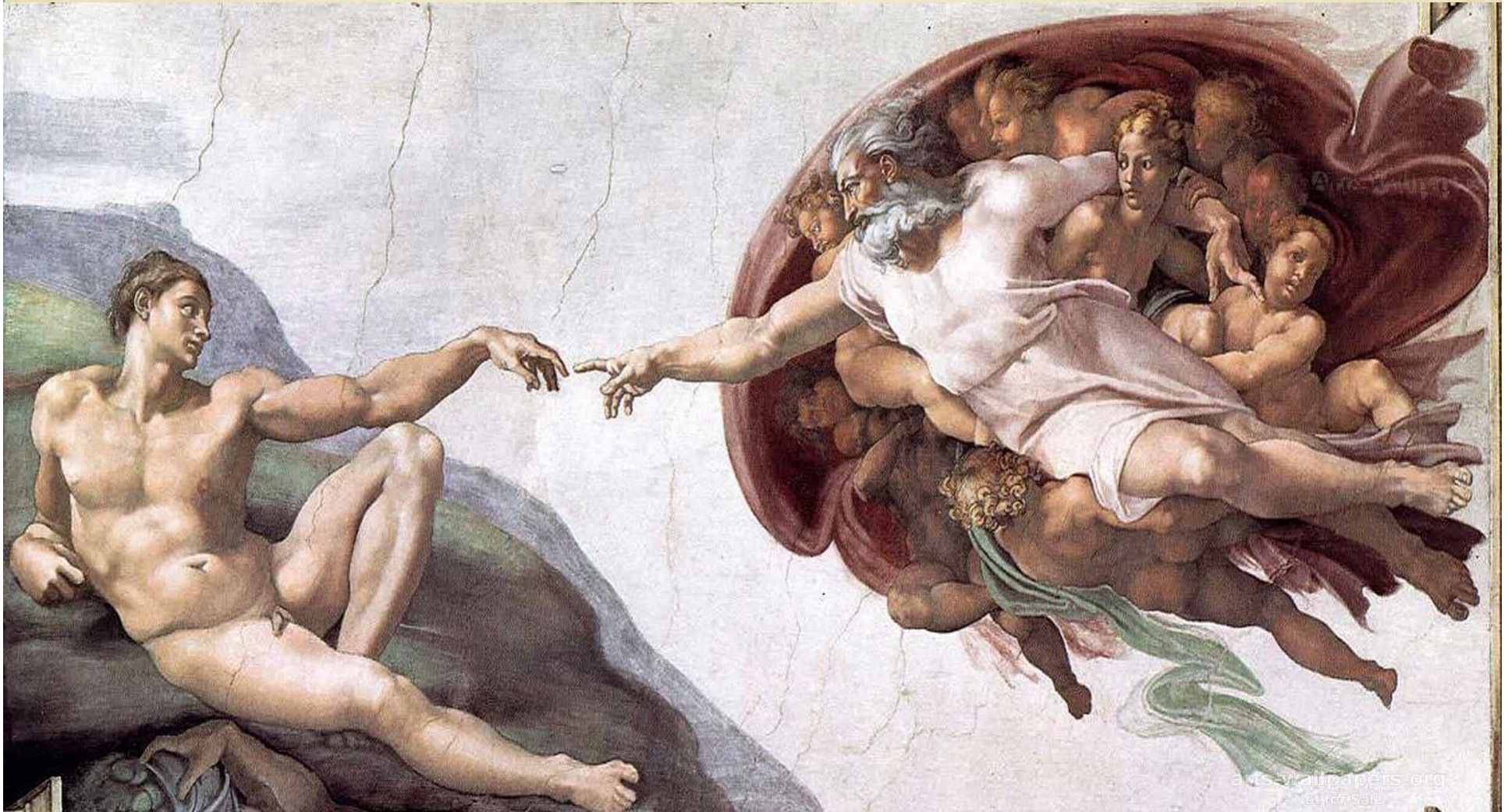


# Christian Anthropology: The Human Person in the Modern World



**Fr. Roger J. Landry**

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# The Leonine Forum

- Purpose: “To cultivate an emerging generation of virtuous leaders and empower them to form fully integrated lives of faith in order to apply the Social Teachings of the Church within their professional and civic lives” and “bring the tenets of those teachings into their professional and civic lives.”
- Basic pillars of the Leonine Experience: worship and spiritual development, study of Catholic Social Teaching, friendship and community, loving service of neighbor.
- More on the Study pillar
  - Basic methodology: Learning the foundations of Catholic Social Teaching and applying them practically and effectively to current situations
  - Introduction to Magisterial Documents. Literary form. Numbering.
  - Questions and Dialogue



## Modern Anthropological Confusion

- Pope Francis, Address to the General Assembly of the Pontifical Academy for Life (October 5, 2017)
  - “Human beings seem now to find themselves at a special juncture in their history, in uncharted territory, as they deal with questions both old and new regarding the **meaning of human life, its origin and destiny.**
  - “The key feature of this moment is, in a word, **the rapid spread of a culture obsessively centered on the mastery of human beings – individually and as a species – over reality.** Some have even spoken of an *egolatry*, a worship of the self, on whose altar everything is sacrificed, even the most cherished human affections. ... **It induces people to gaze constantly in the mirror, to the point of being unable to turn their eyes away from themselves and towards others and the larger world.** The spread of this approach has **extremely grave effects on every affection and relationship in life.**”



## Modern Anthropological Confusion

- Pope Francis, Address to the General Assembly of the Pontifical Academy for Life (October 5, 2017)
  - “Today there is great need of a **theology of creation and redemption** capable of finding expression in words and acts of love for each life and the whole of life.
  - “Starting from the revelation found in the first chapters of the Book of Genesis, ... we learn that **each of us is a creature willed and loved by God for his or her own sake**, not merely a combination of cells organized and selected by a process of evolution. All creation is in some way part of God’s special love for human creatures. ...God’s original blessing and his promise of an eternal destiny are the basis of the dignity of every life; they are meant for everyone.
  - “The biblical account of creation needs to be read and reread.



