

The Theology of the Body

Session 1: Original Man

Theology

Body

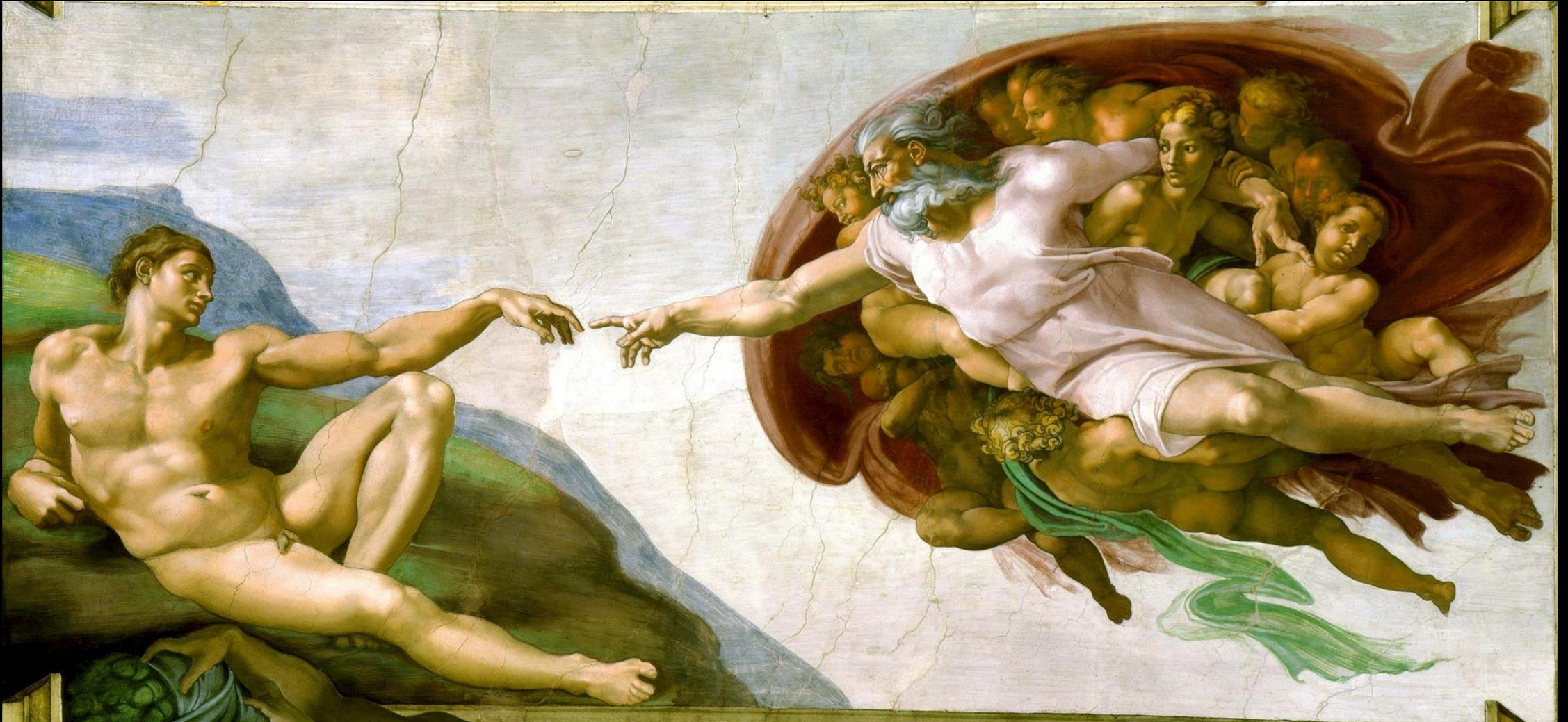
“The body, in fact, and **it alone**, is capable of **making visible what is invisible**: the spiritual and divine. It was created to transfer into the visible reality of the world, the mystery hidden since time immemorial in God, and thus to be a sign of it” (TOB, 19: 4)

Objectives

- Discover the experiences of Original Solitude, Unity and Nakedness
- Shame as a result of Original Sin
- Man in the dimension of 'gift'



In the beginning...



