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A warm hello to you and to each of my esteemed listeners! Welcome to EWTN's Open Line Tuesday edition! I'm Barbara McGuigan, alive and grateful to be with you each Tuesday...and Saturdays on The Good Fight! It is a grace to know you! Hope you had a Blessed Thanksgiving Day, too! God's airwaves are open and here are the numbers to call:

In North America call 1-800-585-9396
Outside North America call 1-205-271-2985
Our email address is always: Openline@ewtn.com

Brothers and sisters, today I'm going to talk about an important subject but one that's really just for grownups, not for any little ones, so please be forewarned. I'll give you a second or two and then begin.

I thought the entire "controversy" over Pope Benedict's comments about condoms in the Seewald interview, which has caused a feeding frenzy among the lame stream media, would die out by now, but it hasn't. And since many folks today appear to get their "soul-life" from a media that is blatantly secular with a clear bias against anything Christian, with Catholicism consistently taking one blow after another from those who've never experienced the noble art of being formed in the Catholic Faith, I thought it would be beneficial to clear the air.

Brothers and sisters, it is dangerous to be "broad-minded about sin." As the late Archbishop Fulton Sheen said, "Christian love bears evil, but it does not tolerate it... It forgives the sinner, and it hates the sin; it is unmerciful to the error in his mind."

In a news report this week about a recent poll of Baby Boomers, the writer says that these 76 million of our fellow Americans who were born in the post-World War II years, 1945 to 1960, were "the group that spearheaded the sexual revolution, coming of age as birth control became readily available, premarital sex gained wider acceptance and abortion was legalized." The author then wrote that these "Boomers also were many of the first victims of the AIDS epidemic – a disaster Pope Benedict XVI now says Catholics can avoid by using condoms."

OK! Time out! That is *not* what the Pope said at all; he *never* said Catholics or anyone else can morally use condoms!

What was that reporter talking about? Well, on November 20, The *Osservatore Romano*, the Vatican newspaper, had published a tiny excerpt from Peter Seewald's new book, *Light of the World: The Pope, The Church and The Signs of the Times*, without any context whatsoever.

Here are the words of our beloved Pope, that now have caused headlines to falsely shout, "Pope says condoms sometimes permissible to stop AIDS" and "Pope: condoms can be justified in some cases," and one writer to wrongly claim, "Finally, the Catholic Church is entering the 21st Century!" Pope Benedict, speaking not officially or authoritatively at all but just answering interviewer Seewald, said last summer:

> **There may be a basis in the case of some individuals, as perhaps when a male prostitute uses a condom, where this can be a first step in the direction of a moralization, a first assumption of responsibility, on the way toward recovering an awareness that not everything allowed and that one cannot do whatever one wants. But it is not really the way to deal with the evil of HIV infection. That can really lie only in a humanization of sexuality.**

Keep in mind, this isn't the first time our Pope has been misquoted. Remember back in March 2009, when Pope Benedict was flying to Africa on his first apostolic visit to that continent? Answering a question about the Catholic Church's position on the use of condoms, particularly in Africa, he explicitly stated that condoms are not the answer to the AIDS epidemic in Africa. Condoms, he added, can even make the problem worse. Well, a frenzy broke loose in the media! "How could he say such a thing?"

Well-formed consciences had no problem with this, and the African Catholic bishops clearly understood the wisdom of Mother Church. So much so that they released a statement in May 2009 that said in part:

> **Pope Benedict's position on condom use is not new. He was only reaffirming the Church's position with regards to the use of condoms in the fight against AIDS. His predecessor, Pope John Paul II, often said that sexual abstinence, not condoms, was the best way to prevent the spread of the disease. It is also clear that the Catholic Church has always been at the forefront of the battle against AIDS and she is most probably the largest private provider of HIV care in the world.**
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> **As Pope Benedict said, you can't resolve the spread of HIV with the distribution of condoms, "On the contrary, it increases the problem."**
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> **This therefore calls for a responsible and moral attitude toward sex as the only sure way of succeeding in the fight against the disease. The Catholic Church advocates fidelity in marriage, chastity and abstinence from premarital sex as key weapons in the fight against AIDS.**
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> **Indeed, the only solution as the Pope pointed out is two-fold: the first is a humanization of sexuality, a human, spiritual renewal which brings with it a new way of behaving among people and, secondly, a true friendship, especially for those who are suffering, a willingness to make personal**

sacrifices. It is very clear that those who want to understand the meaning of the Pope's message will, and those who do not want to, will never understand it.