## Modern Anthropological Confusion

- Pope Francis, Address to the General Assembly of the Pontifical Academy for Life (October 5, 2017)
  - “The covenant between man and woman is called to be a **guiding force for society as a whole.** ... This is not merely a matter of equal opportunities or mutual appreciation. **It involves the way men and women understand the very meaning of life and human progress.**
  - “They are called not only to speak to one another *about* love, but to speak *with* love about what needs to be done so that the human community can take shape in the light of God’s love for all his creatures.



# Modern Anthropological Confusion

- Pope Francis, Address to the General Assembly of the Pontifical Academy for Life (October 5, 2017)
  - “A new start must be made in the ethos of peoples ... through a **new culture of identity and difference**. The recent proposal to advance the dignity of a person by radically eliminating sexual difference and, as a result, our understanding of man and woman, is not right. Instead of combatting wrongful interpretations of sexual difference that would diminish the fundamental importance of that difference for human dignity, such a proposal would simply eliminate it by proposing procedures and practices that make it irrelevant for a person’s development and for human relationships.
  - “The utopia of the ‘neuter’ eliminates both human dignity in sexual distinctiveness and the personal nature of the generation of new life. The biological and psychological manipulation of sexual difference, which biomedical technology can now make appear as a **simple matter of personal choice** – which it is not! – runs the risk of **dismantling the dynamic source that feeds the covenant between man and woman, making it creative and fruitful**.



## Modern Anthropological Confusions

- Pope Francis, Address to the General Assembly of the Pontifical Academy for Life (October 5, 2017)
  - “We need ... to become sensitive once more to the **different stages of life, especially of children and the elderly**. Their frailties, their infirmities and their vulnerability are **not exclusively the concern of medicine and health care**. They also have to do with the soul and with **human needs** that must be recognized and taken into account, protected and esteemed, by individuals and the community alike.
  - “A society that considers these things as buyable and sellable, bureaucratically regulated and technically managed, is one that **has already lost its sense of the meaning of life**. It will no longer pass on that meaning to its young, or revere it in its aging parents. Almost without realizing it, we have now started to build cities increasingly unfriendly to children and communities increasingly unwelcoming to the elderly.”