ἐν ἀρχῇ ἐποίησεν ὁ θεὸς τὸν οὐρανὸν καὶ τὴν γῆν

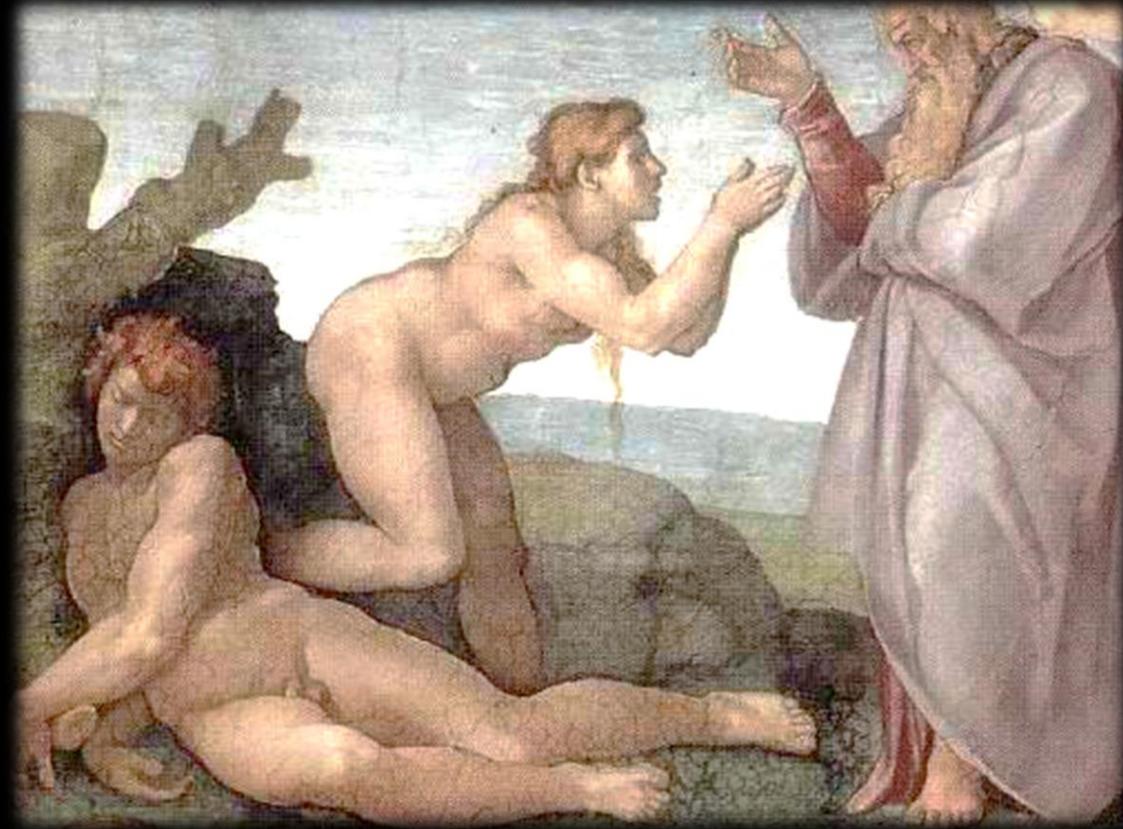
In the beginning...

What do the accounts of creation point to?

- Man is created in the image & likeness of God
- Man comes to know himself through the subjective experience of his body in relation to the world around him
- Both accounts tell Man who he is and what he is called to.

The First Account of Creation (Elohistic)

- Let *us* make man in *our* image & likeness
- Man is the pinnacle of creation: “and God saw it was **very** good” (Gen 1: 31)
- Imago Dei – objective reality



