

SUPERNATURAL WHAT?

Supernatural love. So what is it?

There are many kinds of love. I love chocolate I love a good movie. I would love a new car! I love my dog. I love my friends. And in a much more powerful way I love my mom and dad and relatives, and my husband and my children.

But people for thousands of years have loved like this; it's a natural power we have as humans.

But there is a kind of love that is not possible to our ordinary human powers; it's a power to love that comes to us from God. That's why we call it Supernatural Love, and it has the ability to open our hearts to the power of The Holy Spirit in so many new ways. It gives us the ability to love in ways we never thought possible. I know because, for the longest time, I didn't know anything about this kind of love.

Do you ever feel like people are "dumbing down" the meaning of life and their expectations of you? Are you tired of being fed a mediocre message filled with compromise or conflicting statements like, "Well, let's face it; we would *like* our teens to save themselves till marriage, but the fact is, they *can't* say no."

I'm sick and tired of these kinds of messages!

In fact, I began speaking to teens on the message of chastity after hearing one of these mediocre messages at a local parish. They said they were promoting abstinence, but they were engaging in double talk. You've heard it before; it goes something like this, "Don't have sex! *But*, if you *do*, use a condom." The

presenters told me afterwards that of course they *want* young people to abstain, but that it was prudent to face the fact that ultimately teens cannot say no.

This infuriated me! Teenager is *not* synonymous with ignorance or lack of restraint. Teens are *not* the animals the media portrays them to be!

I make this point in my presentation when I ask a member of my audience if they are hungry. I then call up this person and offer them a bag of chips or an exceptionally large candy bar. I then offer to exchange the treat for a crisp five-dollar bill (which they are allowed to keep!) I have had only one teen refuse the money.

The point? You and I are not the same as animals; we are superior to animals in our unique ability to govern our passions. We as human beings have the ability to choose between what we want or don't want based on how these wants will affect our lives. We use our belief systems to discern the benefits of our choices and then, using our power to think clearly, and exercising our free will, we implement the *best* choice. We *choose*. Animals do not choose.

If my Weiner dog Mindy is hungry and I put a hot dog on one plate and a five dollar bill on another I can pretty much guarantee she will eat the hot dog. Animals are governed by their passions; we are not. We (human beings) create symphonies and the Mona Lisa; we invent the telephone and the Internet. The earliest cave dwellers painted pictures of deer on the walls of their caves; but think about it; deer have never painted pictures of humans, anywhere!

(I've made a few more small changes to the above, and continue below, 'til noted.)

We are unique creations. Each of us possess – compared to the rest of creation – infinite value, dignity and purpose. This awesome truth hit me very powerfully

one day, and inspired me to begin speaking to young people all across the country about chastity, abstinence and our faith in Jesus Christ and His amazing Church. I believe with all my heart that young people can understand the *truth* – and they will embrace it – if only they are allowed to hear it without it being watered down.

No one told me the truth when I was seeking answers. ☹️

I remember when I was in High School I told my guidance counselor that I was being pressured to become physically intimate. I will never forget her response. She said (and I quote) “You will know when you’re ready; and by the way, we should get you on the pill right away in case you decide you’re ready.” This woman dumbed down the message of love. Her answer told me that my value and dignity were zero. She expected me to behave like an animal. It was inevitable, in her view, that I would succumb to my passions and she needed to protect me from pregnancy. How I wish now that she would have invested her efforts in protecting my soul and dignity as well as my body.

She could have begun by telling me why I was created.

Why were we created? We were created to know God, to love God and to serve God in this life, so we can be happy with Him forever in the next. We were created for love! To love “*love*” itself, for all eternity!

This fact gives us tremendous dignity. *You* can make a difference. You *make* a difference!

One person can change the world forever, for good or evil. Hitler was one man. His “no” to love, his refusal to know and serve God impacted the world in a terrible way. On the other hand, Mother Theresa is one person whose “yes” resounded in a cascade of love that changed the world and many people in it for

all time.

I believe in young people. I believe in their intelligence and their wills, and their ability to chasten and discipline themselves. I will *not* lower the bar! Rather, I want to help raise the bar, and lift up everyone who is inspired to answer God's call to know love and serve Him with their very lives.

To do this, we all need Supernatural love. We need to understand it and we need to embrace it.

You probably know this already, but our society proposes a false definition of love. This false definition is everywhere: in television, music and the Internet. It not only confuses our understanding of it, but it reinforces that confusion by pressuring us to behave in a way that is consistent with that false understanding. In other words, we are pressured to live the lie. (A good teacher always makes you use any new words you learn in a sentence, right?)

Instead of selfless love, we learn to think and behave as if love is selfish. Love, if you would listen to the media, is what I can *get*, not what I can *give*, even if it means giving and exposing the most precious parts of my body, for all the world to see.

The media's idea of love – let's be honest – is at least R rated, if not X rated. Instead of sharing *lives* based on the commitment of marriage, it pressures us to exchange *body fluids*, based on casual acquaintances, with any “significant other.” How romantic!

Is that all there is to love? Even when it's not presented in all it's R rated glory (or should I say *gory*?), love at least reduced to starry eyed romantic feelings, from “butterflies,” all the way to intense ache of passionate desire that sends your heart into your throat when that certain significant other walks by. The

result? An almost uncontrollable desire for immediate gratification, with no thought of the consequence for your body, emotions or soul.

The truth is that love is not an emotion (or butterflies, etc) at all but is an *act of the will*. It is something we *do* not something we *feel*. Of course, special feelings often go along with love, but the only kind of love worthy of the name is self-giving. It does not hold anything back or expect anything in return.

Am I saying that this kind of love – true love – is easy? Not at all, it's the hardest thing you will ever do in life. Deep down you already know this. It's because our bodies crave the easy way. It is because our bodies love pleasure.

Does this mean that pleasure is bad! Not at all! God created pleasure. (Remember, the devil cannot create anything, he can only mess up something that God already created.) Something is bad when we *use it in the wrong way*, in the wrong place, and at the wrong time. Do you think God – the Creator of the universe – enjoys giving us rules for the sake of giving us rules? It's easy to think that, but the truth is that every single one of God's rules are there because He knows that we will harm ourselves or others – oftentimes in a deadly way – if we misuse His gifts.

Just think for a moment of all the good things in life. If you have never thought about this before, you will notice that God has associated pleasure with many things, but He has associated the greatest pleasure with things that are related to life: things (or activities) that either bring life into the world, or things that sustain life once it has begun.

We'll talk more about this later, but just to get this important point planted in our heads, it will help us to think briefly about two of the greatest pleasures related to life, and see that they can be legitimately enjoyed, or they can be misused. Interestingly, (you might even say ironically) depending on the way God's gifts

are used, they bring life, or death.

First let's think for a moment about what we need for life after it has begun. Water in the right amount is absolutely necessary for life, but in a flood, it is a terrible destroying thing. Fire is another example. In a fireplace, it will keep you from freezing, and cook your food, but in a forest, it is terribly destructive. Even food – absolutely necessary, in the right quantity, but too much will cause you disease.

All of the above things are beautiful and very enjoyable, but only in the right measure and at the right time!

It is the same with the process for bringing life into the world. And what is the right time and place for us to use this beautiful power? We all know the answer: when a man and a woman have made a permanent pledge to give themselves to each other. We call this marriage. And we all know the rest of the story: when we use God's gift of sex in marriage to serve life, we experience more life and love and joy, but when we use it outside of marriage, we experience heartbreak, disease and nowadays, death.

We'll talk more about this later, but let's get back to the way love has to war with the body to accomplish the mission of love.