

Creator & Creation

God

- I. **Frank Sheed, Theology and Sanity, Ch.6** The notion is unfortunately widespread that the mystery of the Blessed Trinity is a mystery of mathematics, that is to say, of how one can equal three. The plain Christian accepts the doctrine of the Trinity; the “advanced” Christian rejects it; but too often what is being accepted by the one and rejected by the other is that one equals three. The believer argues that God has said it, therefore it must be true; the rejecter argues it cannot be true, therefore God has not said it. A learned non-Catholic [theologian], being asked if he believed in the Trinity, answered, “I must confess that the arithmetical aspect of the Deity does not greatly interest me”; and if the learned can think that there is some question of arithmetic involved, the ordinary person can hardly be expected to know any better.
- II. Attributes
 - a. Existence
 - i. **Romans 1:19-20** For what can be known about God is plain to [the Gentiles], because God has shown it to them. Ever since the creation of the world his invisible nature, namely, his eternal power and deity, has been clearly perceived in the things that have been made.
 - ii. Five proofs for God’s existence (*Summa theologiae*)
 - iii. Book recommendation: *Aquinas* by Edward Feser
 - b. Simplicity
 - i. No parts or division in God
 - ii. No potentiality in God, he is pure actuality
 - c. Essence and Existence Are One
 - i. I AM WHO AM
 - ii. What God is (his essence), is existence itself
 - iii. **CCC 213**
 - d. Goodness
 - i. Perfection of all perfections
 - e. Infinite
 - i. No limit in God
 - f. Omnipresence
 - i. God is everywhere
 - g. Immutability
 - i. God does not change
 - h. Eternity
 - i. God is always
 - ii. **Revelation 1: 4** “Who is and who was and who is to come”
 - i. Oneness
 - i. Only one God, one supreme being

- ii. **Deuteronomy 6:4-5** “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.”

Old Testament Hints at the Blessed Trinity

- I. **CCC 237**
- II. **Genesis 1:26** Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.”
- III. **Genesis 3:22** Then the Lord God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil.”
- IV. **Proverbs 8:22, 27-31, 34-35** “The Lord possessed me at the beginning of His way, before His works of old. I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was....When He prepared the heavens, I was there; when He set a compass upon the face of the deep, when He established the clouds above, when He strengthened the fountains of the deep, when He gave to the sea His decree that the waters should not pass His commandment, when He appointed the foundations of the earth” then I was by Him, as one brought up with Him, and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him, rejoicing in the habitable part of His earth; and my delights were with the sons of men.... Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors. For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain the favor of the Lord.”
- V. **Wisdom 7:21-24** I learned both what is secret and what is manifest, for wisdom, the fashioner of all things, taught me. For in her there is a spirit that is intelligent, holy, unique, manifold, subtle, mobile, clear, unpolluted, distinct, invulnerable, loving the good, keen, irresistible, beneficent, humane, steadfast, sure, free from anxiety, all-powerful, overseeing all, and penetrating through all spirits that are intelligent and pure and most subtle. For wisdom is more mobile than any motion; because of her pureness she pervades and penetrates all things.
- VI. **Wisdom 7:25-28** For she is a breath of the power of God, and a pure emanation of the glory of the Almighty; therefore nothing defiled gains entrance into her. For she is a reflection of eternal light, a spotless mirror of the working of God, and an image of his goodness. Though she is but one, she can do all things, and while remaining in herself, she renews all things; in every generation she passes into holy souls and makes them friends of God, and prophets; for God loves nothing so much as the man who lives with wisdom.

New Testament Realities

- I. **John 1:1-4, 14, 16, 18** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men....And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only-begotten Son from the Father....And from his fullness have we all received, grace upon grace...No one has ever seen God; the only-begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he has made him known.

- II. **CCC 240**
- III. **John 8:56-59** Your father Abraham rejoiced that he was to see my day; he saw it and was glad.” The Jews then said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?” Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.” So they took up stones to throw at him; but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple.
- IV. **Matthew 28:19-20** “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.”
- V. **CCC 233**

Nature and Person

- I. Nature - What someone is
 - a. Allows someone to do the things they are capable of doing
- II. Person - Who someone is
 - a. Possesses the nature and does the things it makes them capable of doing
- III. Blessed Trinity
 - a. One Divine Nature (What God is)
 - b. Three Divine Persons (Who God is)
 - i. Father
 - ii. Son
 - iii. Holy Spirit
- IV. Book recommendation
 - a. *Theology for Beginners* by Frank Sheed
 - b. *Theology and Sanity* by Frank Sheed

Creation of Man

- I. **CCC 293**
- II. **CCC 343**
- III. Man is created in God’s image and likeness
 - a. Intellect ordered toward the true
 - b. Will ordered toward the good
- IV. **Soul, *Catholic Dictionary* (Rev. Fr. John Hardon, S.J.)** The spiritual immortal part in human beings that animates their body. Though a substance in itself, the soul is naturally ordained toward a body; separated, it is an ‘incomplete’ substance...As a simple and spiritual substance, the [rational] soul cannot die....Animals and plants are also said to have souls, which operate as sensitive and vegetative principles of life. Unlike the human spirit these souls are perishable. The rational soul contains all the powers of the two other souls and is the origin of the sensitive and vegetative functions in the human being.
- V. **See Handout - Hierarchy of Creatures**

Gifts of God to Man

- I. Natural - Physical body and spiritual soul
- II. Preternatural
 - a. Bodily immortality
 - b. Infused knowledge
 - c. Integrity of passions
- III. Supernatural - Sanctifying grace

Conclusion

- I. **CCC 356**
- II. **Saint Catherine of Siena, *Dialogue 4, 13 (On Divine Providence)*** What made you establish man in so great a dignity? Certainly the incalculable love by which you have looked on your creature in yourself! You are taken with love for her; for by love indeed you created her, by love you have given her a being capable of tasting your eternal Good.
- III. **CCC 375-376**

Closing Prayer

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray and do thou o prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls.