

God and the Human Person
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I. Creation

A. Genesis 1:1-31, 2:1-4:

- ★ 1. P source and in exile: optimistic, goodness of creation, about temple of God of all peoples, drawing out of chaos cosmic or practical (slavery) in separation and embellishment, plants and animals have a role outside of humans, man is last. (CCC #293-320)
2. God is the subject who creates, order, and sets beings to inhabit earth. God speaks, creates, makes, calls, names, blesses, approves.
3. Mediation through Word so creation must remain open to it.
4. Stewardship of earth rest in God because all creation is God's image.
- ★ 5. 1:26 "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion..." 1:27 "God created man in his image; in the divine image he created him; male and female he created them."

★ B. Genesis 2:5—25: Humanity, J source and older: sin and punish, ethical and personal relation to God emphasized.

★ C. Psalm 104 Praise of God the Creator: creation is a partner with us in prayer.

D. Isaiah 45 "For thus says the Lord, the creator of the heavens, who is God, the designer and maker of the earth who established it, not creating it to be a waste, but designing it to be lived in: I am the Lord, and there is no other."

★ E. Wisdom 11: 2-16; 12: 23-27; 15: 18-19, 22 God uses creation to aid Israelites and punish Egyptians

★ F. God present in visible world as all depends upon God for existence with particular goodness and perfection, interdependence, beauty, hierarchy. (CCC #337-349)

★ G. Creation points to our intimate relationship with God. Goodness of creation makes it a sacrament as we encounter the goodness of God thus we are called to be stewards of creation.

H. Unfolding of Creation: Genesis 3:1-24 Fall; 4:1-26 Cain and Abel; 6:5-13 Reasons for Flood; 7:6-23 Flood; 9:1-17 Covenant 9:17 "This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all mortal creatures that are on earth."; 11:1-9 Tower of Babel

II. God

★ A. "God...can be known with certainty from the created world by the natural light of human reason" (Dei Verbum #6)

- B. "Between creator and creature no similitude can be expressed without implying an even greater dissimilitude" and that concerning God, we cannot grasp what he is, but only what he is not, and how other beings stand in relation to him. (CCC #43)
- ★ C. Our language about God (analogy, images) is limited because we have to start with creatures and what we learn through our senses. (CCC #41)
- D. Images of God:
1. Isaiah 44 Creator and Liberator;
 2. Ex 3:6 living God of ancestors;
 3. Ex 3:13-15 YHWH: I Am Who Am
 4. Ex 33:18-19 merciful and gracious;
 - ★ 5. Ex 34:5-6 God is fullness of Being and of every perfection, without origin and without end (transcendentals: One, True, Good);
 6. God as Sanctifier, healer, warrior, rock, shield
 7. God is truth and love (CCC #213);
 - ★ 8. God as father/transcendent, mother/immanent, God neither man or woman but God (CCC #239)
- ★ E. Exodus 14 and 15: Israelites and we move from life/slavery through death to new life.
- ★ F. Come to know God by world through natural revelation, and in the life of the human person with our search for truth/beauty, moral goodness, freedom and conscience, longing for infinite happiness, reflection of the soul. (CCC #32-33)
- ★ G. Supernatural Revelation: Scripture and Tradition
- H. God as Trinity: mystery of perfect loving and knowing.
- ★ I. Creation, revelation, life comes to us: *From* the Father, *Through* the Son, *In* the Holy Spirit. We Return *In* the Holy Spirit, *Through* the Son, *To* the Father (1 Cor 8:6)
- J. Father: (CCC #198-354)
1. OT: YHWH in Pentateuch portrayed as one God of creation, election, covenant, salvation.
 2. NT: God loves us (Jn 3:16); We are adopted children in the Son ★ (Rm 8:14-17); God's Son our mediator (Jn 1:18); God called Abba (Mk 14:36); Jesus obedient to Father (Jn 14:9); Primacy of service not dominion (Mk 11:43-45)
- K. Son: (CCC #422-682)
1. OT: God's Word (Dabar), Wisdom (personified) and Spirit (Ruah) understood as divine realities, somewhat distinct from YHWH, personified and mediators of creation and providence. Name of YHWH (Dt 12:5; 26:15); God speaks of self in plural ★ (Gn 11:7; Is 6:8); God manifested as three angels to Abraham (Gn 18).
 2. NT: unique knowledge of Father as mercy (Mt 11:27); Intimacy with God as Father (Jn 20:17); Attitude towards sinners reflects unity and mercy (Mk 2:7);

