

Dissertation Abstract

“The Unity of Freedom and Truth: The Human Person in the Order of Love in the
Thought of Karol Józef Wojtyła/Blessed John Paul II”

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This work undertakes to show that both freedom and truth belong to man, that they are constitutive to his personhood, and that their “membership” in man follows a particular specificity, that is, unity. Because love consists in engaging personal freedom in the gift of self on the basis of the truth of the person, this work reveals the essence of love in terms of the unity of freedom and truth. We demonstrate this unity on the basis of man’s inherent relation to God, thus man’s intrinsic relationality. The main sources for this work are Karol Wojtyła/John Paul II’s early philosophical and theological writings, i.e., those composed before and right after his election to the papacy.

Chapter I provides the *status questionis* in four points. First, we outline the metaphysical concepts of truth, unity, and freedom, while intuiting their interrelation. Second, we take a look at the Declaration *Dignitatis Humanae*, which places the right to religious freedom in light of truth. Third, we present two main interpretations of the Declaration in relation to truth and freedom. Fourth, we finally introduce Karol Wojtyła/John Paul II and his involvement at the Second Vatican Council.

Chapter II constitutes a philosophical consideration of the realization of freedom and truth in the individual man in light of his experience of himself and his action. This

chapter examines the personal realities of consciousness, self-determination, and transcendence.

In **Chapter III**, the theological reflections on the human person affirm his fundamental relation to God, whose image cannot be fully and properly manifested in man unless through the harmony of freedom and truth. This chapter examines man's original experiences and the significance of the human body in the sacramental revelation of man in truth.

Chapter IV of this work employs philosophical reflections to demonstrate the interpersonal and social dimensions of human action in truth and freedom. This chapter discusses human fulfillment through participation in virtue of the harmony between the ontological and moral orders. We end this chapter by presenting an outline of Karol Wojtyła/John Paul II's interpretation of *Dignitatis Humanae*.