10 - The Fall

I Mankind was created to be in harmony with each other, all of creation, and God

A Created out of love and sustained out of love

B Created for community and stewardship

II But we sinned…...

A The original sin was freely committed by the first human beings

1 freedom of choice is necessary to love

2 the Fall describes a primeval event that caused man’s break with God’s friendship and grace

3 The whole of human history is stained by the original fault freely committed by our first parents

a “Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me” (Ps 51:7)

b Humanity, said Cardinal Newman, “is out of joint with the purposes of its Creator”

B Grace was for the whole human race, therefor sin affects the whole human race

C Called Original Sin

D Results in a tendency to sin (concupiscence)- the loss of original grace

III The Story in Genesis

A While acknowledging that the story of Adam and Eve in Genesis may use figurative language, the Church stresses that the drama of the first sin is part of the revealed truths of creation (CCC 289, 390).

B The account of the Fall is notable for the actions of both Adam and Eve

C Traditionally, the first sin was attributed to both pride and rebellion on the part of Adam and Eve who desired to be like God

D “the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked”

E Adam brought upon himself greater culpability because he had received the commandment directly from God

1 Although Eve eventually offered the fruit to Adam, she resisted the temptation with some strength before giving in, showing greater determination than Adam

2 Adam, on the other hand, did not resist her efforts to involve him in her sin

3 Adam thus not only freely partook in the sin (when Eve was overcome), but also failed to defend Eve and the garden from the serpent. (Gen 2:16–17).

IV The effects of the original sin

A Blame game – who, not me!

1 Adam blamed not himself but Eve

2 Eve then blamed the serpent

B sin had broken the unity of their relationship with God and with each other

C The “curse” or result

1 Adam lost for himself and all succeeding generations the supernatural gift of sanctifying grace and the preternatural gifts of integrity, bodily immortality, and impassibility (uncontrolled by emotions)

2 Adam and Eve were cursed with physical death, the separation of body and soul

3 the pains of shame and division

4 toils for food (nothin’ comes easy baby!)

5 above all eviction from the Garden and losing friendship with the Lord

6 Eve would face the trial of pain in childbirth, subjection to her husband, and permanent struggle with the serpent

7 The curse is also the remedy – sacrifice of obedience to counter disobedience

V Not the end!

A Future victory is assured to the “seed” of the woman

B Genesis anticipates the triumph of the Messiah

1 The disobedience of Eve will be replaced by the obedience of Mary

2 where Eve brought death into the world, Mary will bring life

C Gen 3:15 has been called the Protevangelium (“first gospel”)

D Man was not abandoned by God after the Fall

E Genesis announces the future promise of the Messiah, the Redeemer, the “new Adam”