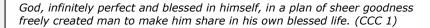
God's Story, Our Story

Lesson 8: Man (Gen 2, CCC 355-384)

Created in God's Image and Likeness





CCC 343

Gen 1:26 FC 11* CCC 356, 27

CCC 357

CCC 358

CCC 360

Gen 2:7 CCC 362-64

CCC 366

Gen 2:18, 21-22 CCC 369

Gen 1:27, 2:23 CCC 371-72

Gen 2:25 CCC 1604 CCC 2335

Gen 1:28 CCC 372-73

- 1. Man is the summit of the Creator's work. Created in God's image, human nature has three essential qualities:
 - a. The sanctity of human life;
 - b. The dignity of human labor;
 - c. The sacredness of family love.
- 2. God created man in his own image and likeness: calling him to existence *through love*, He also calls him *for love*. Man is the only creature able to know and love his creator, and so he has a desire for God written in his heart.
- 3. Man has the dignity of a person. He is capable of self-knowledge, of self-possession and of freely giving himself to others and entering into communion with them.
- 4. God created everything for man, but man was created to serve and love God and to offer all creation back to him.
- 5. Because of its common origin, the human race forms a unity; from one ancestor God made all nations of the earth (Monogenism).
- 6. Man is a union of body and soul. The soul gives life to the body. The body shares in the dignity of the image of God and is good.
- 7. Every spiritual soul is created by God and is immortal. The soul does not die at the time of physical death, and it will be reunited with the body at the final resurrection.
- 8. Man and woman have been created and willed by God: in perfect equality as human persons, yet in their respective beings as man and woman.
- 9. God created man and woman together and willed each for the other to be a communion of persons, in which each can be "helpmate" to the other. They are complementary as masculine and feminine.
- 10. The mutual love of man and woman becomes an image of God's absolute and unfailing love for man. In marriage God unites man and woman so that by forming "one flesh," they can transmit human life.
- 11. Man and woman have the vocation of "subduing" the earth as stewards of God. God calls man and woman to share in his providence toward other creatures; they have a responsibility

	for the world God has entrusted to them.
	 By nature we are God's creatures and servants, called to live, work and love like God, as persons-in-family.
	13. By grace, Adam received the gift of divine sonship to eternally share in God's glory and love. Nature and grace were meant to be married at creation.
CCC 384	 Adam and Eve's happiness in paradise flowed from their friendship with God.
CCC 374-75	15. Adam was created in friendship with his Creator, in harmony with himself and with the creation around him. He was made in an "original state of holiness and justice."
CCC 376	 Original holiness = sharing in God's life. As long as he remained in the divine intimacy, man would not have to suffer or die.
CCC 377	17. Original justice = the inner harmony of the human person, between man and woman, and the harmony between the first couple and all of creation. Man had a perfect <i>mastery of self</i> and was ordered in his whole being, free from concupiscence.
	18. Adam was high priest of humanity, called to attain holiness and to sanctify creation.
CCC 378	Adam was king, called to "till and keep the garden," and exercise dominion over all creation.
CCC 396 Gen 2:16-17 *FC = John Paul II, Familiaris Consortio	20. God gave to Adam and Eve only one commandment: to not eat of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. By disobeying this command, Adam lost the harmony of original justice and the grace of original holiness.

Questions for Discussion

1. Why did God create us? Why does it matter that we are made in the image and likeness of God? How are we different from other creatures?

- 2. What does it mean to say that we have a desire for God written on our heart?
- 3. What implications does it have that the whole human race has come from the first couple? What happens to our faith and worldview if we have a wrong understanding of this?
- 4. Why does it matter that humans are a union of body and soul?
- 5. Why does it matter that God made us male and female? How do man and woman image God when they become "one flesh"?
- 6. In what state did God originally create Adam and Eve? What did they have to do to remain in this perfect state?
- 7. Did God make a mistake in granting us free will, which seems to be the cause of our failures and the miseries of the world?
- 8. Is a person capable of attaining total self-giving love by his or her own efforts alone?
- 9. Is Jesus asking too much in commanding us to be perfect as his Father is perfect?