

Human Dignity: What has God made of us?



Christian Ethics 30.1.a.4

CCC: PART ONE: THE PROFESSION OF FAITH, SECTION TWO 1. THE CREEDS, CHAPTER ONE I BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER, Article 1 "I BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER ALMIGHTY, CREATOR OF HEAVEN AND EARTH", Paragraph 6. MAN (355-384)

Objective:

- Consider the Christian view of human dignity, despite humanity's sinful tendencies.

Task:

- Write a report about yourself in the third person, from the viewpoint of your guardian angel.

“God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him, male and female he created them.” Genesis 1:27



Man occupies a unique place in creation:

- (I) he is "in the image of God";
- (II) in his own nature he unites the spiritual and material worlds;
- (III) he is created "male and female";
- (IV) God established him in his friendship.



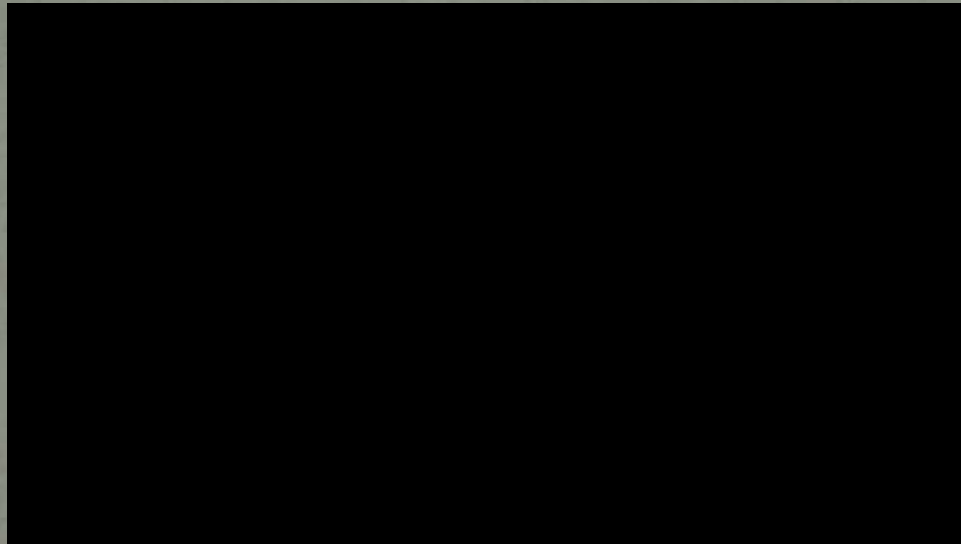
Questions about “In the Image of God”

What distinguishes us as humans?

What is important about a human person?

Where does this importance come from?

The Importance of Being Human



In the image of God....



I. "IN THE IMAGE OF GOD"



Out of all other visible creatures,
only humanity is *able to know and love the creator* –
the only creature on earth that God has willed for its own sake

I. "IN THE IMAGE OF GOD"



By knowledge and love, we alone are called to share in God's own life.

This is why we exist!

This is why we were created!

And this is why every person has dignity: God cherishes each human person.

I. "IN THE IMAGE OF GOD"

*What made you establish man in so great a dignity?
Certainly the incalculable love by which you have looked on
your creature in yourself!*

*You are taken with love for her; for by love indeed you
created her, by love you have given her a being capable of
tasting your eternal Good.*

St. Catherine of Siena



I. "IN THE IMAGE OF GOD"

Because we are in the image of God, each human individual possesses the dignity of a person, who is not just *something*, but *someone*.

We are capable of:

- self-knowledge,
- self-possession
- freely giving ourselves
- entering into communion with other persons.



I. "IN THE IMAGE OF GOD"

And we are *called by grace* to a covenant with our Creator – that is, God gives us a chance to be in relationship with him.

We offer him a response of faith and love that no other creature can give.

I. "IN THE IMAGE OF GOD"

God created everything for us.



