

To Learn More About the Creation and the Fall of Man

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Creation

1. What is man?

Man is a creature composed of body and soul, and made to the image and likeness of God.

2. Is this likeness to God in the body or in the soul?

This likeness to God is chiefly in the soul. The likeness to the blessed Trinity is found chiefly in man's soul, but there is a resemblance in the body too – not, however in the body of one man alone, but in man and woman united in marriage and the child which is the normal fruit of the marriage.

"God created man in His image. In the image of God He created him. Male and female He created them. Then God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply'". *Gen. 1:27-28*

3. How is the soul like God?

The soul is like god because it is a spirit having understanding and free will, and is destined to live forever.

4. Who were the first man and woman?

The first man and woman were Adam and Eve, the first parents of the whole human race.

5. Is it possible that there are intelligent beings created by God on other planets of the universe?

Yes; it is possible that there are intelligent beings created by God on other planets of the universe, because God's power is unlimited.

6. What was the chief gift bestowed on Adam and Eve by God?

The chief gift bestowed on Adam and Eve by God was sanctifying grace, which made them children of God and gave them the right to heaven.

7. What other gifts were bestowed on Adam and Eve by God?

The other gifts were happiness in the Garden of Paradise, great knowledge, control of the passions by reason, and freedom from suffering and death. Great knowledge: Adam and Eve had knowledge poured into their minds by God. They did not have to study or go to school. Control of the passions by reason: Passions are emotions in the soul, such as anger, fear, hatred, desire, joy, sorrow, etc. Adam and Eve would not become angry unless they wanted to. They would never be afraid of anything unless they wanted to. They would never cry unless they wanted to. Freedom from suffering and death: There would be no sickness, weakness, weariness, or bodily discomfort. They would not have to go to the dentist, take castor oil, or go to the hospital. When they finished their time on earth they would go to heaven without dying.

8. What commandment did God give Adam and Eve?

God gave Adam and Eve the commandment not to eat of the fruit of a certain tree that grew in the Garden of Paradise. It was not a real fruit, but a symbol of some pleasure God forbade them to test their love for Him.

9. Did Adam and Eve obey the commandment of God?

They did not obey the commandment of God, but ate of the forbidden fruit.

10. What happened to Adam and Eve on account of their sin?

On account of their sin Adam and Eve lost sanctifying grace, the right to heaven, and their special gifts; they became subject to death, to suffering, and to a strong inclination to evil, and they were driven from the Garden of Paradise.

God's Command

1. Do not eat of the tree of good and evil, lest you die.
2. God loved Adam and Eve and wanted to keep them from harm.
3. Adam and Eve disobeyed God and did their own will.

The Devil's Temptation

1. If you eat this fruit, you shall be as gods.
2. The devil, symbolized by the serpent, said: "Don't love God, love yourselves. Be your own will. What God says is too difficult."
3. The gate to heaven was closed. Adam and Eve Lost their gifts and the friendship of God.

11. What has happened to us on account of the sin of Adam?

We, his descendants come into the world deprived of sanctifying grace and inherit his punishment, as we would have inherited his gifts had he been obedient to God.

12. What is this sin in us called?

It is called original sin.

13. Why is this sin called original?

This sin is called original because it comes down to us through our origin, or descent, from Adam.

14. What are the chief punishments of Adam which we inherit through original sin?

We inherit through original sin the punishments of: death, suffering, ignorance, and a strong inclination to sin.

15. Is God unjust in punishing us on account of the sin of Adam?

God is not unjust in punishing us on account of the sin of Adam, because original sin does not take away from us anything to which we have a strict right as human beings, but only the free gifts which God in His goodness would have bestowed on us if Adam had not sinned.

God's Gifts to Us

1. Grace
2. Great knowledge
3. Control of passions by reason
4. Freedom from sickness and death

The Devil's Gifts to Us

1. Original Sin
2. Ignorance
3. A strong inclination to sin
4. Suffering and death

16. Was any human person ever preserved from original sin?

The Blessed Virgin Mary was preserved from original sin in view of the merits of her Divine Son; and this privilege is called her Immaculate Conception. Our Lady is so different from us. We have sin, but she did not. But she feels sorry for us. The healing waters of Lourdes are a sign of her love for us and her desire to help us in our troubles.