

## Creation Is Good

- Human beings are created with a fundamental goodness.
  - To prove our goodness, God gave his only Son to redeem us.
6. Read aloud the short feature “How Do You View Humanity?” (p. 27). Give the class a few minutes to reflect. Then ask students how they would answer psychiatrist R.D. Laing if they were fellow guests on a talk show devoted to “What Are Human Beings Really Like?”

*“Man and woman are both with one and the same dignity ‘in the image of God.’ In their ‘being-man’ and ‘being-woman,’ they reflect the Creator’s wisdom and goodness” (CCC, 369).*

grace, we can enter into a covenant, a love-relationship with our Creator, and respond to God in faith and in love. No other creature can do this.

### **GOD MADE US MALE AND FEMALE**

Scripture reveals how God created us as complementary beings, male and female. Several truths flow from this. First, *complementary* means “making up for what is lacking in another.” In his encyclical *God is Love*, Pope Benedict XVI writes:

*The idea is certainly present [in the Bible] that man is somehow incomplete, driven by nature to seek in another the part that can make him whole, the idea that only in communion with the opposite sex can he become “complete.” The biblical account thus concludes with a prophecy about Adam: “Therefore a man leaves his father and mother and cleaves to his wife and they become one flesh” (Gn 2:24).<sup>6</sup>*

It is clear that humans need each other. We complete and fulfill each other. God builds interdependence into our very nature, creating man and woman to be helpmates, a communion of persons (CCC, 372).

In recent years, the promotion of same-sex unions as marriage has confused many people. Marriage has always been regulated by both civil and Church laws and has been understood as a legal union between a man and a woman. Now, some groups want to redefine “marriage.” They advocate expanding the meaning of “marriage” to include a legal union for committed same-sex couples. But, as the Book of Genesis reminds us, the nature and purpose of marriage comes from God—not from civil law or even from the



Church. We can’t—and shouldn’t try to—rewrite the definition of “marriage.”

The union of a male and female in marriage is an intrinsic part of God’s creation plan. Only through the committed and sacramental union of husband and wife in marriage can the natural procreation and education of children take place in a setting that is secure, nurturing, and consistent with God’s wise plan. In addition, the married union and life of a husband and wife is a great good for themselves, their family, communities, and society.

Second, God made us equal in dignity. Genesis does not teach that males are superior to females or that females are inferior to males. Males and females are *both* beautiful creatures of God. We need and complete each other.

Third, we humans are sexual beings, and God declares that what he made, including our sexual nature, is very good. Being sexual creatures draws attention to the fact that humans are composite creatures, beings with a body and a soul.

Unique among God’s creatures, humans have a spiritual nature (soul). This spiritual nature gives us the ability to think, to make choices, and to love. But humans also have bodies. The way we exist in the world is as *spiritual-material* beings.

## RESOURCES

### *Internet Resources*

#### **Berry, Brian.** “Roman Catholic Ethics: Three Approaches.”

An article that originally appeared in the March 1999 issue of *Catholic Practice*, the E-Magazine of Pastoral Link. Good short overview of three ways Catholic moralists approach issues today: deontology, revisionism (proportionalism), and virtue ethics. [www.mcgill.pvt.k12.al.us/jerryd/ligouri/berry.htm](http://www.mcgill.pvt.k12.al.us/jerryd/ligouri/berry.htm)

#### **Human Rights Web**

Lots of great information on human rights that flow from human dignity. Check out the various links. <http://www.hrweb.org/>

#### **Media Ethics Resource File**

Will give you some good cases to discuss. [www.poynter.org/research/me.htm](http://www.poynter.org/research/me.htm)