And we, in turn, are created to serve and love God and to offer all creation back to him.

I. "IN THE IMAGE OF GOD"

What is it that is about to be created, that enjoys such honour?

It is man, that great and wonderful living creature, more precious in the eyes of God than all other creatures!

For him the heavens and the earth, the sea and all the rest of creation, exist.

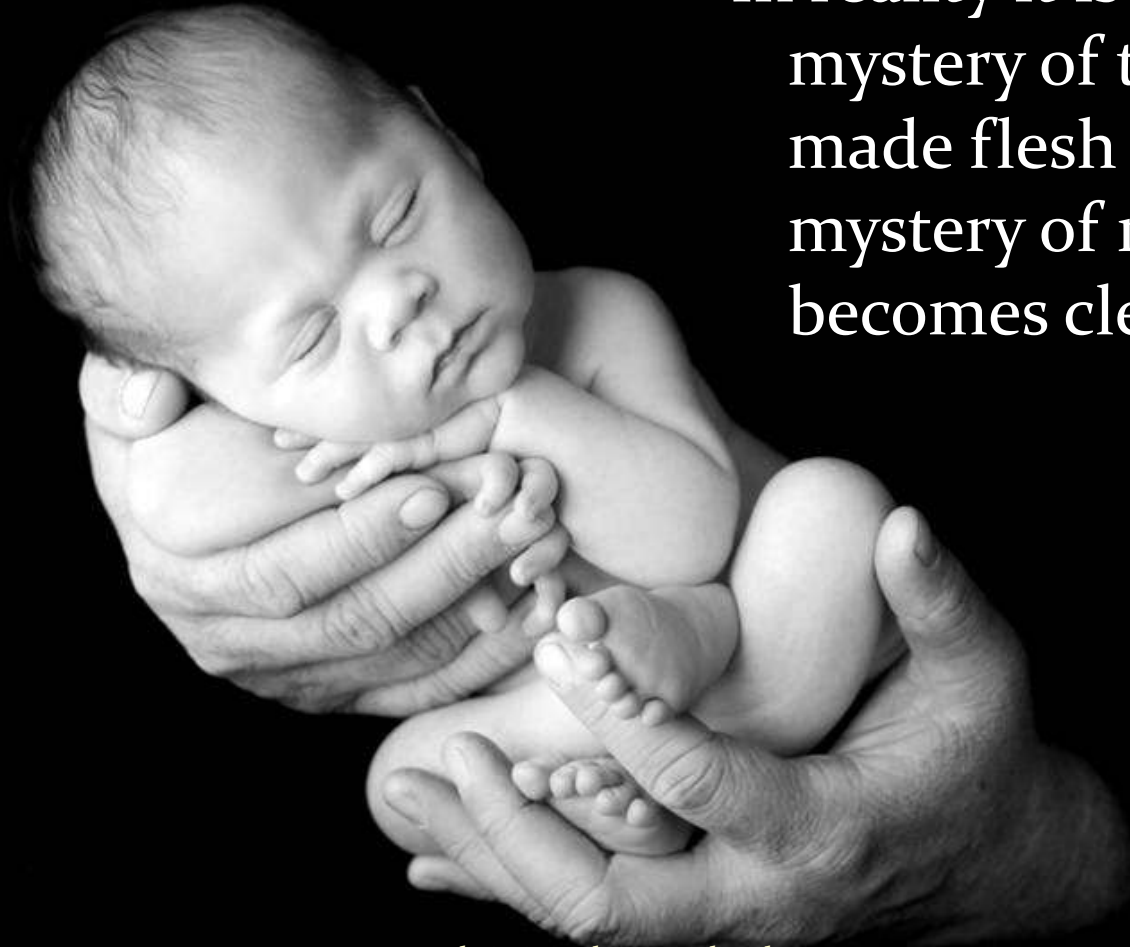
God attached so much importance to his salvation that he did not spare his own Son for the sake of man.

Nor does he ever cease to work, trying every possible means, until he has raised man up to himself and made him sit at his right hand.

