

FAMILY FAITH

Chapter 1: Created in God's Image

God created man and woman in His own image and likeness.

Chapter Summary

God is our Creator and created everything, visible and invisible, out of nothing. All of God's creation is good and is meant to reveal to us who God is. God is a Blessed Trinity, "one God in three persons" (CCC 253). The Blessed Trinity is "an eternal exchange of love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit" (CCC 221). God created us to share His love with us so we can love Him and love others. God shares His love with us through the gift of grace and the theological virtues of faith, hope, and charity. The theological virtues are given to us so that we can be holy children of God and do what is good.

All human persons are created in God's image and likeness, to love like God loves. God created us with a rational soul, which gives us the ability to love, to think, and to make choices. Adam and Eve were created in friendship with God. The grace and virtues they received from their friendship with God allowed them to live in harmony within themselves, with each other, and with all of creation.

More for Parents

Although human love is imperfect, with God's grace and the virtues He gives us, we can love others as the Blessed Trinity loves. God gives Himself perfectly out of love. We have opportunities to do this every day. Whether it is cleaning up milk spills or cheering up a hurt child, unselfish love is built into a parent's day. Invite God into these moments and ask Him to help you love as He loves.

Virtue in the Family

The theological virtue of charity makes it possible for us to love like God loves with total self-giving love. Prayer, fasting, and tithing are all ways that children learn to live with the virtue of charity by watching their parents.

Modeling Charity for Your Children

- Gather as a family and pray together using these words: "God, You created us for happiness. You created us to be with You in Heaven. We ask for the grace and virtue to love You."
 - Have everyone spend a few moments in silence, thinking about what it will be like to see God face-to-face in Heaven.
 - Conclude by praying an Act of Charity such as "My God, I love You above all things with my whole heart and soul because You are all-good and worthy of all my love."
- As parents, establish your own "rule of life" for prayer. Spend fifteen minutes a day in silent prayer, meditating on a Scripture passage, writing of a saint, attribute of God, etc. This will demonstrate a daily commitment to prayer.
- Take a walk as a family and teach your children that all of creation is a beautiful gift that shows God's love for us. When we live with charity, God makes us beautiful gifts to others.

Vocabulary Words for Your Children to Review

- **Blessed Trinity**
- **communion**
- **creation**
- **grace**
- **human person**
- **image of God**
- **soul**

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