LETTER OF PAUL TO THE AMERICANS

Creation and a Culture of Life for a Twenty-first Century America

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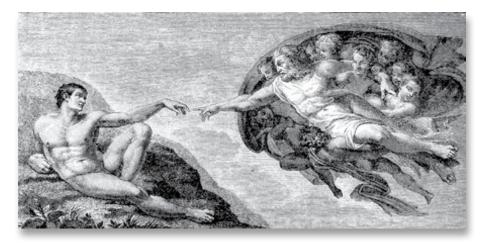




CHAPTER 1

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The Creator's Love Story with Humanity



Michelangelo's The Creation of Adam

Greetings – A View into the Mind of the Creator

I, Paul, called to be an apostle by Christ Jesus, together with Nicholas, my messenger, send greetings to all our sisters and brothers in the United States of America.

I constantly think of you and pray for you. I look forward to sharing the creative love of God and the miraculous gift of human life with you, as well as the love and peace of Christ, our Lord, and Savior.

I am writing to you because I am deeply discouraged that American Christians, specifically, and Americans, in general, are sadly unaware of the depths and intimacy of God's love affair with you. God has invited you into this love affair and a spiritual world carefully fashioned for each of you.

In each person conceived, God places an image and likeness of himself that will identify this person for the rest of their lives. It can be defined as their divine spirit or soul. It is an act of total love and self-giving. It is a perfect gift to this person and humanity.

Some might ask why the Almighty Creator would ever desire to have a love affair with humanity?

The answer is simple. God created humanity so that his divine life could be shared. There is no other reason. God bestows the precious gift of life to humanity, so that all may experience neverending joy, peace, and happiness for all eternity.

The Creator does not need you or me, strictly speaking. After all, God is all in all, and self-sufficient. But because of his neverending love, since God's essence is love, he chose to create us. He even sent Christ Jesus into the world to facilitate our journey toward eternity.

At the foundation of the world, God foreknew and willed the life of each person who has been or will ever be conceived. Each gift of life, which is complete and personally crafted, is the ultimate manifestation of divine thought and love.

I understand that some of you do not believe that human life

begins at conception. You believe that the movements and changes in the woman's body are simply a group of cells, embryo or a fetus that has not developed sufficiently to be considered a human person.

I am faithful to the belief that the mother has conceived a human person possessing all the genetic requirements in the continual development and sustainment of that human life.

Let me address this issue directly. Is it not true that, even after birth, a child is still developing and being sustained by the parents for its survival? The process of human development takes place over many years and within many environments. The mother's womb is simply the first of many environments.

One's sexuality, for example, takes shape mostly at puberty and beyond. Correct? The height and stature of a person mature sometime in their late teens or early twenties. A child is born without teeth; and, at some point, an infant's teeth develop. Then, adult teeth follow in due course. The human body is a developing reality. Is it not safe, then to conclude, that the physical anatomy is not fully developed at birth?

Can we not, then, reasonably agree that the human persons' development must begin at some point in time? So, what is that time? Is it not reasonable to conclude that this beginning moment of human life is the exact instance when human fertilization takes place? Without fertilization, the future person will not exist.

Life is meant to be a living and developing reality. The Creator fashioned a love story with each individual in mind, and this love affair is also a living and developing reality.

Christ entered the world to save humanity and to extend the divine offer of redemption, conversion, and eternal happiness as additional aspects of this living and developing reality.

Christ liberated humanity so that we may partake in the Creator's divine love affair, orchestrated by perfect love itself. Christ liberated us to serve God with our unique gifts and talents, with which the Creator personally endowed upon us by his divine fore-thought and will.

You and I are part of a divine gift to humanity, a needed

contribution to the cycles of life. Each person is uniquely created for a divine journey; our soul and personal characteristics will never be replicated.

Even the child in the womb who is diagnosed as having a very high probability of severe birth defects takes part in the divine cycles of life. Many, I guess, might think this is an absurd belief. Well, in truth, all of God's human creation exists in a temporary state of imperfection.

Perfection is only acquired in eternity. I agree that there are different degrees of imperfection in human life. Where is the argument that one degree of imperfection is more acceptable than another? All human beings are of equal value, despite our varying ways of being imperfect.

So, despite the conditions of your birth, lift your spirits high and walk confidently in knowing that your life was meant to be lived, and lived fully. So, welcome every child with love from your heart and with open arms.