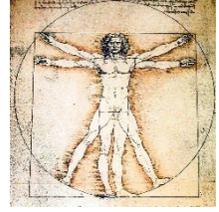




# Aquinas 101: The Human Soul



## Week 4: The States of Nature

### The State of Pure Nature (1)

- Everything we know about human nature through reason alone belongs to nature unaided by grace. This nature has an integrity as a whole system, like the natures of other animals.
- Genesis tells us that human nature existed first in a state of friendship with God, so there has never been a “pure nature” for humans in history. We went from the state of original justice to the state of fallen nature.
- Pure nature has a natural end, which is contemplation of God according to our unaided intellect.
- If the end of our nature were not distinct from our supernatural end, grace would not be a gift.

### The State of Original Justice (2)

- Adam and Eve were created as the summit of the visible world in friendship with God.
- The image of God (*imago Dei*) is found in the intellect and will, which make us persons like God.
- The grace of Original Justice subordinated reason to God, the lower powers to the higher ones, and the body to the soul.
- The preternatural gifts were grace, integral nature, immortality, and impassibility.

### The State of Fallen Nature (3)

- When Adam and Eve committed sin, they turned away from God and lost the order of their natures.
- There was an inversion of the right order: the body did not obey the soul, the lower powers resisted the higher, and man irrationally disobeyed God.
- Besides the guilt of sin, Adam and Eve passed on a wounded nature to their children: ignorance in the intellect, malice of will, and weakness and concupiscence in the sensitive appetite.
- These wounds make it impossible to live a consistently virtuous life, form a just society, or regain friendship with God on our own.

### The State of Grace (4)

- Through the grace of Christ the wounds of original sin remain, but the guilt is washed away.
- We are restored to friendship with God and gradually healed of the wounds of nature by following Christ and allowing his life to grow within us. Christ is the pattern of redeemed nature.
- Mortal sin is never impossible to resist, provided we ask to be delivered from temptation. Venial sins are inevitable but can be reduced over time.
- We are still subject to the penalty of death, but it is now the gateway to glorified life with God in heaven.