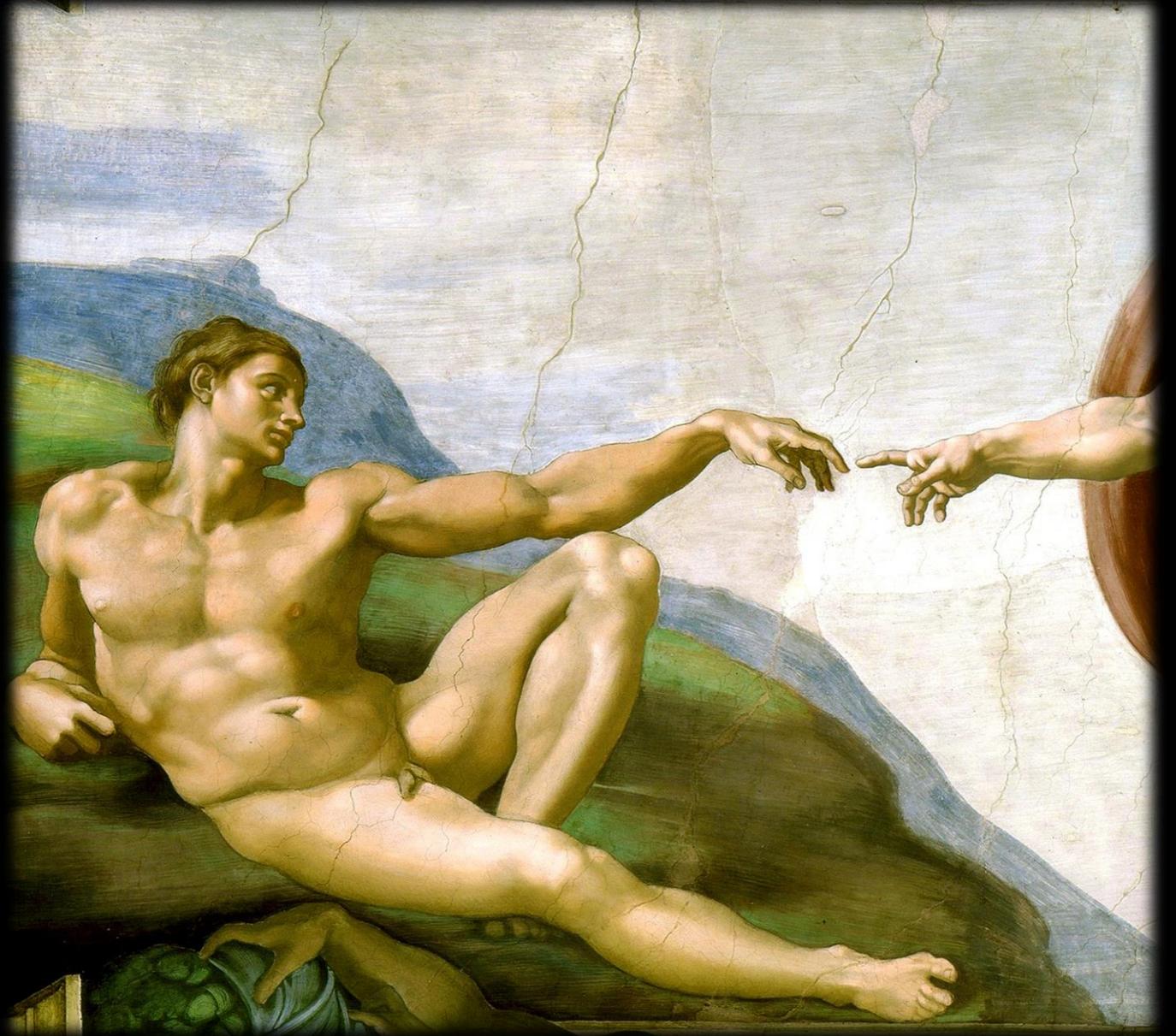
The Second Account of Creation (Yahwist)

- Before the creation of Eve, āḏām refers to 'Mankind'
- All experiences of āḏām are true for both Man & Woman
- After the creation : there is the duality of sexes:
 - îš : man
 - îššā : woman



Original Man

1. Solitude
2. Unity
3. Nakedness



Original Solitude

- “And the Lord God said: It is not good for *ādām* to be alone: let us make him a help like unto himself.” – Gen 2: 18
- Man’s first test (Gen 2: 19 – 20)
- “man gains consciousness of his own superiority” (TOB 5: 4) by naming the animals
- Man realises he has Self-Knowledge (intellect) and Self-Determination (free will)