Saint John Crysostom

I. "IN THE IMAGE OF GOD"

In reality it is only in the mystery of the Word made flesh that the mystery of man truly becomes clear.



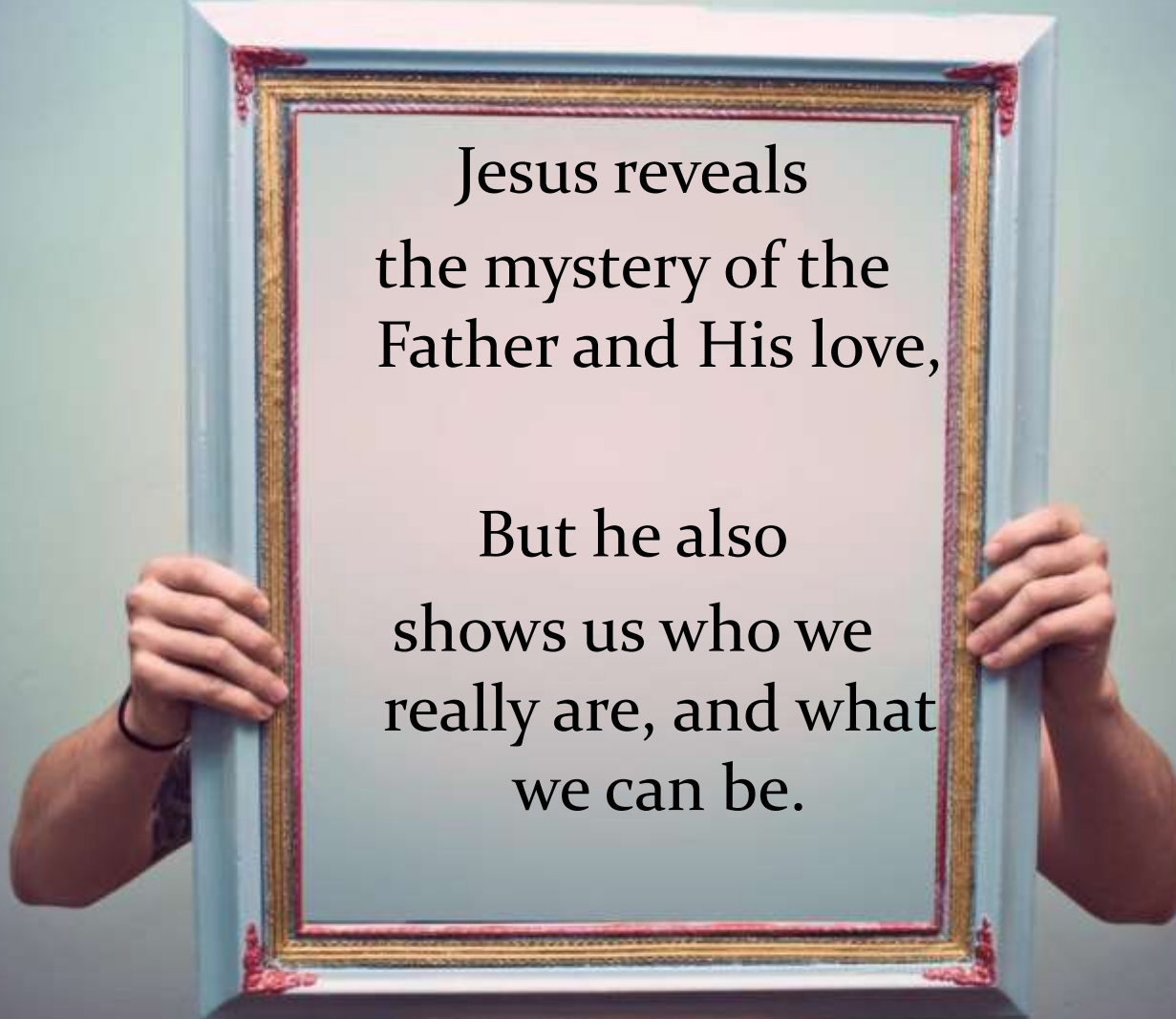
I. "IN THE IMAGE OF GOD"

For the first
person was a
hint of Him
Who was to
come:

Jesus.



