

Lust versus Love

Aim: To show that God's original plan of self-giving love was spoiled by Adam and Eve choosing to be selfish. How does this manifest in the world today? Lust is a selfish desire to use the body for one's own satisfaction. It is looking at a person as an object and not respecting the unique gift of God in the individual. Love on the other hand is the unselfish giving to someone for their good.

Objectives: Brief understanding of when lust started in the world. (*The Fall*)

Learners must distinguish between an object and a person. (*Natural Law*)

Learners must be able to define lust and how it objectifies someone. (*True love*)

Learners must be aware of lust in relationships.

Pornography is an example of objectifying the person.

The use of lust in the advertising industry has created unreal body images and promotes gender stereotyping.

Introduction: Analogy of a sports car to explain the Natural Law

Definition of The Natural law. ***Life to the Full states on pg 10, "Love is the fundamental and innate vocation of every human being."***

5min

The result of The Fall was the sins of selfishness which manifest in Lust and the seeking of power

Gen 3:7 Why did Adam and Eve cover their bodies?

They did not feel safe with each other. Eve felt Adam wanted to use her for his own fun. Adam felt Eve wanted to use him for her fun.

Note the contrast before the fall and the consequences after the fall. The human heart has now become the battlefield between love and lust. A person becomes an object for someone else's pleasure. The desire for power entered the world and was manifest in relationships. After The Fall there was a break between body and spirit. ***Life to the Full states on pg 10, "Love integrates body, mind and soul into a unified whole and cannot be split into a physical and a spiritual part"***

10min

Main Body: 1. Balloon Game

Discussion: The balloon is an object. What can you do with an object?

use it, possess it, enjoy it, ignore it, sell it, buy it, discard it, break it, protect it, play with it, decorate it, admire it, look after it, desire it,

A human is a person how do we relate to a person?

Play with them, protect them, nurture them, dress them, talk to them, respect them, acknowledge their feelings, share with them,

When we treat a person as an object we use them, sell them, buy them, play with them, discard them, ignore them, desire them for our own satisfaction.

Life to the Full on Pg 11, "Sexuality is a gift from God that can help us give and receive unconditional love"

15min

2. How do we Use People as Objects?

- **Immodest dress:** Dressing immodestly can cause others to lust. We allow them to see us as objects to be used. The Natural Law inside someone is easily
- **Premarital Sex:** Sexual union is when a person gives themselves totally to another. God wanted man and woman to come together in a personal union on the deepest level of their being. (*Image of God*). Premarital sex is most often under the circumstances when a person gives their body but withholds their spirit. The body is dominant and lust is present.

5min

Life to the Full states Pg 6 “When we speak about the fullness of life in God, it means that because we are made in the image of God we are destined to experienced life in all its fullness, both now and in the future.

5min

- **Advertising Industry:** Class will divide into groups to discuss an advert each. They will answer how each advert objectifies the person, creates lust and enhances gender stereotyping.

The body images of men and women are tweaked to be unreal. People strive to make their bodies like those seen on the magazines. The body becomes the most important part of a person. The advertising industry uses lust to sell their products and mostly women are objectified as sex objects. Gender stereotyping reinforces the power of men over women.

10min

- **Material gain:** people use each other for personal gain and promotion

Conclusion:

Theology of the Body provides us with a model from which we can understand who we are and our purpose on earth. As a science teacher I would find it impossible to understand many things in science if Bohr had not developed the model of the atom. This model does not explain everything but provides a framework which we can continually test.

Our schools are confronted daily with pornography, immodest dress, premarital sex, and behaviour that shows an obsession with the body. Theology of the Body has been used to explain how the person is turned into an object that is often used and discarded like the balloons we have just played with. Unfortunately if a person is used too much they can end up broken like the balloons in the dustbins. There are many deep theological terms that have been used in the presentation which need to be fully taught and explained to the learners. As a result the learners will have a model of human sexuality which they can use as a framework to understand the many other ideologies that are present in the media, books and other spoken about by people.

Life to the Full states on page 11 that one of the goals in sexuality education is to empower the learners to “Have the courage to stand up against the social forces that divorce the physical desires for sex and power from their minds and souls, recognizing God’s presence in their lives as human beings.

I hope the lesson has achieved this goal to a small degree.

5min

Total Time

55min