And in spite of various media brouhahas on the condoms saga the Pope's message continues to resonate with very many people in our beloved continent as elsewhere, who do appreciate the Pope's teaching and understand he is saying things that are important for today's world, no matter how unpleasant they may sound.

So, brothers and sisters, you can see that never did our Pope say what he has been falsely reported to say. He was merely observing that a person who has objectified another person's body, as well as his own, for money in this instance, might have a conscience that is not completely dead and might suddenly be experiencing the start of a moral awakening by the mere fact that he has the desire to protect another human being. This *could* be the beginning of a recognition, even though the aforementioned action is illicit, futile and still endangers a human being; that sex outside of marriage is wrong, be it active homosexuality in this case, or in the case of adultery or fornication; that the body is sacred; and that sex is sacred, something to be held in respect and reverence as something even God-like in its ability to bring into existence new human beings with immortal souls and to express marital love.

Catholic pro-life expert Dr. Janet Smith puts it this way:

The Holy Father is simply observing that for some homosexual prostitutes the use of a condom may indicate an awakening of a moral sense; an awakening that sexual pleasure is not the highest value, but that we must take care that we harm no one with our choices. He is not speaking to the morality of the use of a condom, but to something that may be true about the psychological state of those who use them. If such individuals are using condoms to avoid harming another, they may eventually realize that sexual acts between members of the same sex are inherently harmful since they are not in accord with human nature.

Brothers and sisters, had the Pope said, "Sure, everyone can use condoms to prevent AIDS," he would be advocating complicity with evil and certainly not following the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Sin is sin. Mortal sin is deadly. Homosexual behavior is sinful behavior, "not in accord with human nature." To try to tell a person that there is a right way to do something wrong, or a right way to lessen the harmful effects of a wrong action is to compromise with evil.

On another note: How many believe that to flip a pack of birth control pills to young women, or to encourage young men to carry condoms, is to be "responsible?" How many parents would give the car keys to a beloved son or daughter, knowing full well that the brakes go out occasionally? How many would advocate that a

juvenile who wants to rob a liquor store be protected with a ski mask and white gloves? How many would buy tickets for an airline whose planes are known to crash sometimes? Love demands more than that. Love demands truth, spoken boldly, without compromise.

Our Blessed Lord did not tell the woman caught in adultery that if she wants to keep sinning she should make sure she attempts to protect herself! No! Jesus says, to her and to everyone today, "Go and sin no more." Pope Benedict has said as much, although in different words, to those who would sanction condom use for homosexual prostitutes; he says, and I quote, "But it is not really the way to deal with the evil of HIV infection. That can really lie only in the humanization of sexuality."

In other words, my brothers and sisters, we must become who we are: Children of God, made in His image and likeness, male and female, according to His design. Discover His unique plan for love and life, aided by the power of grace, and recognize the truth about human sexuality ordained by God to take place between one man and one woman in the lifetime commitment of marriage. Some scream: "Impossible!" But we know that all things are possible with God!

My friend Steve Mosher of the Population Research Institute says it well:

> **The Pope and his Church view Man as a creature, only a little lower than the angels, who is capable of sacrificial love and sexual self-control. The AIDS Establishment (along with the population controllers and the pro-abortion groups) view Man as nothing more than an intelligent ape, subject to the same selfish behavior and uncontrollable ruts as his lower brethren. The media, unfortunately, is firmly on the side of the apes.**

Brothers and sisters, what's on your mind? I look forward to talking with you today. Here are the numbers: 1-800-585-9396 and 1-205-271-2985.

Closing: We are blessed to be together! Thanks so much for your calls and emails! This week is the first week of Advent. Fr. Richard Veras has written the following Examination of Conscience in the *Magnificat Advent Companion*:

> **For the times that I forget that I need a Savior, and arrogantly conceive of myself as sufficient to myself, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**
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> **For the times that I do not believe Jesus and instead give in to the lie of perceiving God the Father as being indifferent or hostile to my well-being, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**
>
> **For the times that I trust my self-pitying accusations more than the Father's love, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

For the times that I desecrate the presence of Christ by making my own opinions, my own criteria, or my own likes and dislikes the measure for measuring circumstances of life and other people, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

For the times I have shunned the presence of Christ, whether it be his sacramental presence or His presence through the people he puts in my life, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

For the times I have blasphemed the presence of Christ through using other human beings as things that I can manipulate or use for my own selfish ends, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

For the times I have disregarded the will of Christ through abuse of those things he has given to me for the building up of His kingdom, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

For the times that I justify my sinfulness and thus treat God's mercy with disdain, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

Until next week on Open Line, Blessed be God and may He mightily bless you! Bye for now!