

## **Why Were You Born?**

### **Class 9: Creation – Part 2 – Course Handout**

## **The Creation of Adam and Eve: The Origin of Man, Woman, and the Human Family**

### **Foundational Questions (The Anchor)**

These questions remind us of the purpose of human life.

#### **Who made us?**

God made us.

#### **Why did God make us?**

To know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him in this world, and to be happy with Him forever in the next.

#### **How do we do this?**

With all our heart, all our soul, all our mind, and all our strength.

Tonight we move from the creation of the universe to the creation of man and woman themselves.

### **Opening Prayer**

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

O God, Creator of all things visible and invisible,  
who formed man from the dust of the earth  
and fashioned woman from his side,  
grant that we may rightly understand  
the dignity of the human person  
and the sacred order Thou hast established in creation.

Preserve us from error, strengthen us in truth,  
and guide us toward eternal life.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Part I – The Unique Creation of Man**

Genesis gives a remarkable description of man's creation:

“And the Lord God formed man of the slime of the earth: and breathed into his face the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”

— Genesis 2:7

Two key truths are revealed:

### **1. The Formation of the Body**

Man's body is formed from the earth.

This teaches humility.

We are not gods.

We are creatures.

### **2. The Creation of the Soul**

God breathes life into man, giving him a spiritual soul.

This soul allows man to know God and enter into a relationship with Him.

### **St. Augustine**

“God made man in His image, that he might understand, love, and enjoy Him.”

— *De Trinitate*

Human life is not merely biological.

It is ordered toward knowledge and love of God.

## **Part II – Man Created in the Image of God**

Genesis teaches:

“And God created man to his own image: to the image of God he created him.”

— Genesis 1:27

God does not have a physical body.

Therefore the image of God does not refer to physical appearance.

It refers to the spiritual faculties of the human soul.

According to St. Thomas Aquinas, this image is expressed through three powers:

### **1. Intellect**

The power to know truth.

Humans can ask questions such as:

- Why do we exist?
- What is truth?
- What is justice?
- Who is God?

Animals cannot contemplate such things.

## **2. The Will**

The ability to choose the good.

Humans can deliberate, judge, and make moral choices.

“Man differs from irrational creatures in this, that he is master of his actions.”

— St. Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae*

## **3. Freedom**

Because man possesses intellect and will, he has moral freedom.

He can choose:

- sacrifice
- forgiveness
- service
- worship

True love requires freedom.

Animals act by instinct.

Human beings can freely choose to love God.

## **St. Thomas Aquinas**

“The image of God is found in man insofar as he is capable of knowing and loving God.”

## **Pope Leo XIII**

“Man alone among visible creatures is endowed with reason and free will.”

— *Libertas Praestantissimum*

## **Part III – The Creation of Eve**

God then declares something unexpected:

“It is not good for man to be alone.”

— Genesis 2:18

Until this moment, everything in creation had been called good.

Human beings were created for communion.

Therefore God creates woman.

“The Lord God cast a deep sleep upon Adam... and he took one of his ribs... and built the rib into a woman.”

— Genesis 2:21–22

### **St. John Chrysostom**

“God did not make woman from another substance... but from Adam himself, that the two might be one.”

Man and woman share the same human nature and dignity.

### **Part IV – The Meaning of the Rib**

The Church Fathers saw deep symbolism in Eve’s creation.

Woman was not taken from Adam’s:

**Head** – to dominate him

**Feet** – to be dominated by him

Instead she was taken from his side.

This reveals several truths:

#### **Equality in Dignity**

Both man and woman possess rational souls and are created in God’s image.

#### **Unity in Nature**

Adam recognizes this immediately:

“This now is bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh.”

— Genesis 2:23

#### **Complementarity in Mission**

Man and woman share the same nature but possess different gifts.

Together they form a communion that reflects the relational nature of God.

### **St. Ambrose**

“Woman was not made from Adam’s head to rule him, nor from his feet to be trampled upon, but from his side to be his equal.”

## **Part V – The Origin of Marriage**

Genesis concludes:

“Wherefore a man shall leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they shall be two in one flesh.”

— Genesis 2:24

Marriage is not a human invention. It is a divine institution established by God.

The Church teaches three primary purposes of marriage:

### **1. Unity of the Spouses**

A permanent bond between husband and wife.

### **2. Procreation of Children**

Participation in God’s creative work.

### **3. Mutual Sanctification**

Spouses help each other grow in holiness.

Christ later confirms the permanence of marriage:

“What therefore God hath joined together, let no man put asunder.”

— Matthew 19:6

### **St. Augustine**

Marriage was instituted for children, fidelity, and the sacramental bond.

## **Part VI – The Dignity of the Human Person**

Because man is created in the image of God, every human life possesses immense dignity.

This dignity does not depend on:

- intelligence
- wealth
- health
- social status
- usefulness

Human dignity comes from the soul.

Every human person is:

- willed by God
- created by God
- loved by God

This is why the Church defends human life from conception to natural death.

Wherever a human soul exists, the image of God is present.

### **St. Teresa of Calcutta**

“It is a poverty that a child must die so that you may live as you wish.”

### **Part VII – The Order of Creation**

Classical Christian philosophy describes a hierarchy in creation:

1. **God** – the uncreated source of all being
2. **Angels** – pure spirits
3. **Man** – body and soul
4. **Animals** – living beings without rational souls
5. **Plants** – living organisms without sensation
6. **Matter** – non-living reality

Man occupies a unique position.

He shares a body with animals and a spiritual soul with angels.

### **St. Thomas Aquinas**

“Man stands at the frontier between the spiritual and the corporeal creation.”

### **Conclusion – The Great Calling of Man**

Human life is not accidental.

You were personally willed by God.

You were created:

- in His image
- with intellect, will, and freedom
- to know Him

- to love Him
- and to live with Him forever.

When society forgets this truth, human dignity collapses.

When we remember it, we rediscover the true meaning of life.

### **St. Irenaeus**

“The glory of God is man fully alive.”

### **Reflection Questions**

1. What makes human beings different from animals?
2. What is the greatest ability humans possess?
  - intelligence
  - creativity
  - love
  - moral choice
  - self-sacrifice
3. Does human life have a purpose? What is it?
4. Do animals make moral decisions, or only act by instinct?
5. If a person loses intelligence, health, or productivity, do they lose dignity?
6. What does it mean that man is created in the image of God?
7. What about human beings amazes you the most?