

Relationship with GOD

More than Just SUNDAY

The Human Person – God’s Masterpiece



There are questions in life that each of us needs to answer: “Who am I?” “What has God created me for?” “Who has God created me for?” The answers to these questions affect the way that we think about ourselves and every person we meet. Let us look at the distinctive answers the Christian Faith gives, answers that deeply move us to recognize the incredible dignity of every person.

“God is love” and He created each person out of love

To love means to be other-centered, to be a self-gift to others in charity and service. God’s very being is love. The Persons of the Blessed Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – are united in a relationship of total, self-giving love. The Father has poured out His love for all eternity toward His Son. The Son, for all eternity, has returned that love for the Father. This bond of love between the Father and the Son is a third Person, the Holy Spirit. The Blessed Trinity is an “eternal exchange of love”, a Communion of Persons.

As God is complete and perfect love, He wanted to share His love by creating human persons to share in that eternal exchange of love of the Trinity.

God created us in His image and likeness

God created man and woman

in His *image*. This means that God created us with an intellect that can know Him, and a will that is free to choose or reject Him. Of course our intellect and will are finite whereas God’s intellect and will are infinite.

We are also created to freely give ourselves in self-giving love – we are relational – and to enter into communion with other persons. In other words, we are constituted by relations: with God as our primary relationship and the most important because if this relationship is well ordered then our lives are well ordered and with other persons.

Further, God created man and woman in His *likeness*, to be united with Him in a relationship of love through dwelling within our soul. This we call sanctifying grace. Sanctifying grace is friendship with God and a participation in His Divine Life. This was God’s plan for all eternity and the purpose for which man and woman were created, to be united with God here on earth and to enter into the perfect unity of the Blessed Trinity in Heaven.

In order to live this deep, personal friendship with God, our first parents, as creatures dependent upon their Creator, were to trust His infinite love and freely submit to His perfect will.

Man and woman fell from grace

Our first parents were tempted and let their trust in God die. In the Fall, Adam and Eve immediately lost the grace of union with God – the most fundamental relationship and became

afraid of Him of Whom they conceived a distorted image. And everything else shifted as well. The control over the body by the soul is shattered and the union of man and woman becomes subject to selfishness and strife. With our image of God distorted, we can also see ourselves wrongly. However, we know that the human person is fundamentally good, even though each of us suffers the effects of Original Sin. The “Good News” is that God promised to send a Savior.

Jesus restored us in the Father’s likeness by giving us the Holy Spirit

God the Father kept His promise and sent the Son to restore us in His likeness. Jesus established one Church and instituted seven Sacraments. It is through the Sacraments that we receive sanctifying grace; the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in our soul and restores in us the divine likeness lost through sin. We receive the very life of the Holy Trinity, which is to love as God loves us. This love, this grace is ‘power’ from the Holy Spirit. We can only live our relationship with God and with others well by cooperating with His sanctifying grace received in the Sacraments.

Let us ponder the love of our Lord and these Truths about human dignity, so that we look upon each person as a precious gift from God. As an image of God, every person deserves respect, even though their behavior may need correction. Knowing *who we are* and *what we are created to do* is essential for understanding our true identity as sons and daughters of our Heavenly Father.

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