## Themes of our Upcoming Journey into Catholic Social Teaching

1. The Human Person as the Image of God: An Adequate Anthropology
2. The Human Person is Created to Know: The Intersection of Faith and Reason
3. The Human Person is a Social Creature: The Principles of Catholic Social Teaching
4. The Human Person is a Moral Agent: Truth and Charity, Justice and Mercy, the Life of Virtue
5. The Human Person is a Citizen of the City of God and the City of Man: Catholics and Political Involvement.





## Themes of our Upcoming Journey into Catholic Social Teaching

6. The Human Person In the Image of the Divine Giver: Catholics Before Some Major Contemporary Bioethical Questions
7. The Human Person, “Male and Female God Created Them”: Sexual Identity and Gender.
8. The Human Person as Steward of Integral Ecology: “Filling the Earth and Subduing It” and “Having Dominion”
9. The Human Person as Co-Creator: The Vocation to Work
10. The Human Person is a Transcendent Being: The Right and Responsibility of Religious Freedom
11. The Human Person with Dignity in Vulnerable Situations: Poverty, Refugees and Migrants



# The Need for An Adequate Anthropology

- The “isms” of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century
  - e.g., Nazism and Communism, but materialism, hedonism, individualism, relativism, atheism
- The ante-preparatory commission for Vatican II
  - Responding to the yearnings, questions and provisional answers of persons today and responding to modern despair.
  - Wojtyla’s *Person and Act* and phenomenological personalism. Personalistic principle.
- *Gaudium et Spes* 22 and 24
  - GS 22: [Christ] fully reveals man to man himself and makes his supreme calling clear
  - GS 24: Man, who is the only creature on earth which God willed for itself, cannot fully find himself except through a sincere gift of himself



## The Need for An Adequate Anthropology

- The Church's Mission in the World
  - Authentic humanism: to help the human person discover who he really is, to provide an answer to his deepest questions.
  - John Paul II: *Redemptor Hominis*: “Man cannot live without love. ... In the mystery of the Redemption man becomes newly "expressed" and, in a way, is newly created. ... He must, so to speak, enter into him with all his own self, he must "appropriate" and assimilate the whole of the reality of the Incarnation and Redemption in order to find himself. ”
  - Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*: “We urgently need a humanism capable of bringing together the different fields of knowledge ... in the service of a more integral and integrating vision” (no. 141), so as to be able to overcome the tragic division between the “two cultures.”



# An Adequate Christian Anthropology

- We can focus on ten elements:
  1. The person is a creature
  2. The person is fundamentally good
  3. The person is one in soul and body (*corpore et anima unus*)
  4. The person is the image of God
  5. The original differentiation between man and woman
  6. The person has and seeks transcendence
  7. The person has a conscience
  8. The person is a moral agent
  9. The person has inalienable dignity and inalienable rights flowing from that dignity.
  10. The mystery of human suffering and death



# Various Anthropological Confusions

- Reductionistic understandings of human anthropology
  - Metaphysical problems
  - Epistemological problems
  - Ethical problems
- Problems with identity
- Problems with regard to love and human sexuality
- Problems with work
- Problems with suffering



# Bibliography

- **Foundational documents of CST on anthropology**
  - *Gaudium et Spes*, 12-39
  - *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, 105-159
  - *Redemptor Hominis*, 7-17
  - *Veritatis Splendor*, 6-27
  - *Laborem Exercens*, 4-10, 24-27
  - *Fides et Ratio*, 7-35
  - *Evangelium Vitae*, 39-47
  - Pope Francis, Audience with Participants in the Plenary Meeting of the Pontifical Council for Culture, November 18, 2017
  