I. "IN THE IMAGE OF GOD"

A person is holding a large, ornate picture frame in front of their face. The frame is light blue with a gold and red inner border. The text inside the frame is centered and reads: "Jesus reveals the mystery of the Father and His love, But he also shows us who we really are, and what we can be." The person's hands are visible on the sides of the frame, and their torso is visible at the bottom.

Jesus reveals
the mystery of the
Father and His love,

But he also
shows us who we
really are, and what
we can be.

I. "IN THE IMAGE OF GOD"

We all come from one place, and so we belong together.

O wondrous vision,
which makes us contemplate the human race
in the unity of its origin in God. . .
. . . in the unity of the redemption
wrought by Christ for all.

Pius XII

I. "IN THE IMAGE OF GOD"

God asks us to

stand with each other
(solidarity)

and love each other
(charity)



in a way that does not deny the rich variety of persons, cultures and peoples, but instead shows us that we make up one human family.



Questions about “In the Image of God”

What distinguishes us as humans?

What is important about a human person?

Where does this importance come from?

II. Body and Soul

- What do you think about your body?
- What are “body messages” in our culture?
- Do people (generally) believe in the soul?

II. "BODY AND SOUL BUT TRULY ONE"



The human person, created in the image of God, is a being at once corporeal (visible) and spiritual (invisible).

II. "BODY AND SOUL BUT TRULY ONE"



“...then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.” Genesis 2:7

II. "BODY AND SOUL BUT TRULY ONE"

Sacred Scripture often uses "soul" to mean the entire human person.

But "soul" also refers to our most secret self,
our greatest treasure:

"soul" signifies the spiritual element in us.

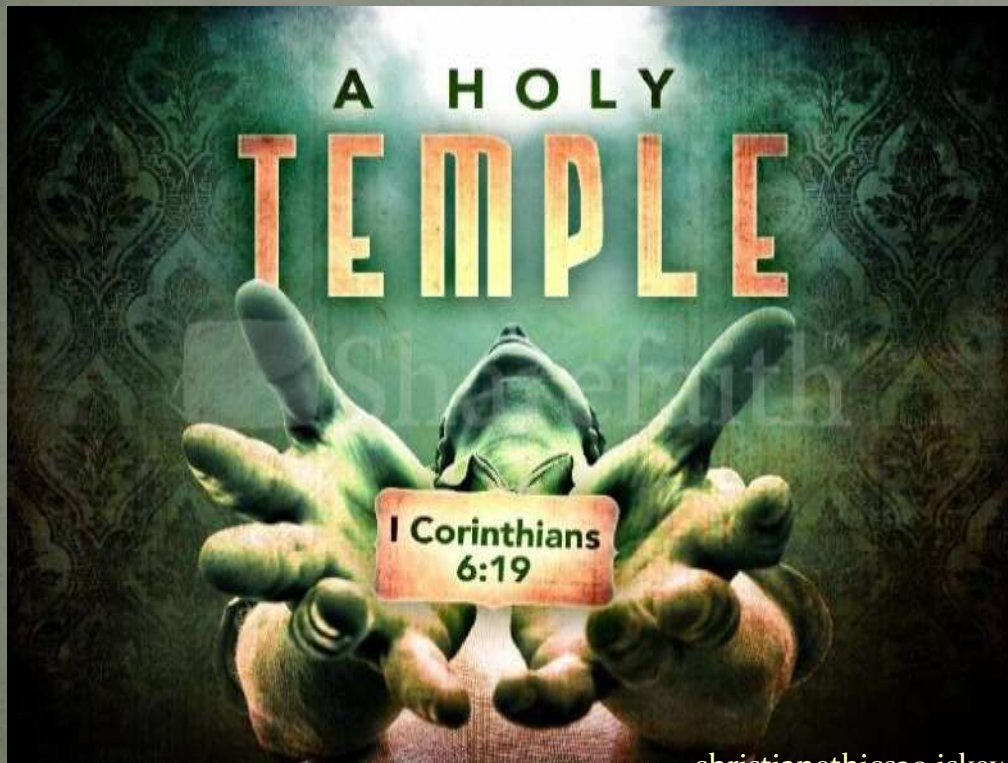


II. "BODY AND SOUL BUT TRULY ONE"

The human body also has dignity as "the image of God": what makes it a **human** body is a spiritual soul,

the whole human person becomes,

in the body of Christ,
a temple of the Spirit:



II. "BODY AND SOUL BUT TRULY ONE"

We are body, and we are soul,
yet we are a unity.

Through our bodily condition
we bring together the stuff of
the material world.

Through us, matter and
molecules are brought to
perfection and receive a voice
to praise freely the Creator.



II. "BODY AND SOUL BUT TRULY ONE"

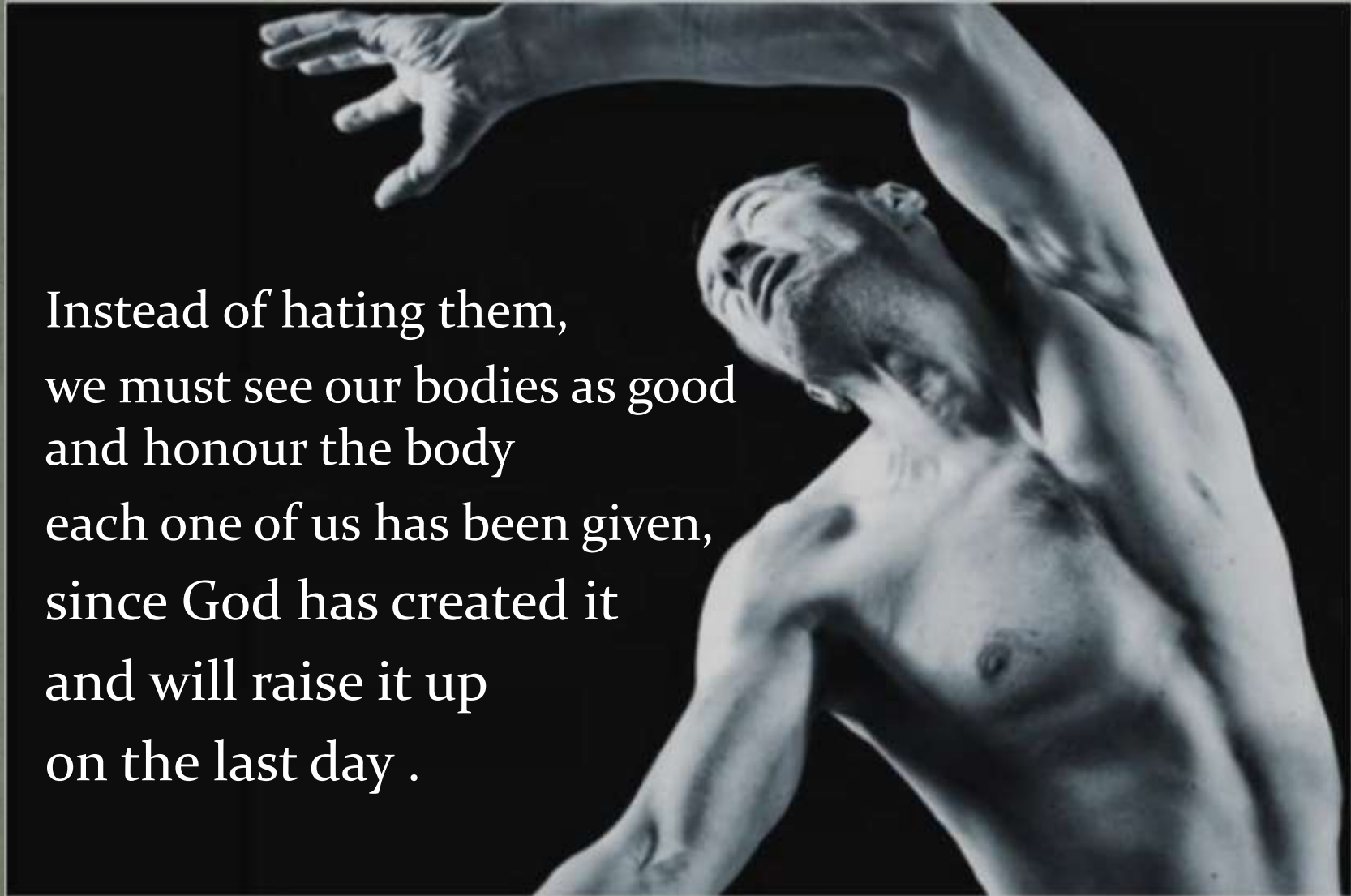


For all these reasons, we may not despise our bodily life.

We may **NOT** hate our bodies.

II. "BODY AND SOUL BUT TRULY ONE"

Instead of hating them,
we must see our bodies as good
and honour the body
each one of us has been given,
since God has created it
and will raise it up
on the last day .



II. "BODY AND SOUL BUT TRULY ONE"

The unity of soul and body is so profound



it is because of its spiritual soul that the body, made of matter, becomes a living, human body;

II. "BODY AND SOUL BUT TRULY ONE"

every spiritual soul is created immediately by God



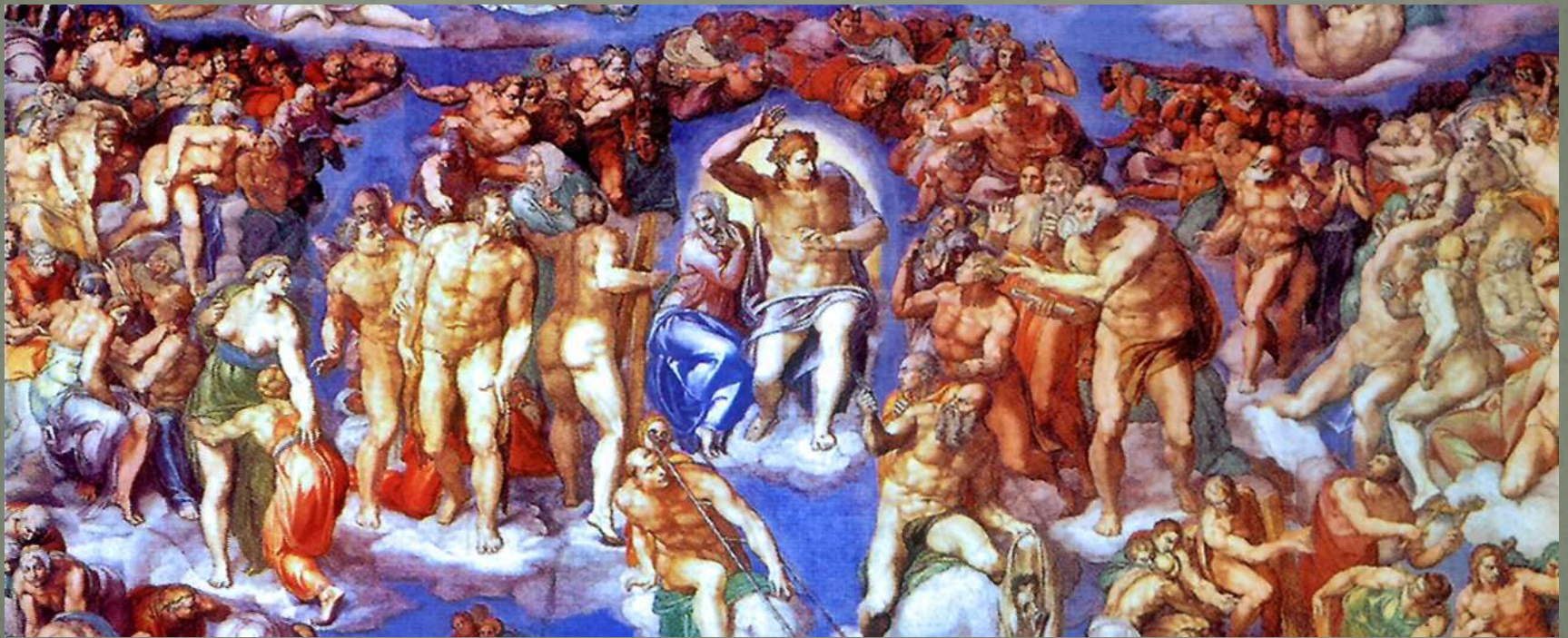
and also that
it is immortal:

