

HUMILITY: Our Beginnings

USCCA, CHAPTERS 1 & 6



Sirach 3:17-29
Hebrews 12:18-19
Luke 14:1, 7-14

**What if human
beings are
limited?**

PRACTICE: humility

Do you believe that there is an innate beauty and *dignity* to every human person?

What is the unique dignity of the human person? Can it be lost?

What is humility? Why is it important? How is it related to *human dignity*? To "*salvation*"?

in the image of God...

Story of "the Fall", Genesis 3

Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the animals that the Lord God had made. ...But the serpent said to the woman, "You most certainly will not die! No, God knows well that the moment you eat of it...

- **your eyes will be opened**
- **and you will be like gods**
- **who know what is good and what is bad."**

The woman saw that the tree was good for food, pleasing to the eyes and desirable for gaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened... -Genesis 3:1-7

WHO OR WHAT DO I LOVE?

Recognizing the two truths and the lie...

Can you find the two truths in the promises the serpent made to Eve? What is the lie?

What might the Tree of Knowledge represent? What is good about human knowledge? What are the limits of human knowledge.

What is the tree of LIFE?

Which of these two trees were Adam & Even to avoid?

What happens when they eat from this tree?

Do Catholics believe in the Devil?

What about tonight's session do I most want to remember? Do I have any questions? Any concerns? Anything to follow-up on?

Humility:

from Latin, *humus*, meaning "soil": we are made from the dust of the earth - made by God; we are lowly, we are not God. Yet, this same lowliness is our greatest dignity: we are called to be children of God.

"Lord, my heart is not proud; nor are my eyes haughty. I do not busy myself with great matters, with things too sublime for me. Rather, I have stilled my soul, hushed it like a weaned child. Like a weaned child on its mother's lap, so is my soul within me. Isarel, hope in the Lord, now and forever." -Psalm 131:1-3

HUMILITY is the foundation of prayer. Only when we humbly acknowledge that -we do not know how to pray as we ought' are we ready to receive freely the gift of prayer." -CCC #2559

From the Catechism...

"The language is figurative, but the reality is not a fantasy. The gift of freedom, given to the first man and first woman, was meant to draw them closer to God, to each other, and to their destiny. God asked them - as he asks us - their human limits and to trust in him. In the temptation, they were lured into trying to surpass their being human. "You will become gods." They abused their freedom, failed to trust God, and disobeyed his command. They lost paradise...And death became part of the human experience. For the people of ancient Israel, sin was spiritual death that leads to separation from God, the source of life, and consequently, to the death of the body. -USCCA, page 69

Original Sin

is a loss of the original holiness & righteousness with which our first parents were created. The result is damage to our natural powers of knowing and loving, and an inclination towards sin.

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"Humble yourself the more, the greater you are, and you will find favor with God. What is too sublime for you seek not, into things beyond your strength search not."

-cf. Sirach 3:17-29

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