - c. Christians are called to become living icons of the truth that can set one free: Christians must first themselves by transformed
  - d. The "primacy of being over having" is crucial for re-establishing a prophetic lifestyle in the midst of a culture of materialism and use
  - e. The family plays a crucial role in the evangelization of society: stands as a witness of radiant joy and love of Christ
  - f. Each person is called to make decisions in his own life with unshakable confidence in the triumph of the Risen Lord