- it is not "produced"
by the parents -

- it does not perish -

II. "BODY AND SOUL BUT TRULY ONE"

when the soul separates from the body at death,
it will be reunited with the body at the final Resurrection



II. "BODY AND SOUL BUT TRULY ONE"

In Catholic Tradition,

SPIRIT = SOUL



christianethics30.iskewl.com

II. "BODY AND SOUL BUT TRULY ONE"

The spiritual tradition of the Church also emphasizes



in the biblical sense of the depths of one's being, where the person decides for or against God.

III. MALE AND FEMALE HE CREATED THEM

- How do men and women relate to each other?
- What are some difficulties between men and women?
- What are some of the consequences of being divided into male and female?

III. "MALE AND FEMALE HE CREATED THEM"

Equality and difference willed by God

God willed man and woman into existence in this way:

on the one hand, in perfect equality
as human persons;



on the other, in their

respective beings as man and woman

christianethics30.iskewl.com

III. "MALE AND FEMALE HE CREATED THEM"

Equality and difference willed by God

"Being man" or "being woman" is a reality which is good and willed by God:



man and woman both
have dignity from God
which cannot be
taken away from them

III. "MALE AND FEMALE HE CREATED THEM"

**Equality and difference
willed by God**

Man and woman are both with one and the same dignity "in the image of God."

In their "being-man" and "being-woman", they reflect the Creator's wisdom and goodness.



III. "MALE AND FEMALE HE CREATED THEM"

In no way is God in man's image.

He is neither man nor woman.

God is pure spirit has no difference between the sexes.



SPIRIT OF GOD BREATHE IN ME

III. "MALE AND FEMALE HE CREATED THEM"

But the respective "perfections" of man and woman reflect something of the infinite perfection of God: those of a mother and those of a father and husband.



III. "MALE AND FEMALE HE CREATED THEM"



“Each for the other” – “A unity in two”

God created man and woman together
and willed each for the other.

III. "MALE AND FEMALE HE CREATED THEM"

"Each for the other" – "A unity in two"



"It is not good that the man should be alone. I will make him a helper fit for him."

Nothing else in Creation

can be a partner for the first person.

III. "MALE AND FEMALE HE CREATED THEM"

"Each for the other" – "A unity in two"