- **Contemporary documents and articles showing the relevance of those principles**
  - Peter Kreeft, *Why a Christian Anthropology Makes a Difference*
  - Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi, *"The Future of Humanity: New Challenges to Anthropology"*
  - John Allen, *"Where does Catholic thinking on 'Gender Theory' Go from here?"*
  - Benjamin Vail, *"The Battle Over the Sexes: Catholic Perspectives on the Gender Debate"*



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The screenshot shows the homepage of [catholicpreaching.com](http://www.catholicpreaching.com). The header includes the site name and a navigation menu with links for Home, Homilies, Articles, Plan of Life Book, Retreats, Teaching, and Biography. A search bar is located in the top right. The main content area features a 'Welcome!' message from Fr. Roger J. Landry, followed by a paragraph about his ordination and a quote: "Receive the Gospel of Christ, whose herald you now are. Believe what you read. Teach what you believe. Practice what you teach." Below this is a section titled 'Most Recent Homilies', 'Most Recent Articles', and 'Most Recent Talks', each with a list of recent posts and their dates.

Home Homilies Articles Plan of Life Book Retreats Teaching Biography

Search this website ... Search

## Welcome!

I warmly welcome you to this website, put together at the insistence and with the assistance of friends.

During my diaconal ordination, Cardinal Edmund Szoka gave me the following instruction from the Ordination Rite as together we gripped the Book of the Gospels:

*"Receive the Gospel of Christ, whose herald you now are.  
Believe what you read.  
Teach what you believe.  
Practice what you teach."*

Those words have never lost their resonance.

Since that day -- October 8, 1998 -- I have tried to live up to that commission to be a "herald of the Gospel," by striving to teach what the Church believes, to practice what I preach to others, and to spread with joy and enthusiasm the truth Christ has entrusted to His church -- in and out of season, in and out of the pulpit.

This website is a chronicle of those attempts.

