

Guest Lecture – Roger Friedland – October 15, 2009
“Sex, Love, and God”

- ❖ Sex is seen as low, physical, and transient VS. God which is seen as high, spiritual, and forever
- ❖ Friedland argues that actually the two are connected
 - Ex. St. Augustine, Song of Solomon
 - Ex. “God is Love” writing by the Pope
 - What is the relationship between eros (erotic love) and agape (love of God)?
 - For us to love other people, we are acting in God’s image
 - The pope wants to rescue eros – he sees it as a foretaste of the divine
 - Friedland wants to look at students’ *love lives* more so than their sex lives.

Last Year’s Study...

- ❖ 1/3 of students had not engaged in sexual activity
- ❖ ¾ of last sex acts involved intercourse; 1/3 involved oral sex; 5% were anal sex
- ❖ 1/3 of last sex acts was the 1st time with that particular partner
- ❖ 2/3 of last sex acts were done sober
- ❖ About half of the last sex acts – the person didn’t love their partner
- ❖ About 1/3 not looking for a relationship to develop
- ❖ More difficult for women to separate sex and love (but it is difficult for a good number of men too)
 - But for those who said that it wasn’t difficult to separate sex and love, they were more likely to have been drunk
- ❖ (For a number of women...) Sex is seen as a sport, love equated with weakness (being “girly”), don’t have time for a relationship
- ❖ 50% of those surveyed don’t expect to be with the same person for life
- ❖ There is pressure from parents, friends, 3rd wave feminism (?) to not get tied down in a relationship
- ❖ Friedland argues that women experience an increase in desire for a relationship after having sex (release of hormones)
- ❖ Being in love with the partner increases the chance for orgasm
- ❖ Those who have no doubts about belief in God find having sex with no emotional attachment harder
 - “Religion conditions people’s ability to love” (Friedland)

Studying love...

- ❖ Love is an institutional substance
 - It is not just a justification for action, but it actually makes certain kinds of action possible
 - Because it is an institutional substance, we cannot observe it
 - Because we believe in love, this belief enables us to be lovers
 - Connection between the actor – action – substance

- There are 3 different kinds of love “substances”
 - Romantic love
 - Sacramental love
 - Fun, pleasure