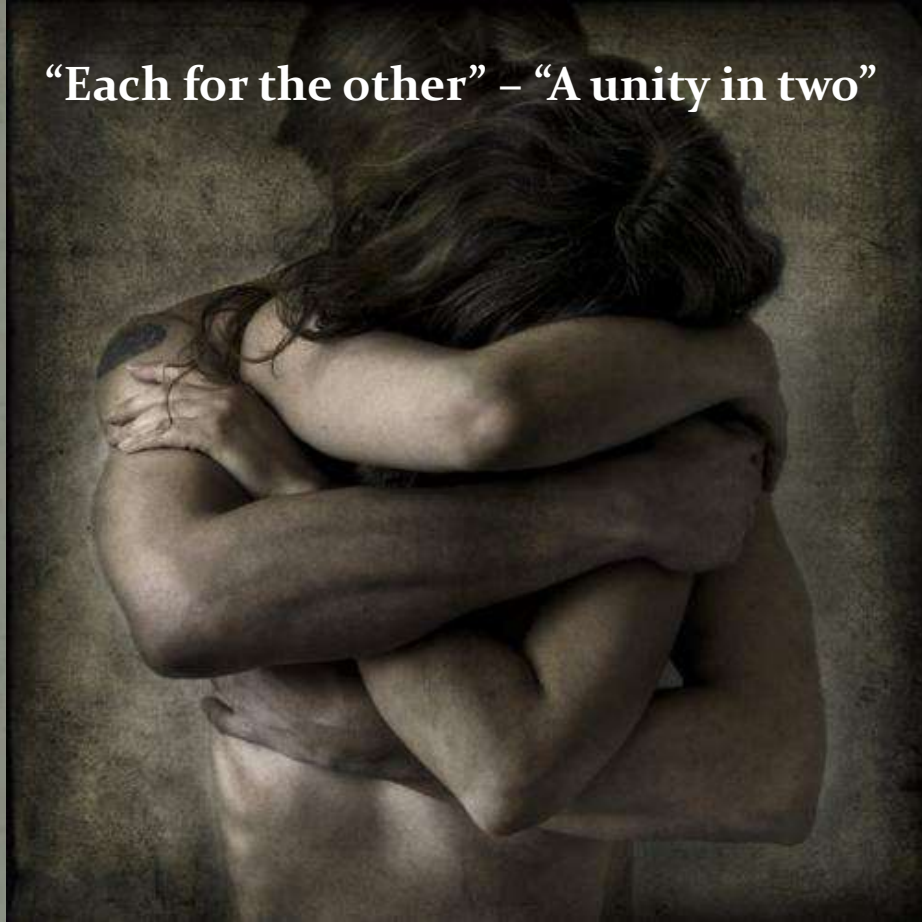
The woman God "fashions"
from the man's rib and
brings to him
makes the man cry in wonder,
and exclaim in love
and communion:



"This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh."

III. "MALE AND FEMALE HE CREATED THEM"

"Each for the other" – "A unity in two"



Man discovers woman as another "I",
sharing the same humanity.

III. "MALE AND FEMALE HE CREATED THEM"

Man and woman were made "for each other"

- not that God left them half-made and incomplete: he created them to be a communion of persons, in which each can be "helpmate" to the other, for they are equal as persons ("bone of my bones. . .") and complementary as masculine and feminine.



III. "MALE AND FEMALE HE CREATED THEM"



In marriage God unites them in such a way that, by forming "one flesh", they can transmit human life:

"Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth."

III. "MALE AND FEMALE HE CREATED THEM"

By transmitting human life to their descendants, man and woman as spouses and parents co-operate in a unique way in the Creator's work.



III. "MALE AND FEMALE HE CREATED THEM"

“God did not create man a solitary being. From the beginning, ‘male and female he created them.’ This partnership of man and woman constitutes the first form of communion between persons.”





In the
Beginning

christianethics30.iskewl.com

IV. IN PARADISE

In the beginning
the earth was
but was also

and in harmony
and

in a state that
by the



d,
the Creator

Christ.

IV. IN PARADISE

Our first parents, Adam and Eve,
experienced an original

"state of holiness and justice".

This grace of **original holiness** was
"to share in. . .divine life".



9000E.

IV. IN PARADISE

God is such a good friend

God places him in

There he lives "to till it and

Work is not yet a burden,

but rather the part

of man and woman with

in perfecting the v





m

IV. IN PARADISE

This entire harmony of original justice, foreseen for man in God's plan, will be lost by the sin of our first parents.



Revelation makes known to us the state of original holiness and justice of man and woman before sin: from their friendship with God flowed the happiness of their existence in paradise.