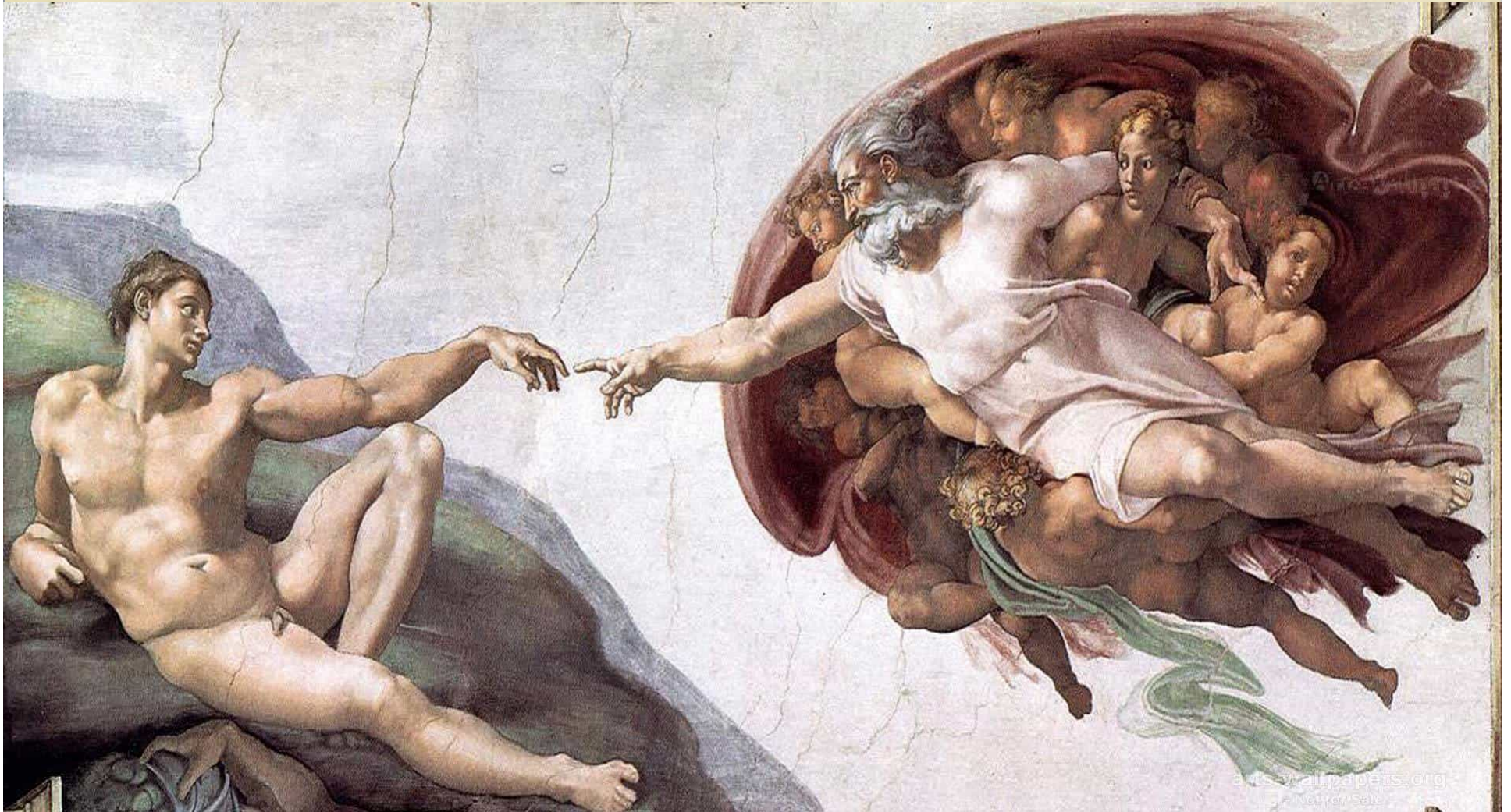
It constitutes the "five loaves and two fish" (or even less!) that I have placed into the hands of the Lord as an attempt to feed a hungry crowd, confident that, if He wishes, He can multiply and supplement that meager offering to nourish many more (Jn 6:1-14).

In Christ,  
Fr. Roger J. Landry

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Most Recent Homilies	Most Recent Articles	Most Recent Talks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Bearing Fruit Attached to the Vine, 12th Wednesday (II), June 27, 2018</li><li>Following the Lead of the Precursor, Solemnity of St. John the Baptist, June 24, 2018</li><li>Placing Our Heart and Treasure in God, 11th Friday (II), June 22, 2018</li><li>Longing to See God's Face in Prayer and in Others, 10th Friday (II), June 15, 2018</li><li>The Surpassing Righteousness of Christ-like Merciful Love, 10th Thursday (II), June 14, 2018</li><li>Greatest in the Kingdom, 10th Wednesday (II), June 13, 2018</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Secular Push to Get Priests to Break the Seal, The Anchor, June 29, 2018</li><li>Approaching the Suicide Surge with Honesty and Resolve, The Anchor, June 15, 2018</li><li>The Abortion Exception to the Practice of Discrimination, The Anchor, June 1, 2018</li><li>The Contemporary Attack on Motherhood, The Anchor, May 18, 2018</li><li>The Euthanasia of Alfie Evans, The Anchor, May 4, 2018</li><li>"Do Not Be Afraid of Holiness," The Anchor, April 20, 2018</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Church and International Diplomacy, Acton University, June 20, 2018</li><li>The Entrepreneurial Vocation, Acton University, June 20, 2018</li><li>The Social Teaching of Pope St. John Paul II, Acton University, June 20, 2018</li><li>The Necessity and Art of Trinitarian Prayer, Catholic Medical Association Boot Camp, June 18, 2018</li><li>Christ, the Redeemer of Marriage: Living and Proclaiming the Gospel of the Sacramentality of Marriage at a Time When Sex Love,</li></ul>

# Christian Anthropology: Man in the Modern World



Questions and Discussion