

Inside the Vatican:



Made in the Image God

"God created mankind in his own image"

– Genesis 1:27

Questions to Answer

- + What does it mean to be made in the image and likeness of God?
- + Do we physically look like God?
- + Why were created?
- + Is Jesus' body God's body?



Nature of God

- + God the Father does not have a body
- + “God is a spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.” – John 4:24
 - + God is invisible
 - + Not of a physical or material nature
 - + Nature does not contain parts
 - + “a spirit has not flesh and bones” – Luke 24:39

Nature of God Cont...

- + God is described in the bible as having human and animal features
 - + Wings, feathers, arm, hand, eyes, etc.
- + Metaphorical language explaining God's power and knowledge



A Spiritual Soul



A Spiritual Soul

- + “Being in the image of God the human individual possesses the dignity of a person, who is not just something, but someone. He is capable of self-knowledge, of self-possession and of freely giving himself and entering into communion with other persons.” – CCC 357
- + We share in God’s essence/attributes
 - + Morality, emotions, spirituality, rationality
 - + Humans are the only creature capable of having a relationship with the Creator
 - + Separates us from the animals

Reason for Creation



Reason for Human Creation

- + Unites the material and spiritual worlds
- + “The human body shares in the dignity of ‘the image of God’: it is a human body precisely because it is animated by a spiritual soul, and it is the whole human person that is intended to become, in the body of Christ, a temple of the Spirit” – CCC 364
 - + Humans were created to be perfect and in communion with God
- + “And he is called by grace to a covenant with his Creator, to offer him a response of faith and love that no other creature can give in his stead.” – CCC 357

What about Christ's Body?

- + God has always existed in beginning and end and took on human flesh in "these last days" (Christ)
- + God exists in eternity as pure spirit, even though he chose for the Son to also take on a human nature in addition to his bodiless, timeless, divine nature.
- + Christ is the Son not the Father
 - + God the Father does not have a body
- + The Word *became* flesh
 - + Again, pointing to God being a spirit



In Short...

- + What does it mean to be made in the image and likeness of God?
 - + To contain and share in the being of God. We have the unique ability to have a spiritual identity.
- + Do we look like God?
 - + No. God is a spirit and does not have a body like us. He is an incorporeal being.
- + Why were we created?
 - + To give glory to the Creator and have a relationship with Him. We are to serve Him by how we live our lives.
 - + "God created everything for man, but man in turn was created to serve and love God and offer all creation back to him" – CCC 358
- + Is Jesus' body God's body?
 - + God chose to take on human nature but this body was not theirs at the beginning. "The Word *became* flesh" suggests this bodily form came after creation and did not exist in God from the very beginning.