

Catholic Reboot – Course Handout

Class 10: The Garden of Eden and Original Justice

Man Before the Fall

Foundational Truths (The Anchor)

Who made us?

God made us.

Why did God make us?

To know Him, love Him, and 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.

Central Question

What was humanity like before sin entered the world?

To understand salvation, we must first understand what was lost.

I. The Garden of Eden

“And the Lord God had planted a paradise of pleasure...” — *Genesis 2:8*

The Garden of Eden was:

- A real place
- A state of original justice

Threefold Harmony

In Eden, man lived in perfect harmony:

1. **With God**
 - Friendship, not fear
 - No separation
2. **Within Himself**
 - No inner conflict
 - No disorder in thoughts or desires

3. With Creation

- Nature was subject to man
- No suffering or death

Key Truth

Before sin:

- No suffering
- No death
- No sickness
- No confusion

“God made not death.” — *Wisdom 1:13*

II. Original Justice

Original Justice = Perfect order of the human person under God

The Order of Creation (Aquinas)

1. God governs the soul
2. The soul governs the body
3. Reason governs the passions
4. Man governs creation

Nothing was disordered.

The State of the Soul

Intellect

- Knew truth clearly

Will

- Chose good easily

Passions

- Fully obedient to reason

No Inner Conflict

Modern struggle:

“I know what is right, but I fail to do it.”

This did not exist before the Fall.

Preternatural Gifts

Adam and Eve were given special gifts beyond nature:

1. Integrity

- Perfect control of passions
- No concupiscence

2. Immortality

- Freedom from death

3. Impassibility

- Freedom from suffering

4. Infused Knowledge

- Deep understanding of creation

Important

These gifts were:

- Not natural
- Freely given by God

III. Man’s Relationship With God

“They heard the voice of the Lord God walking in paradise.” — *Genesis 3:8*

Meaning

This expresses:

- **Intimacy** – God was near
- **Friendship** – Not fear, but trust
- **Peace** – No guilt or shame

Sanctifying Grace

Adam and Eve possessed:

- The **life of God in the soul**
- Participation in divine life

“Partakers of the divine nature.” — *2 Peter 1:4*

Man’s Destiny

Humanity was created for:

- Eternal union with God
- The Beatific Vision

Condition

This state required:

Obedience to God

IV. The Tree of Knowledge

“Of the tree... thou shalt not eat.” — *Genesis 2:17*

Why This Command?

It was a test of love and obedience.

What the Tree Represents

- God alone determines good and evil
- Man must submit to divine authority

Key Principle

Love requires freedom

Freedom allows:

- Obedience
- Disobedience

The First Sin (Foreshadowed)

Not about fruit but about:

Rejecting God’s authority

V. The Tree of Life

The Tree of Life symbolizes:

- The Cross
- The Eucharist
- Eternal Life

Foreshadowing Christ

Even in the beginning:

Creation points toward redemption.

“By the tree we were made debtors... by the Tree we are restored.” — *St. Irenaeus*

VI. What Humanity Possessed Before the Fall

Before sin, man had:

Harmony with God

- Friendship and grace

Harmony Within

- No internal struggle

Harmony with Creation

- No suffering or death

VII. Key Takeaways

- Disorder is not natural it is the result of sin
- Man was created in a state of grace and perfection
- The human person was fully ordered under God
- The Fall resulted in the loss of:
 - Grace
 - Harmony
 - Immortality

Scripture Anchor

“By one man sin entered into this world, and by sin death.”
— *Romans 5:12*

Final Reflection

The more we understand Eden, the more we understand:

- The seriousness of sin
- The brokenness of the world
- The necessity of Christ

Hope

What Adam lost:

Christ restores.

Closing Prayer

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

Lord, help us to remember the dignity in which we were created and to long for the restoration of all things through Christ our Savior.

Amen.