

Creation

God spoke and made heaven and earth

He used no material to create the universe -only God can do that. A carpenter can make a chair but he can't make the wood he uses. God made us from nothing and continues to hold us in existence. He made us by a mere act of His will. The same will that brought us into existence is required to keep us in existence. This is the primary truth about ourselves.

A carpenter makes a chair. If he leaves it, the chair continues to exist because the wood he made it from preserves the shape he has given it. In other words, when the maker of a thing leaves it, it is kept in existence by the material used in its making. If God, having made us, left us, we would be kept in existence by the material used in our making - nothing. If He withdrew His will for our existence, we would be nothing. I don't mean we would die, I mean we would be nothing at all.

God's goodness is revealed in creation. We are made in God's image.

There's a particular order of creation:

The rock – a lifeless form of creation – non-organic; still belongs to God but has no life in it.

Plants, flowers, fruit – organic, have life, distinct from the rock, but no consciousness

Animal - animals have life, have feeling to a certain degree, have consciousness to a certain degree, but have no ability, no freedom, to act outside their nature. What can an animal decide? Litter box, claw the furniture or not, etc, this is their "catness" or for a technical term their cat-itude. But a cat can't violate its own nature, it is not free to not be a cat. It can't rationally think a mouse might be endangered before it eats it. It can't mourn the loss of another species.

Human beings and Angels – are created with spirit and soul – The soul is the life force that has rational capacity. Creatures that know and love in a total way. Human beings bridge the break between created things with physical attributes and angels, who are pure spirit. Angels have no physical “stuffness”. Only humans share in both soul and physical body. Angels and humans are totally free.

A couple of big differences:

- Humans are born within the context of time – this is important because repentance requires time. An act is committed, later a realization, and then contrition and asking for forgiveness. Humans develop incrementally. We grow in knowledge as we age and progress.
- Angels are not in time. They are created in eternity. Eternity is not the same as thousands of years, or as infinity. Eternity does not have a measure; it is all time present. Angels are infused with all the knowledge they need to choose God or not at their creation. They do not develop incrementally. There are no angel babies. God asks them at their creation the same question He asks us at our death “Will you serve or not serve”. They have all the knowledge they need to decide. That’s why the choice of the fallen angels was fair at the beginning; and why angels are incapable of repentance. Fallen angels have chosen against God. The idea of repentance requires time and angels do not exist in that state.
- Our judgment will be at the end of life. We will be asked “will you serve or not serve?” Our judgment will be fair. We will have all the knowledge we need to choose.

We are made in God’s image

- We are free. Angels are too.

Angels and humans are free enough to step outside their nature. Both can act totally against their nature. The essence is exactly the same as what it means to be God. We are made in His image. He is Love!

We are free to choose to *not* love unconditionally.

What it means to be human is to act as God acts. To be human; to be humane – goodness

Why does God take the risk to give us total freedom – freedom to reject?

Why did God make me? (Back to Balt Cat) – remember what God *is* always informs us about what God does – out of Love! This begins to solve the puzzle of - if God made you out of love, He had to make you totally free – to love Him – or reject Him. It would not be love if He compelled us in any way. Love *requires* that the beloved be free – it requires the risk.

There are 3 ways we image God:

1. self-knowledge
2. self-possession (self mastery)
3. self-giving

The rest of creation doesn't have these abilities, except for angels.

Only humans, though, must participate in creation. We are co-creators – subordinate to God – but important participants. (What's the first command from God? 😊)

Angels are not co-creators – there are no angel babies. Angels do not participate in creating another like themselves.

God takes us very seriously in making us totally free. Remember St. Augustine - "God who made you without your willing it – will not save you without your willing it"

Sin is an effort to gain something against the will of God; but the will of God is all that holds us in existence, so when we sin, we are hacking away at our only support.

The Fall

God created man with the natural life of soul and body, and with Sanctifying Grace - God dwelling in his soul and pouring supernatural life into it. In addition, He gave them immunity from suffering and death. Man's nature was completely at peace.

But Satan tempted Adam and Eve with the promise that if they disobeyed they would be like gods. Adam and Eve broke the union with God. He lost sanctifying grace. He could now suffer and death entered in. For Adam, the man, he could repent, turning back to God. But Adam, was not just a man, he was *the* man - the representative of the whole human race.

For the angels the testing had been individual, each angel who fell did so by his own decision. But the human race was tested and fell in one man, the representative man.

The angel race could not be tested in an individual angel for there is no angelic race. Men are related to one another because we are all brought into being, procreated by others. Not angels. Each angel is created whole and entire by God. He has no angel father. Our souls are the direct creation of God, but by bodily descent we are all children of Adam. And in our father we [fell](#).

The chief thing we lost was the supernatural life of sanctifying grace, This is what is meant by original sin. It is not a stain on our souls, but the absence of that grace necessary to reach the goal for which God made us. We can receive that grace later, through our redemption by Jesus, through Baptism.

But we still have our fallen nature - each of our needs seeks its own immediate gratification. Original sin weakens our will and darkens our intellect. Everyone one of us is a civil war.

Because Adam broke the unity with God, his children are born members of a -
fallen race - no longer in union with God - a race to which heaven was closed.

But there is good news - as the Friar said on the video - o happy fault of Adam!

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