Original Solitude

Self-Knowledge

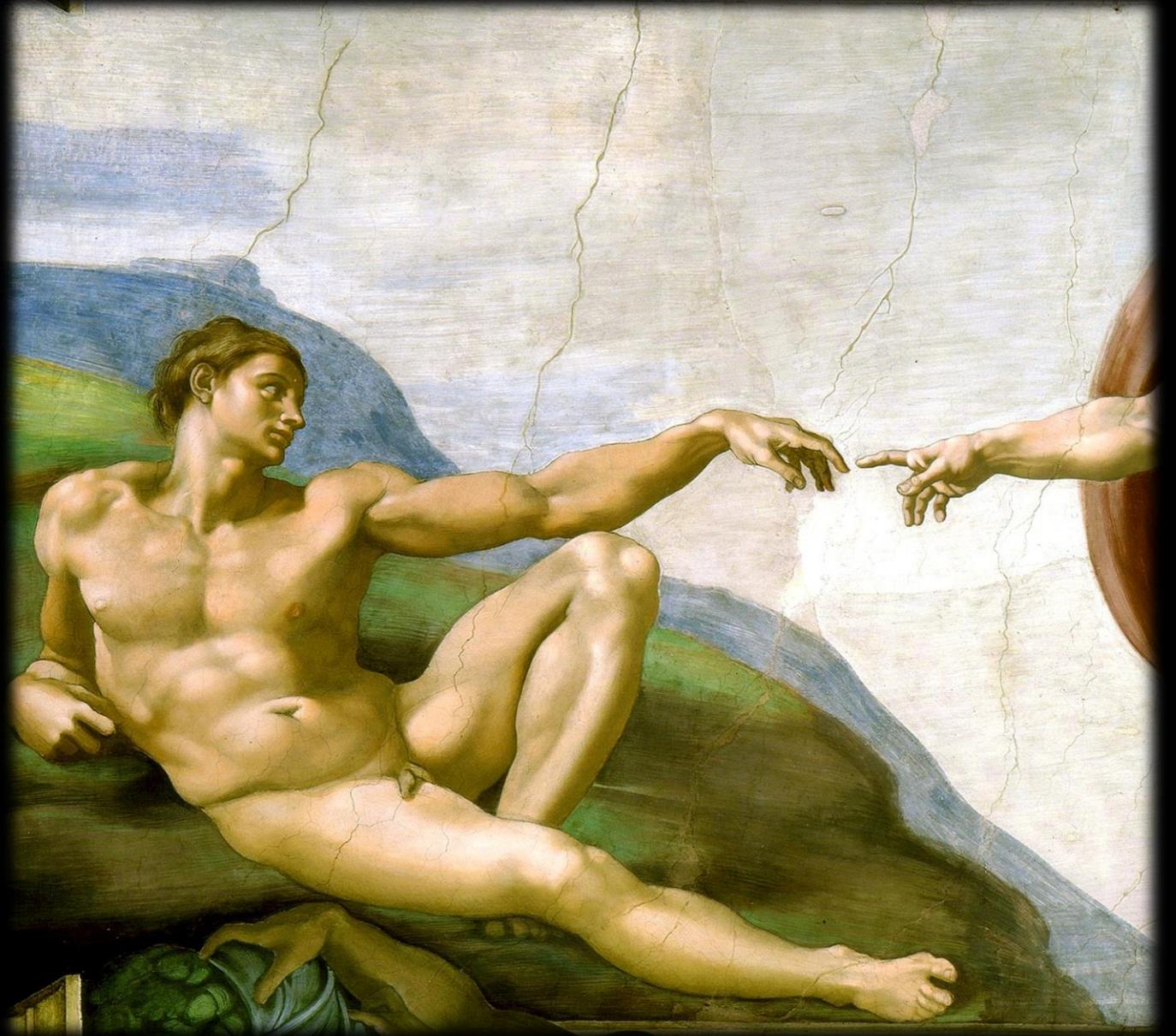
- Man knows he is not like the animals; he realizes he is alone
- Adam comes to a realisation that he is the only one who possesses freedom, and can therefore, LOVE
- Adam discovers his 2-fold vocation; love of God & neighbour.

Self-Determination

- Man has the choice between life & death, and to till & subdue the land
- Man has the freedom to choose his actions, albeit with consequences

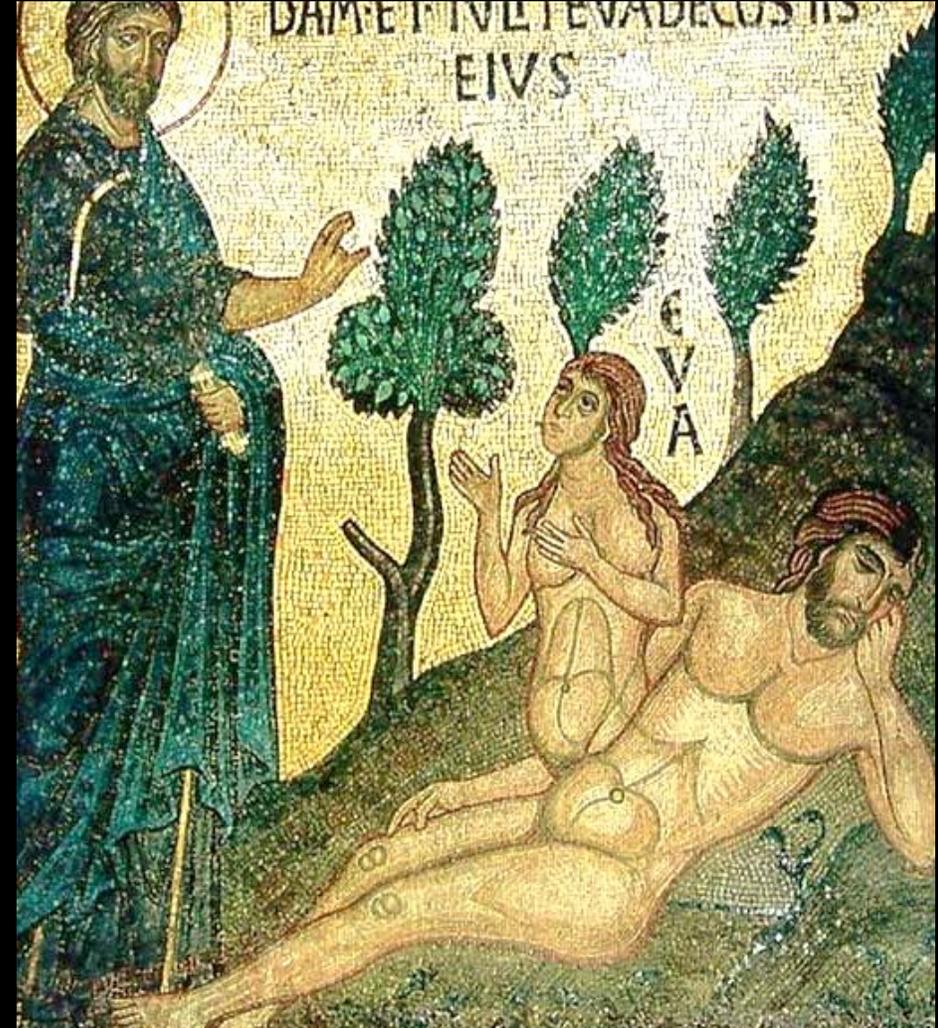
Original Man

1. Solitude
2. Unity
3. Nakedness



Original Unity

- Gen 2: 23 “And $\hat{i}\check{s}$ said: This now is bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called $\hat{i}\check{s}\check{s}\bar{a}$, because she was taken out of $\hat{i}\check{s}$.”
- Man for the first time, expressed great joy at finding the ‘other’ whom he is made for

