

Chapter 6

Man and Woman in the Beginning

The Creation of Man and Woman,
The Fall and the Promise

CCC 355-421



Created in God's Image

- “God created man in his image: in the divine image he created him, male and female he created them.” Gn 1:27
- God's image is a dynamic source of inner spiritual energy drawing our minds and hearts toward truth and love, and to God himself, the source of all truth and love.
- God has made us a unity of body and soul. The soul is the source of life and the core of our spiritual powers of knowing and loving.

Created in God's Image

- God created the first humans in a state of holiness and justice so that we are able to live in harmony with his plan.
- Our first parents also had free will and could be tempted to turn away from God.

Further readings: Gn 1 and 2; CCC355-384

The Fall

- The Lord God gave man this order: “You are free to eat from any of the trees of the garden except the tree of knowledge of good and bad. From that tree you shall not eat: the moment you eat from it you are surely doomed to die.” Gn 2:16-17
- But the serpent said to woman: “You certainly will not die! No, God knows well that the moment you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods who know what is good and what is bad.”

Gn 3:4-5

The Fall

- Sin entered the world through this decision to choose themselves over God and his plan.
- We call the Fall and its results “original Sin”.
- We are heirs to Adam and Eve. We experience the effects of Original Sin in our daily lives.

Further readings: Gen 3; CCC385-395

Understanding the impact of Original Sin

- God asks them - as he asks us – to recognize their human limits and to trust in him.
- The sin of Adam and Eve has been called Original Sin since the time of St. Augustine (AD 354-430).
- What is Original Sin? A deprivation, a loss of original holiness and righteousness with which our first parents were created.

Understanding the impact of Original Sin

- Original Sin is contracted – not committed. It underlies all other sin.
- We are subject to ignorance, experience suffering and death and have a disorder in our appetites and an inclination to sin.
- This inclination is called concupiscence.

Further readings: Gen 3; Rom 5:12-14; CCC396-409

Understanding Sin

- There is a perceptible discomfort in our culture with the notion of sin as an evil for which we must give an account to God, Our Creator, Redeemer and Judge.
- Some are tempted to explain it as merely a developmental flaw, a psychological weakness, a mistake or the necessary consequence of an inadequate social structure. CCC387

Further readings: Rom 7:15-19, Mt 4:1-11, Mt 5:3-12,
Mt 25:31-46