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Abstract

John Paul II's *Theology of the Body*, outlines an anthropological understanding of the human person as composite body and soul, emphasizing that the body serves as a meaningful symbol by which one communicates oneself in the pursuit of communion. Approaching communication theories, specifically symbolic interactionism, with this symbolic understanding of the human person has great implications. This thesis brings into concert the lens of human anthropology articulated in the *Theology of the Body* and the concepts and principles central to symbolic interactionism to more fully illuminate how the act of interaction, both through the language of words and of the body, is a place capable of communicating and discovering the fullness of the meaning of the human person. Through this pursuit, many insights into how interpersonal communication can achieve a communion of persons through a communion of meaning are extrapolated.

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