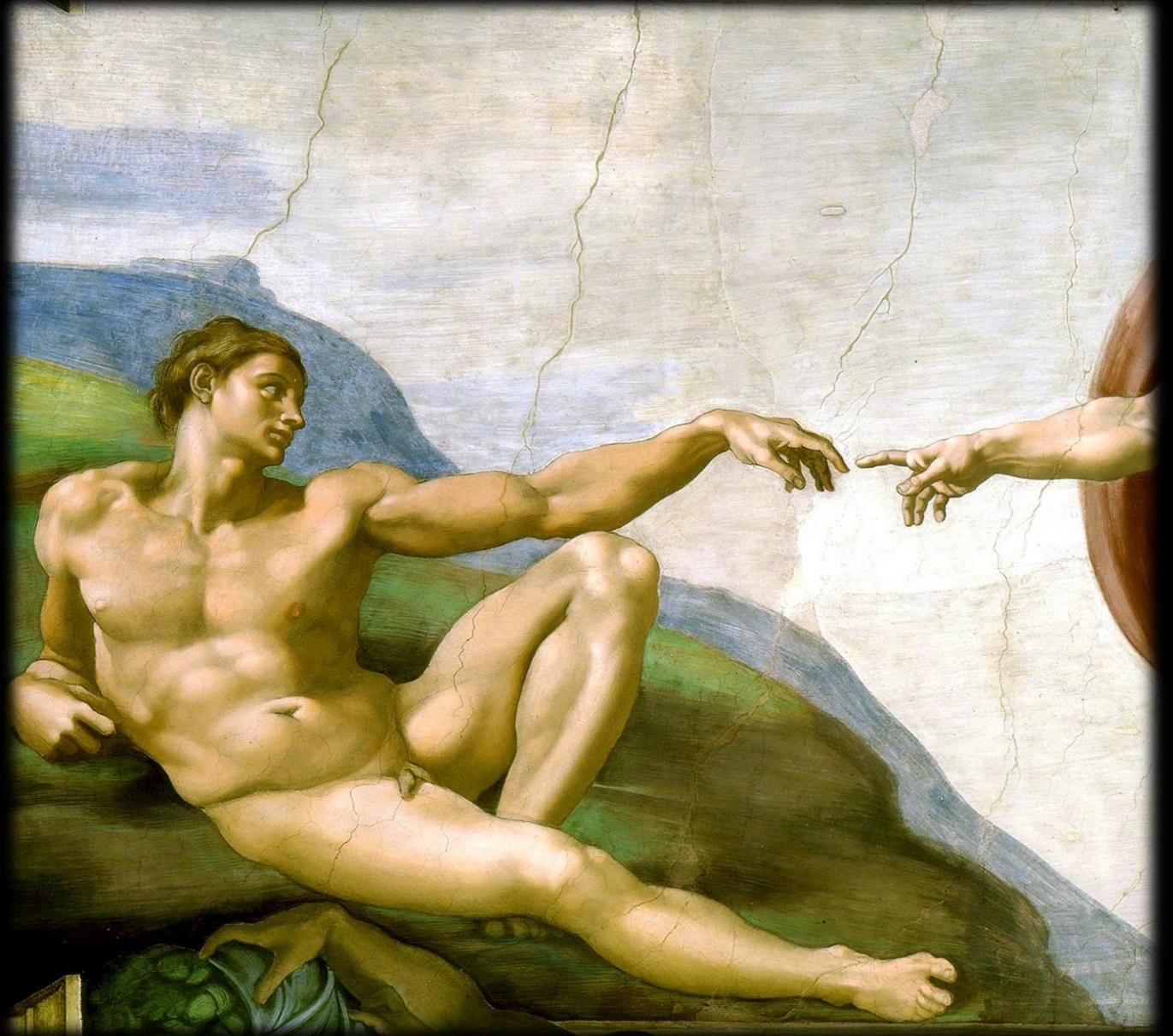


Original Unity

- Man became the image & likeness of God not only through his own humanity, but also through the communion of persons.
- CCC 2360 “In marriage, the physical intimacy of the spouses becomes a sign & pledge of spiritual communion.”
- The essence of being a person – by existing with someone & even more so by existing **FOR** someone.