- L. Holy Spirit (CCC #683-1065)
 1. NT: Iconographer of the Soul;
 2. Jn 16; Holy Spirit given/sent (Gal 3:4-6) on Easter (Jn 20:19-23) or at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-21; 2:33).
 - ★ 3. Holy Spirit as God for, with and IN us. Pray in the spirit and the Spirit prays in us and we are adopted (Rm 8:14-27; 1 Cor 12:3)

III. Humanity (CCC #355-421)

- A. We have been created and sustained in love by God (GS 19, #1)
- ★ B. Human being: created, called, sinful, redeemed, eschatological goal, in world as relational.
- C. Born with a capacity for God who is only perfect way to fulfill our needs (CCC #27)
- ★ D. Created in image and likeness of God with a two-fold command to be life-giving (co-creators) and have dominion (transcend self by fulfilling call, Gn 1:28). Life and Love.
 1. Adam and Eve want to be gods not images (Gn 3:5) and violate basic command leads to death and chaos as seen in Cain and Abel, Noah and flood and tower of Babel.
- ★ E. Nature: Body and Soul two co-principles of human.
 1. Soul is individual, immortal, rational.
 2. Two powers of the soul Intellect and Will (Aquinas).
- ★ F. Human Condition: Image and Likeness real but imperfect because wounded by Sin.
- ★ G. Original Sin is an orientation away from right relationship (pride/selfishness) into which we are all born
 1. Venial sin wounds relationships through vice and bad forming bad habits
 2. Mortal sin (serious matter, sufficient reflection, full consent) ruptures relationship
 3. social sin is the result of personal sin within a society.
 4. Another definition of sin: an action or omission that hinders, violates or breaks right relationships which support human well-being. Our actions are part of the Body of Christ (CCC #953) in virtue or vice (Rom 14:7; 1 Cor 12:26-27).
- ★ **We cannot free ourselves from the cycle of sin, need one more perfect than us: God**
- H. God's grace more powerful than sin (CCC #1949-2029)
- ★ I. Grace: Grace is God's self communication/presence/love in us, ("a favor")
 1. Sanctifying/uncreated: The abiding presence of God in the human person as habitual foundation of life and love.
 2. Actual/created: the presence of God in particular persons given as a power to guide particular human actions in life situations manifested through virtues/gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- ★ J. "God's free initiative demands man's free response, for God has created man in his image by conferring on him, along with freedom, the power to

know him and love him. The soul only enters freely into the communion of love. God immediately touches and directly moves the heart of man. He has placed in man a longing for truth and goodness that only he can satisfy." (CCC #2002)

- ★ K. Faith: A gift of God by which we freely accept God's self-communication in Christ. One of the Theological virtues (Hope: trust in promises of God in eternal life and second coming; Love: unitive relationship with God and all creation). (CCC #1814-1816)
 1. Faith is a free of the intellect and will to the whole truth that God has revealed (CCC#143-155).
 2. Belief is the meeting of the yes in the mind and practice in the world. Belief is a human and ecclesial act (CCC #180-181)
- L. Person as relational:
 1. Nature: potency given prior to is gift and task, universal, static, abstract, metaphysical, and objective.
 2. Person: what I make of myself by using my nature, concrete, individual, dynamic, psychological, subjective, self-making in freedom, relational- love for authentic life, selfish is in-authentic, self as gift, express and form character as make or destroy self.
 3. Relationship to God, others, self, creation. See entire life in this context through values, relations, conversion, and "who am I becoming?" (CCC #1877-1948)

IV. Christ our Mediator through Grace

- A. Revelation occurs in stages: covenant in original justice, sin of Adam, Noah (Gen 10:5), Abraham (Gen 12:1), Israel written in hearts (Is 2:2-4, Heb 10:16) everything said in Word of God as Son (Heb 1:1-2)
- ★ B. "It pleased God, in his goodness and wisdom, to reveal himself and to make known the mystery of his will. His will was that men should have access to the Father, through Christ, the Word made flesh, in the holy spirit and thus become sharers in the divine nature" (CCC #51, DV #2, Eph 1:9; 2:18, 2 Pt 1:4)
- ★ C. Christ the first born of all creation and the first born from the dead (Col 1:12-20)
- D. Christ is a part of creation "in"- exemplary cause by image of Son, "through"- plan and activity of the Father, "for" incarnation so Jesus and world both needed, "in him all things hold together"- sustaining cause of universe. (CCC #290-292)
- ★ E. Creation culminates in Christ (CCC #280) Christ is new creation, exodus and covenant and future hope. (CCC #289)
- ★ F. God our Savior Eph 1:3-10

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