

Chapter 4: The Human Person

We are created in the image and likeness of God to give ourselves as gifts of love.

Chapter Summary

Adam and Eve were created in the image and likeness of God. We are created in God's image and likeness in two very important ways. First, we are called to communion because God is a communion of Persons. Second, we can think, choose, and love. The union of our bodies and souls makes us human persons. Our rational souls give us life and distinguish us from the rest of the material world. Like our souls, our bodies are created good. Because each person is made in God's image, each person has immense dignity. This means that men and women have equal dignity even though God created them differently. Men and women are created to reflect the love of the Blessed Trinity. They are each given gifts that enable them to uniquely help one another and their families grow in holiness. Husband and wife give themselves as a gift of love in the Sacrament of Matrimony. Their marriage and family can reflect the self-giving love of the Blessed Trinity.

More for Parents

Watching our children grow up tends to be a mixture of excitement and anxiety. It's exciting to see them develop their own interests, ideas, and personalities. But because they can *choose* to make good or bad choices, anxiety tends to follow. Their ability to choose to love God and to reason comes from being made in God's image and likeness. We pray that our children choose to follow God and remain in friendship with Him by making good choices. When we as parents choose to turn away from sin and live with virtue, we attract our children to a life with God and show the joy that comes from it.

Virtue in the Family

We are made in the image of God. The more we live with virtue, the more perfectly we reflect God's love and image to others. Whether we're helping around the house or serving the poor, living with virtue leads others to God.

A More Perfect Image of God

- Cook a meal with your children and take it to an elderly neighbor or family member who may be lonely. Eat the meal with him to show him that he has dignity and is precious in God's eyes and loved by Him.
- With your children, copy the verses below on small pieces of paper and tape them to the mirror in the main bathroom of your house. They will remind all family members of their dignity and how they are to reflect God to those around them.
 - "I praise you [God], for I am wondrously made" (Psalm 139:14).
 - "You are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you" (Isaiah 43:4).
 - "[God] created man in his own image" (Genesis 1:27).
 - "It is [God] that made us, and we are his" (Psalm 100:3).
- Pray the third decade of the Joyful Mysteries, the Nativity, for the protection and health of the unborn. Go to www.wordofliferies.org/parents for instructions on how to pray the Rosary.

Vocabulary Words for Your Children to Review

- **body**
- **dignity**
- **image and likeness**
- **rational soul**
- **soul**

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For more family faith formation resources, go to the parent portal.