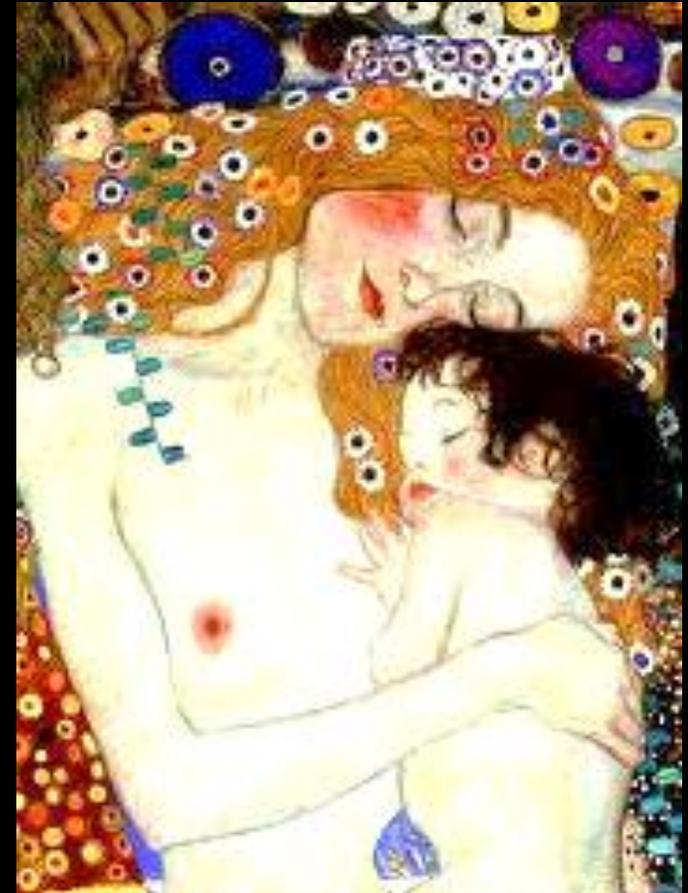
Original Man

1. Solitude
2. Unity
3. Nakedness



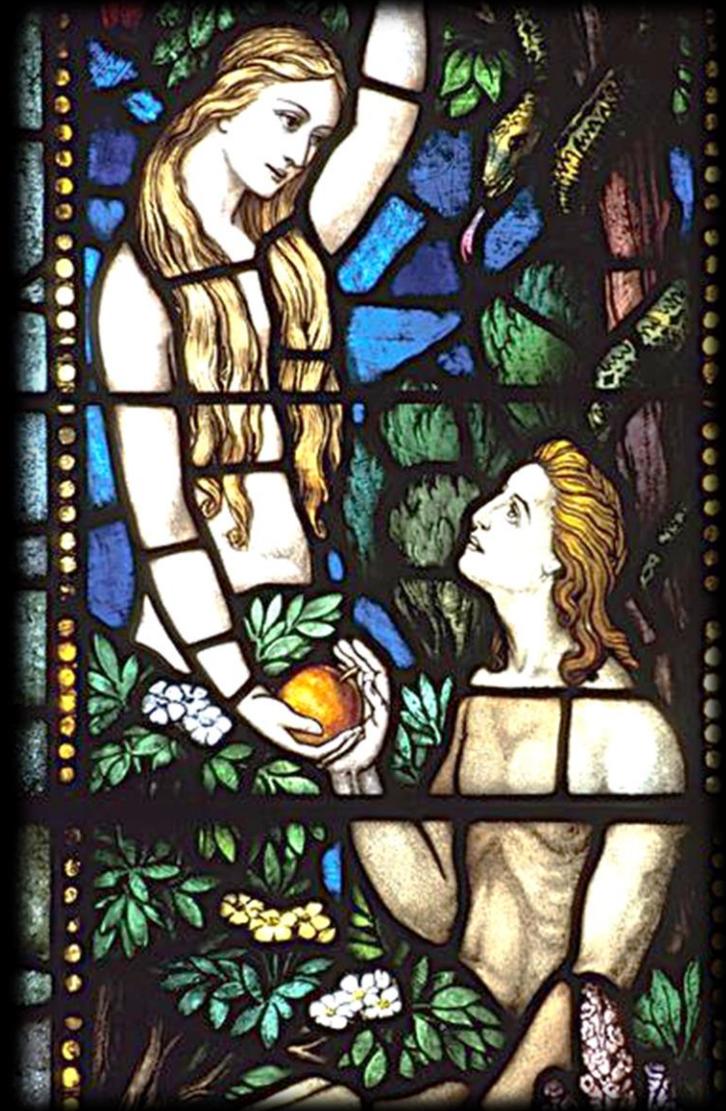
Original Nakedness

- Gen 2: 25 “And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed.”
- Both experienced the full consciousness of the meaning of the body – there was no lust!
- Total defenselessness – the other's look posed no threat to their dignity
- They recognized the spousal meaning of the body (gift)



Solitude • Unity • Nakedness

- Original Solitude: Man discovers he is made by Love for Love (he is a gift)
- Original Unity: Man experiences joy at the sight of the other whom he can give himself to
- Original Nakedness: Man experiences only authentic love with the other

