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# An Undivided Heart: How Mary Unites What Sin Divides According to John Paul II's Theology of the Body

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## Research Questions

- What can Mary teach us about being human?
- How does Mary illustrate John Paul II's personalism (human subjectivity) in Theology of the Body (TOB)?

## Method

- I compared the themes of TOB to Mary's life, using Scripture and the Marian Dogmas.
- Sources: John Paul II's TOB, Scripture, Papal Encyclicals, and secondary sources.

## Conclusion

- TOB affirms the human person as a subject who is created to enter into a self-giving relationship.
- Mary exemplifies this in her expression of self-giving love and shows humanity that relationship with God is personalistic and spousal.

## What Sin Divides...

### Creature & Creator

When Adam and Eve ate from the Tree against God's command, they grasped instead of receiving from their Creator; thus, there was a disruption in the exchange of gift of love with God.

### Body & Soul

When humanity separated from God, the body and soul, once perfectly united, were divided. The spiritual and the sensible were separated.

### Eros & Agape

With sin, love became twisted into lust, a desire for selfish pleasure instead of a total gift of self.

## Mary Brings Together!



### Immaculate Conception & Divine Motherhood

From conception, Mary remained united to God. In the Incarnation, she received God himself and gave herself totally by her consent and motherhood.



### Perpetual Virginitly & Assumption

Mary shows that the earthly spousal union is only a foretaste of the heavenly marriage with God. Mary's body and soul remained in perfect harmony in the resurrection of her body.



### Eros & Agape

Mary embodied perfect, self-giving love. Mary acts as the mystical bride of Christ as the foot of the cross, receiving the Bridegroom's self-gift.

## OLD COVENANT

God is the  
Bridegroom of his  
chosen people, Israel,  
his Bride



## MARY

At the foot of the  
cross, mystical  
nuptials take place  
between Jesus, the  
"New Adam," and  
Mary, the "New Eve"



## NEW COVENANT

At Mass, the Church,  
the Bride, becomes  
"one flesh" with  
Christ, the  
Bridegroom