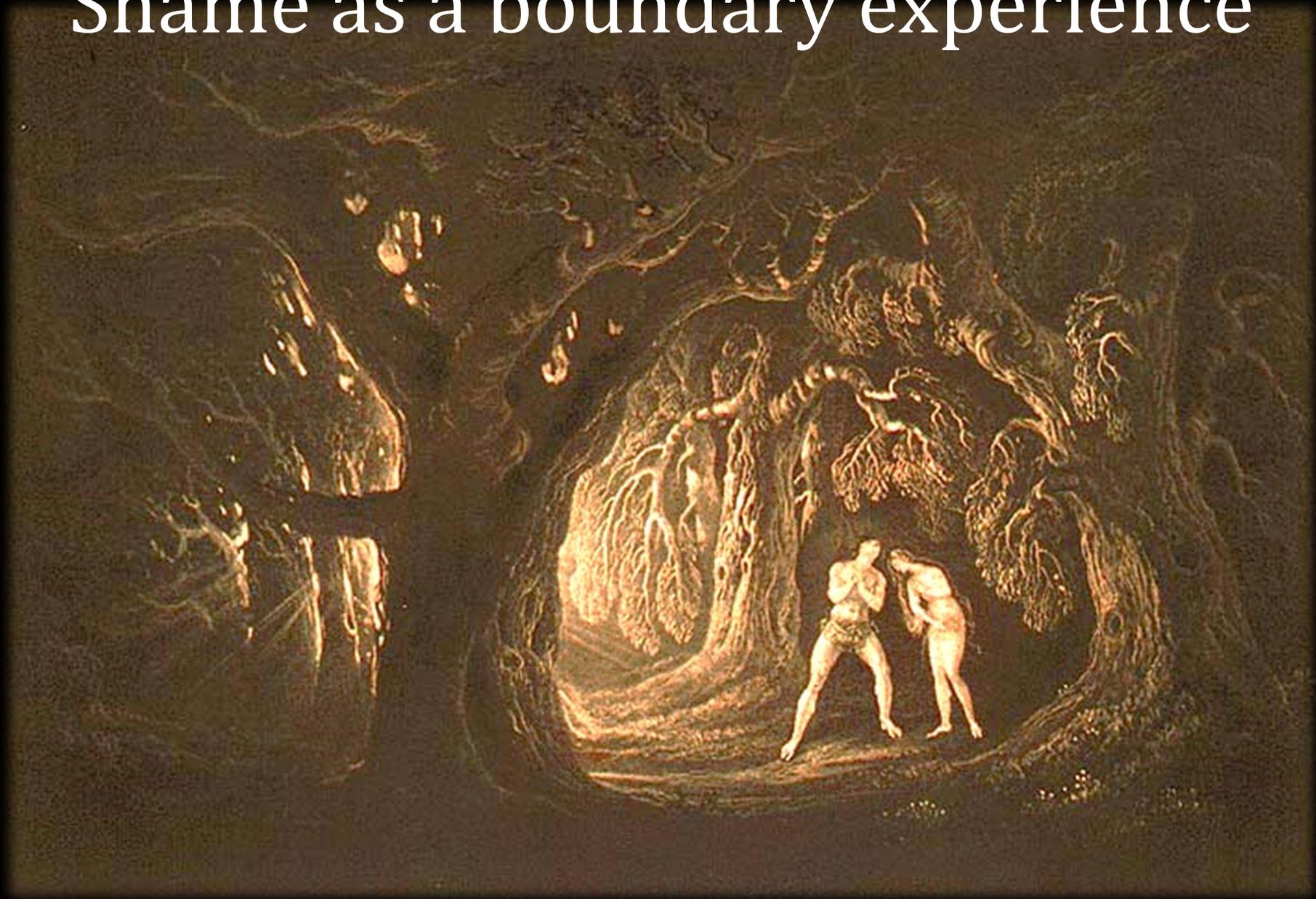


Objectives

- Discover the experiences of Original Solitude, Unity and Nakedness
- **Shame as a result of Original Sin**
- Man in the dimension of 'gift'



Shame as a boundary experience



Shame

- Radical change to Original Nakedness:
I was afraid, therefore I hid myself
- Fear of his second half, and for his own *self*
- “There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear”
(Jn 4: 18)
- The loss of fullness of consciousness – instead of a self-giving & receiving love, man now grasps (lust)



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The Gift

Man, who is the only creature on earth which
God willed for itself, cannot fully find himself
except through a sincere gift of himself

– *Gaudium et Spes 24*

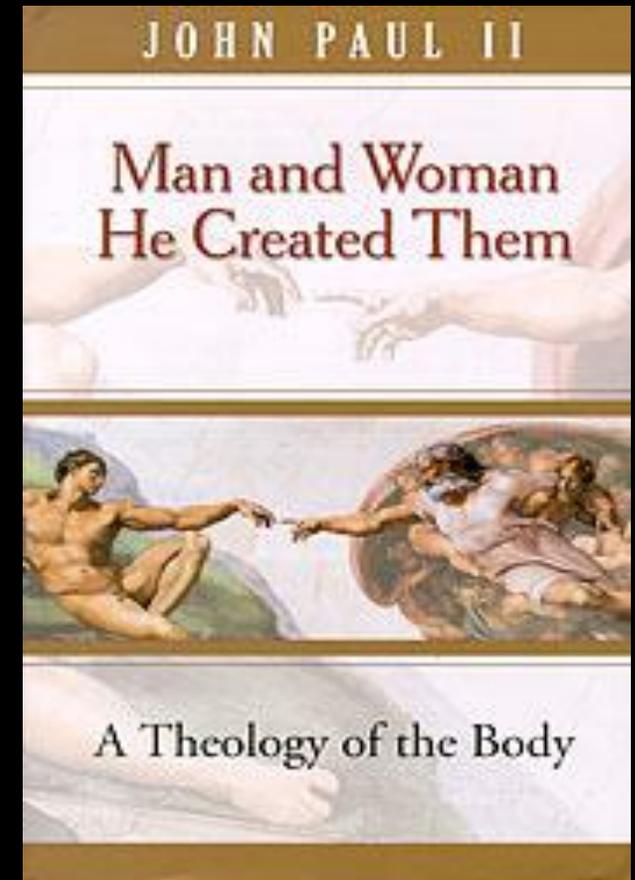
The human body, with its sex – its masculinity and femininity – seen in the very mystery of creation, is not only a source of fruitfulness and of procreation, as in the whole natural order, but contains “from the beginning” the ***“spousal”*** attribute, that is, ***the power to express love: precisely that love in which the human person becomes a gift*** and – through this gift – fulfils the very meaning of his being and existence.

(ToB, General Audience 15, 16 January 1980)



Resources

- Man & Woman He Created Them – John Paul II
- Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC)
- Gaudium et Spes (Joy and Hope)



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